

While We Part

With You, For You, Always



Dear friends,

All good things must come to end. My 5-year long tenure in this school as Principal comes to an end today. This has been a period of struggle, of learning, of success, of recognition and of sweet-bitter memories. Taking my colleagues, the DAV Management, the LMC, the students and parents on board, we could collectively jack-up the graph of the school:

- We built almost 700-metre long boundary to the Academic Unit of the school with five gates and a number of light points for addressing the safety & security concerns
- We could refurbish & modernize the School Hostel, the Mess & dormitories beyond recognition
- Created a modern Kindergarten with full backing from the LMC
- The passages before the Junior School building were paved with bricks & mortar.
- Renovated the Labs (Computers & Chemistry), Junior Library, the Admn Office.
- The huge building of the school was given state-of-the-art paint coats.
- Worked for the rejuvenation of school orchards, and took initiative to retrieve the farm land from the illegal tenants
- The school witnessed a phenomenal increase in green cover with almost 5000 trees and plants added
- Brought phenomenal improvement in the quality of education by introducing the latest pedagogic practices including trainings & up-dation
- Installed around 200 CCTV cameras for surveillance & security.
- Purchased a fleet of 20 buses for the school.
- The school showed excellent results in CBSE Board examination with number of toppers increasing exponentially. The school placed in Outstanding Category during the last two years.
- During the COVID days, the school very proactively could experiment and perfect the online protocols
- All of us together created considerable ease with parents, the students, the Alumni and the Local Administration

As old wood is best to burn, old memories are best to chew. But it is time to blow the long whistle. And when the curtain falls and the credits roll up, it is time to get off the stage. But the show will go on with new credits & new scripts. Yet our paths would cross again and again, and our relationship would remain intact like the proverbial amoeba which keeps splitting up and yet getting together again. I will remain only a heartbeat away from you: only a click, and a call away from you. Thanks for being companions of my journey.

Dear friends, all of us are basically teachers, let us all read & internalize the spirit of the following letter which Abraham Lincoln wrote to a teacher of his son:

He will have to learn, I know,
That all men are not just,
all men are not true.
But teach him also that
for every scoundrel there is a hero;
that for every selfish politician,
There is a dedicated leader...
Teach him for every enemy, there is a friend.

Steer him way from envy,
If you can,
teach him the secret of
quiet laughter.

Let him learn early that
the bullies are the easiest to lick...
Teach him, if you can,
the wonder of books...
But also give him quiet time
to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky,
bees in the sun,
And the flowers on a green hillside.

In the school, teach him
It is far honourable to fail
than to cheat...
Teach him to have faith
In his own ideas,
even if everyone tells him
they are wrong...
teach him to be gentle
with gentle people,
and tough with the tough

Try to give my son
the strength not to follow the crowd,
When everyone is getting on the bandwagon...
Teach him to listen to all men...

But teach him also to filter
what he hears on a screen of truth,
And take only the good
That comes through.

Teach him to sell his brawn
and brain to the highest bidders
But never to put a price-tag
on his heart and soul.

Teach him to close his ears
to a howling mob
and to stand and fight
if he thinks he's right
Treat him gently,
but do not cuddle him,
because only the test
of fire makes fine steel.

This is a big order,
but see what you can do.
He is such a fine fellow,
my son!

**Yours Forever,
Sween Puri**

13th Day of October, 2021