

Kāsiga Communiqué

August 2014

Volume: I

The journey of a school in the making is always gravelled with unstinted contributions of the many young and adults who together share a vision and pledge to serve the institution and its children, present and future, to achieve a sustained excellence.

The first volume of Communiqué is an effort to bring together those many catalysts of Kāsiga, hitherto little-known to the larger community, to share their perspectives on different facets of education at Kāsiga and beyond. The ideas, presented together, open a vista where our achievements will be writ for posterity to cherish and admire.

The present edition holds testimony to the diverse profile of experiences of the Staff and pupils that reflect the standard of education offered in a residential school setting at Kāsiga. It also shares the quality of life we harbour at Kāsiga.

It will be our endeavour to inform you more on the value of education at Kāsiga, teaching-learning methodologies and research areas practised by the Staff and students, different activities and their importance, careers and life-skill opportunities and wide scope and potential of institutional and departmental policies.

Wish you a happy reading.

Challenges Facing the Millennial Generation

We come from a generation where/when computers were not personal, cell phones did not exist and the best information highway was a well-equipped library.

You, students, on the other hand, are the Digital Generation: Internet and Millennial Generation, where typing is preferred to writing. (To be precise, not exactly, because the Millennial Generation is between the ages 18 and 30). Keeping this in mind, I will lightly touch upon the challenges that our senior students will face and simplify these so that our younger students / readers become aware of and can relate to what I am trying to communicate.

The term Millennial Generation is a global concept where individual characters are remarkably similar, regardless of their locality, nationality and gender. That is I will have nothing in common with any one of my age group living in America whereas you on the other hand will have similar interests with your peer- group anywhere around the world. This is due to globalization of every aspect of modern life due to the advancement, easy accessibility and latest technology.

Perhaps the greatest challenge that this generation faces is the instant gratification in a world of two-minute noodles, and instant coffee where information is just a click away. Thus knowledge is not perceived as the ultimate goal but the results are. The doing is more important than the knowing. But a word of caution here; there is no short-cut to success.



[Your] This generation is highly competitive, techno-savvy, fluent in computer language and educated. You will be the driving force in work place. New leaders, new heads of industry, education, professionals will arise from within your ranks. Universities will shape courses to suit your needs and interests and you will insist that your teachers have the same technical knowledge skills that you possess. That means rules, techniques, leadership qualities that work for me will certainly not work for you. So what drives you? What motivates you? So please choose your path carefully and your role models. Be ambitious but not unrealistic.

Finally on a personal note, the challenge of 'helicopter parents,' pushy parents who hover over their offspring trying to make them super-achievers. Parental involvement along with peer pressure creates a lethal combination leading to increasingly high lev-

els of stress and activity.

The challenge here is to maintain a balance. How? Be true to yourself since self-interest is the secret of suc-



Mrs. Natasha Verma teaches English at Kāsiga School

GROWTH AND CAREER IN HOSPITALITY & TOURISM INDUSTRY

Mr. Kamal Prasad Thakur



According to a report published by the World Travel and Tourism Council, the economy of the 21st century will be dominated by three major industries: Telecommunications, Information Technology and Tourism. The Travel and Tourism industries alone have grown by 500% in the last 25 years.

It is interesting to note that in 1997 Travel and Tourism provided 10.5% of the total world employment, with up to 25% of the total employment, in some areas, such as the Caribbean.

It has been estimated that, by 2016, more than 100 million people world-wide will be employed in this sector. Because of this, tourism is now seen to be of importance to most countries of the world.

During this time, the nature of tourism has developed in scope and direction, away from traditional activities, such as the sunshine, sand and sea holidays to a wide range of new activities such as cultural tourism, adventure tourism, sports and leisure activities and eco-tourism.

Given the potential for interesting and rewarding careers in these industries many young people are looking for suitable courses which will help prepare them for careers in management within the tourism and hospitality industries.

