

Dear parent
Pranam!

As we approach the end of the first term of the school calendar, it is appropriate time to update you with developments in the school and share with you the future plans and goals for your ward to achieve. With a desire to have a personal interaction, we are working on a schedule to meet you in groups and take forward your suggestions pertaining to education as well as growth of school and other specific issues concerning your ward. This will strengthen our bonds and build a long-lasting relationship between the school, parents and students.

Our earnest endeavour is to provide the best in education for the success and happiness of your child. Towards this effort, we constantly upgrade our facilities and improve our pedagogical practices. However, a section of parents, have questioned our desire to discuss the proposed fee hike to meet the above commitments. This issue has been raised at various platforms by such section of parents, though the facts which are well-known to them have not been clearly elaborated. This has adversely affected the image of the school, which has always been held in high esteem by our valued parents. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the school's stand on this issue. It is hoped that you will understand the same, as these are borne out by facts.

The school in its Management Committee meeting dated 18th March 2016 decided to increase the fee by 10% over last year and accordingly a fee statement was filed with the Department of Education (DoE) by 31st March 2016 in accordance with the legal requirement under section 17(3) of the Delhi School Education Act 1973. However, in view of an Order dated 19/02/2016 from DoE, a perception got created in the public that all schools cannot increase fee without prior permission from DoE. This Order was based on the Delhi High Court Judgement dated 19/01/2016 [W.P.(C) 4109/2013] on a PIL that "*no private unaided school in Delhi which has been allotted land by Delhi Development Authority shall enhance the fee without the prior sanction of the Director of Education*".

This Order was not clearly understood and a public opinion was formed by parents on the basis of media reports etc. that all schools in Delhi have to take prior permission from the Director of Education. Hence, you would have witnessed protests in most Delhi schools during the months of April and May. Considering the confusion and lack of clarity at that time, it was considered appropriate to keep the fee hike in abeyance.

Now the situation is clear that High Court Judgement dated 19/01/2016 and DoE's subsequent Order dated 19/02/2016 were in respect of those schools which have been allotted land by DDA and their allotment letter contains a clause that such schools would take prior permission from DoE for any fee increase. Thus, schools which were not on DDA allotted land were outside the purview of the said Orders. Such schools have already raised the fee compared to last year without taking any prior approval from DoE. GDSPS also falls in this segment of schools and documents stating the same have been submitted to the office of DoE. Any communication or message to the contrary, from an external source is misleading and factually incorrect.

We understand that parents are aware of the rising costs and appreciate that the school is under an obligation to pay a minimum salary increment of 3% and increase in DA twice a year to its staff members as per government norms. All put together works out to an increase of more than 13% annual expenditure. The Establishment cost alone accounts for more than 70%- 75% of total cost besides other overheads to be catered to.

Considering the weak liquidity position, after due compliance of statutory requirements of keeping mandatory reserves, the school is left with no option but to implement the decision of fee hike of 10% over last year, as already approved by its Management Committee on 18/03/2016. In order to space out the financial implication on parents, it is proposed that the arrears of the First Quarter shall be added to the fee bill of Third Quarter and arrears for the Second Quarter shall be added to the fee bill of Fourth Quarter.

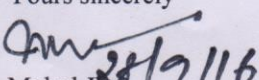
The PTA representatives were apprised about the precarious general funds' liquidity position of the school. It was further discussed that prior approval of DOE is not necessary for increasing fee as the land on which this school is built was not allotted by DDA and there is no clause in Land Lease requiring fee hike with prior approval from DOE.

We look forward to your abundant support and cooperation in helping the school overcome this financial challenge so that your ward continues to benefit from the various opportunities the school provides for the grooming of students to come up to the global standards.

We would also like to reiterate that our students have performed brilliantly in class-XII Board Exams and have got admission in highly prestigious colleges and universities. We have great plans to further boost our academic standards as well as co-scholastic achievements through innovation, research and latest educational development programmes. These will be discussed with you during the course of our interactive sessions scheduled to commence soon. We request you earnestly to encourage your ward to participate enthusiastically in school activities so that he/she learns and enjoys every moment at school.

Your faith in our efforts will give us strength to achieve the best and come up to your expectations.

Yours sincerely


Mukul Jha
Principal