

Founder Principal Speaks.....

*"What you can do, or dream you can, begin it
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it."*

Goethe



Thus began Gyanodaya with a dream. It was a dream to educate the children of Nepal. We have traversed thirty odd years in our mission negotiating many curves and bends and winding our way up against many odds.

Indeed, I feel blessed to see the School as it is today in the service of the community. This is, however, not to suggest that we have accomplished everything education has to offer. Education is a dynamic area of activity with infinite possibility as its hallmark. One can draw from it but never exhaust it. New concepts, techniques and innovations are emerging regularly in the field of teaching. We need to constantly refresh and update our knowledge. Much remains to be done before we can truly say that we can provide for all our children every help in their scholastic and creative pursuits. We have yet, in the words of the poet, 'miles to go'. But we can pledge to continue to do the right thing.

I am happy here to see the School Annual come out once again after a gap of some years. I hope this issue, unlike our previous attempts, will hereafter mark the beginning of an uninterrupted sequence in the publication of the school magazine every year.

This Annual is an attempt to connect our present with the past, take a tour d' horizon of life at School, and provide an avenue for our children to express their creative, artistic and literary talents. I would not say that this is an exclusively flawless magazine that meets the tastes of all classes of readers. This will have its share of shortcomings, one too many

perhaps, representing as it does essentially the raw and untrained but enthusiastic and creative work of our young minds. But we, at Gyanodaya, are open to learning, and we believe it is never too late to learn. So we hope to come up with something better and richer in our next Annual.

All our children are unique in their own ways. They are all blessed with innate potentials which enable them to stand out on their own in the crowd of many. We are continually in a quest at Gyanodaya to find an ideal educative paradigm to provide our children a sound springboard to jump from and give a more emphatic and eloquent expression of their ingenuity and creativity. This School Annual represents one such tangible medium, among the many we seek, intended to give our children wings of imagination to soar in the creative world and compete with their own potentials.

Let me address my students here directly. I urge you all to ask this simple question: 'Why am I in School?' Your answer to that question will largely determine where you are headed; trapped between success and failure. And the choice between is yours to make. I trust you have the right answer. Yes, you are in School to learn, to study and to grow with education. You must remember that one cannot in any proper sense be a human being till one is educated. So I call on you all to listen to your teachers, pay attention in the class, retain what you hear, remember what you see and understand what you do. In other words, **strive for education always.**

This brings me to address another important constituency: the parents. I am happy to say

We cannot always build the future of our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

that over long years of your association with Gyanodaya, you have never failed us. I know you won't in the years ahead too. Education represents a joint enterprise involving parents and the School. Together we have to work to see our children grow up into sensitive and responsible citizens of the morrow. As much as we try, with your support and goodwill, to give your children our undivided attention and the necessary academic and non-academic environment for their growth at School, I must say it is not enough. What is also required is parental involvement in supervising their studies at home, keeping track of their progress and monitoring their out of School behaviour and activities. We live, as you all know, at a time of steady and rapid deterioration in our social values. This is a matter of grave concern for us all. And this is all the more reason for us to watch them and inculcate in them moral and ethical values. So the best gift you can give to your children is to invest on them a few minutes of your quality time each day. You must teach them to draw the line between right and wrong and fair and foul and educate them about their accountability to society of which they are an important part. Please remember that **parents are second teachers at home.**

To my teachers I come next. 'Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.' So said Aristotle; the ancient Greek philosopher. Let us ask within

ourselves: To what extent do we actualize this ideal in our work? Let us pledge to always remain in tune with this philosophy. So I exhort you to work, as you all have always done, to teach the children much more than from mere books. I urge you to make it your aim to enrich students with education, skills, confidence and positive attitudes to make them successful in this age of internet and sound bytes. I also call upon you to inculcate in them moral sensitivities and spiritual values to make them good human beings. As much as you are facilitators and motivators of education, you must also be friends of the students upon whom they can confide and look for advice, help, guidance and inspiration. Please remember that **teachers are second parents at School.**

And finally, not in the least, of course, my remarks are reserved for all my non-teaching staff, and in particular to the lay and ancillary staff. They are the people behind the scenes steaming up the Gyanodaya engine. Very often their contribution to School life goes unnoticed; even forgotten. I know even at the best of times their tasks are not easy and their burden never light. But they have sportingly given their all and happily carried on with their tasks, come rain or shine. They have made light of their burden and joy of their work. They are our teachers too outside the bounds of classrooms. We have much to learn from them; at the least their attitude to make joy of our work.

Thank you one and all!



Indira Yakthumba
(Founder Principal)