Government Initiatives:

To unlock the huge potential in this sector, the government has taken various initiatives for the development of this sector:

» Launch of Incredible India campaign to promote tourism both in domestic and international

markets.

» Keeping in view the acute shortage of trained professionals and the emphasis of Govt of India on development of employability skills, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is offering five skill-based courses under Hospitality and Tourism from the last academic session 2013-14. The packages are:

1. Food Production
2. Food & Beverage Services
3. Front Office Management
4. Bakery & Confectionery
5. Travel & Tourism.

» The Board has also facilitated support to its affiliated schools that are offering 'Food Production' and Food & Beverage Services' Courses by the way of arranging Mentor Institutes (i.e. Institutes of Hotel Management) under the National Council of Hotel Management & Catering Technology.

» The concerned schools may also seek financial support in form of grants from the Ministry of Tourism for the successful implementation of these courses. The National Council of Hospitality and Catering Technology NCHMCT, which is the professional body for the joint certification, is exploring possibilities for providing the students passing out this course with an additional weightage in the entrance examination for graduate courses in Hotel Management in the institutes of Hotel Management in the country.

The new courses consist of two vocational subjects each in classes XI & XII. Besides these two vocational subjects students can take one language and two academic elective subjects relevant to the field. Students

also have the option to take up any two academic elective subjects besides two vocational subjects. The students can also opt for sixth additional subject that can either be an academic elective subject or a vocational subject.

» Other Initiatives by the Ministry of Tourism: - Paradigm shift towards Rural Tourism /Agri. Tourism, Eco-Tourism; Medical Tourism launched as a new product.

» The extension of visa-on-arrival and electronic travel authorization to citizens of 180 countries will be implemented initially at nine airports including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin, Hyderabad, Goa and Trivandrum. Both facilities are likely to be implemented by the end of the year.

India currently offers visa-on-arrival to tourists from 11 countries like Finland, the Philippines, Singapore and Japan. The decision was taken in a meeting convened by the Planning Commission that included representatives from the PMO, ministries of home affairs, external affairs and tourism respectively.

» Focus on Buddhist Circuit through infrastructure upgrading of Buddhist Circuits and "Walk with the Buddha" Campaign. The Tourism Ministry has identified 62 centres of Buddhist interest for development.

Facts and Figures of Indian Hospitality Industry:

» The Hospitality industry is the third-largest foreign exchange earner, accounting for 6.23% of India's GDP and 8.78% of India's total employment

» Tourism in India is the largest service industry. The travel and tourism sector currently employs 49 million people, or 1 in every 10 jobs, and this is projected to increase to 58 million, or 1 in every 9.6 jobs by 2020

» Travel and tourism is a USD 32.7 billion business in India, according to industry estimates; in addition, the hospitality sector is sized at USD 23 billion

» According to the Planning Commission, the hospitality sector creates more jobs per million rupees of investment than any other sector of the economy. The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), which says India's travel and tourism sector is expected to be the second-largest employer in the world, employing 40,37,000 people, directly or indirectly, by 2019.

» According to World Travel and Tourism Council, India will be a tourism hot-spot from 2013-2023, having the highest 10-year growth potential. The Tourism sector is expected to contribute around INR 3,414.8 billion (US\$ 77.0 billion*) by 2021, according to a report by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

» India has been ranked the "best country brand for value-for-money" in the Country Brand Index (CBI) survey conducted by Future Brand, a leading

global brand consultant. India also claimed the second place in CBI's "best country brand for history", as well as appears among the top 5 in the best country brand for authenticity and art & culture, and the fourth best new country for business. India made it to the list of "rising stars" or the countries that are likely to become major tourist destinations in the next five year.

International Recognition:

India's booming tourism sector has not only witnessed international investments but also achieved international accolades with its increasing appeal as the leading global tourist destination. The government has been instrumental in making tourism a priority sector.

» India has been elected to head the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the highest policy making world tourism body represented by 150 countries.

