School Resumption - 09 January 2017

WELCOME NOTE

A warm welcome and a happy, prosperous New Year 2017

Dear educators, at the beginning of 2017 academic year, when we are on the threshold of a major reform in education, I invite all educators to ponder upon the very crucial and pivotal role you have to play as agents of meaningful change upheld by Millenium Development Goal 4 for an all-inclusive, sustainable and lifelong education, whereby our aim must be geared towards developing citizens of tomorrow, backed with the necessary skills and competencies to meet the challenges of 21st century expectations.

With this reform, our vision is to materialize the Whole Child development concept into a reality. Indeed, we want every learner to be transformed into self-motivated learners with a strong value base. We hope to make every child intellectually aware, inquiry focused and a productive contributor to society. As such, we as educators, have a crucial role to fulfill in moulding our pupils into autonomous learners. In order to develop independent learners, educators will need to inspire and motivate every child to cultivate the quest for lifelong learning. It is worth noting that "the greatest sign of a success for a teacher ... is to be able to say: The children are now working as if I did not exist." This citation from Maria Montessorie best qualifies the self-effacing role that educators will need to assume in order to bring forward self-directed learners of tomorrow. Together, expectations from educators will be consequential as they are expected to work towards shaping citizens of tomorrow with necessary knowledge, appropriate skills, right attitudes and values.

Director of OCED, A schleicher goes one step ahead to say: “A generation ago teachers could expect that what they taught would last their students a lifetime. Today, because of rapid economic and social change, schools have to prepare students for jobs that have not been created, technology that have not yet been invented and problems that we don’t yet know.”
With the introduction of the nine year schooling system soon, the educational panorama will no doubt undergo a major transformation. This is why, we have to prepare ourselves psychologically and otherwise to dispense the kind of education to our children that enables the development of critical thinking, problem solving abilities and a deep sense of integrity, moral responsibility and teamwork. At school, our aim will be to equip the child with both academic and affective skills that will ensure a holistic growth and inspire every child to work hard and aim higher in life. Backed with these competencies, we can safely say that our students will emerge academically sound, socially and emotionally well balanced, informed and empowered citizens of tomorrow.

Together, educators will need to rethink and revisit their methods of traditional teaching and be ready to adapt, innovate and change their existing teaching strategies to best suit the learning styles of our students. As Ignacio Estrada states: “If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.” Innovative pedagogy which is one of the pillars of the new reform in education system will be the hallmark of continuous professional development of educators.

Hence, educators, you are being called upon to assume a significant role and show resilience enough to adapt to constantly evolving work environment in order to promote the holistic and integral development of our learners. With such high expectations, I am, therefore looking forward to work collaboratively with a team of dynamic, disciplined and professionally committed staff, ready to dedicate your savoir faire and expertise towards the realization of our educational goals.

I wish you all good luck.

M Muttylall-Leckraz(Mrs)
Rector