» India's Taj Mahal continues to figure in the Seven Wonders of the World.

» India bagged the World's leading Destination Marketing Award for the Incredible India campaign.

Sector of Hospitality & Tourism Management:

- Hotel/Resort
- Motel
- Restaurant/Commercial Food Service
- Hospital Catering
- School/Institutional Catering
- Industrial Catering
- Railways
- Airlines
- Cruise
- Tourism Destination and attraction
- Education
- Club
- Bakery & Confectionery
- Leisure Recreation and Sports Management
- Spa & Wellness Management

Citations:

Data captured, compiled and collated from the following web-resources:

- www.incredibleindia.org
- www.wttc.org
- www.hospitalityindia.com
- www.unwto.org
- www.ibef.org
- www.cbseacademic.in

Mr. Kamal Prasad Thakur is the Head of Food and Beverage at Kāsiga School

Child Protection –A Sacred Duty

Mrs. Trina Chatterji

In the context of private residential schools in India, the concept of establishing a separate Child Protection Unit is relatively new and in its nascent stage. Government-run schools are expected to follow the diktats of the state Government in this matter and be linked with Government agencies as per normal standard procedure for Child Protection.

An elite boarding school that is child-friendly and has the best interest of the pupils at heart is something worth striving for. In fact all educational institutions worth their salt are expected to have mechanisms in place for this purpose. Our country has many laws and legislation that purport to be specifically set to help uphold the Rights of Children as per the UNCRC but every day the newspaper bears testimony to violations of Child Rights. That the Rights of the Child in today's India are at risk is painfully obvious by various reports in the press of heinous and often atrocious crimes committed against the young ones, who have little recourse to assistance and intervention.

The Child Protection Unit in Kāsiga School has been set up with the thought in mind that the children are able to exercise their Rights without infringing those of others; who will have dedicated individuals to talk to; be able to air their grievances without fear of recrimination, reprimand or bias.

The Staff of a school play many roles in the lives of the young. They are teachers, caregivers, mentors, disciplinarians and confidantes too. It is important for all adults in this profession to come together to help pupils become the best they can be, not through caning, whipping or excessive corporal punishment, but instead by establishing time-honoured strategies and consistent counselling of the children. Where bullying, abuse of various kinds are rampant, the services of a professional counsellor and support from the school medical arm are invaluable.



Arguably, in today's India, the colonial hangover is yet to really disappear from the psyche of the generation that was used to being ruled by dictators and whose forefathers faced merciless punishments at the hands of the people in power. One could really ask are the children of today really ready to follow global best practices and ready to accept counselling as an alternative measure to getting an old-fashioned 'smack'... where it really hurts? The 'rod' may be 'spared' but does the child really get spoilt if he/she is made to be accountable for his misdemeanours and follows a gentler mode of corrective measures in 'time-out,' forfeiting pleasurable activities, helping with domestic chores, being 'grounded' for one evening or just being kept madly busy in a routine which leaves little time for mischief? The jury is out on this as the debate can carry on without ascertaining and reaching a logical conclusion in this matter. As the adults in charge it is important that our actions are worth emulating by the young ones whose watchful eyes are always on us.

However, at Kāsiga, a young residential, boarding school, we would hope that the children in our care would benefit from timely intervention by caregivers to prevent potential health and safety issues without disturbing their overall growth by following certain procedures and supportive mechanisms.

Mrs. Trina Chatterji is a senior Art Teacher and Child Protection Officer at Kāsiga School



LIFE OF AN RMO IN A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Dr. Tushar Sharma

The first day of my job as an RMO, I must say, was amazingly interesting as I realized that I had an altogether different role to play in my career. I had recently finished my degree in medicines and come here to this lovely school in order to face a different sort of challenge where I have to care for pupils and become their friend as well. I myself had studied in a residential school, so I was confident and excited to work, as I knew the titbits of working in a school infirmary.

The major challenge that I faced was to make children take their medicines under the supervision of an expert as they always say that children are never good to deal with medicines at first, but with time, it became more of a game than a challenge to me.

As I have always aspired to become a Paediatrician, the best thing I can learn during my service here, which I could have never learnt anywhere else, was the connection that one should make with children which is a very important and initial step to practise medicine on children. The connection relates

to trust which is the most significant aspect for an aspiring doctor in order to relate medicine with the pupils in a residential school.

This school and its pupils have also taught me another vital facet of my profession as a doctor; the calls and cases of emergency. Kāsiga has been very well keeping up with the status by arranging the emergency drills at regular intervals, which really helped me and my Staff to keep up and regulate well during any emergency, which I came through very often in my brief stay so far.

As of now I have not spent a lot of time here, but the journey here is becoming exceedingly interesting. As each day passes by, many more challenges come up not only relating to the medical issues but also in other aspects relating to children which are necessary in order to read them and help them in each possible way which comes under the periphery of my understanding.

Dr. Tushar Sharma is the Resident Medical Officer (RMO) at Kāsiga School

Traditional Methodologies V/S Modern Era by Rohan Bhatia

Today, let us not talk about the world being wrong, round or a product of Big Bang in which nothing actually “good” exists, let's talk about how has the world gone through a radical transformation since the 80's to the latest 21st Century by a giving a priority to the topic education as it is the basic necessity of human life.

Traditional way of teaching or providing education has only taught people learning from books or what their great ancestors or adults have taught them they simply had to follow, or at least pretended to do so. Limited exposure was given to them at that time and they never even bothered to get that for the same. They thought that whatever has been taught to them was enough and scoring results was their only priority in life. Most of them were not interested in knowing what's going around the world because they considered it to be nothing but useless. But, a handful of them had a spark in them and that was to think differently. They always wanted to know a reason for everything. While the modern era has replaced traditional methods in an effective way, the modern education doesn't just believe in providing learning but it believes to give exposure and provide a learning that everyone can celebrate throughout their life. It believes in a smart class which further leads to an interactive class where a teacher and a student both try to learn from each other. It also gives people a platform

to perform different activities which can help them build their character. People try to engage themselves in activities that keep them busy and it makes them look different from another people. The problem with today's world is that they are less bothered to know what the actual reason behind something is whether it's right or wrong if it doesn't give them a loss they would just follow it. The modern education has only taught people to move ahead in life even at the cost of causing trouble in other people's life. The world now is a bit sentimental but more unsympathetic and they can cross any limits to takeover someone. While the people of the older times were almost satisfied with what they had and never tried to hurt someone just for their happiness.

I can conclude this by not giving preference to only one method. We should actually try to adopt both the methods because a single method never helped anyone to reach the path of glory. It's always different things that make you successful and helps you to achieve whatever you want from life. Traditional ways encourage you to think differently and asks you to have a concern for the world and the modern world gives you an exposure and a learning that will help you throughout your life. So practising both the things isn't a difficult thing to do. Think different, be different.

Rohan Bhatia is the Student Editor of the School Newsletter, Expressions. He is in Class XII

GUIDING LIGHT FOR YOUTH by Raunak Bansal

Youth, according to me, is the most central phase of our life. Young generation is the most desirable generation. The spring season symbolizes youth. Youth is very much determined for everything they want to achieve. They dream big to achieve bigger. The new generation of youth is much more advanced compared to their elders. Youth build their careers according to their guidance and will. Some are unaware while some are in their senses.

If we refer to the lessons of our life, then we may find some people who really work hard to fulfil their dreams. They have a different love for their dreams. Every person in the earth has a big or a small dream for his life which he/she has himself dreamt without anybody's opinion or guidance. The ones

who wish to achieve their dreams have to undergo a lot of problems. As we know that a coin has two sides, similarly dreams are achieved with the help of two sources- luck and dedication. Youths dream the most and some of them inspire the whole nation.

Hard work, honesty, dedication are the keys to success. If the youths are not given a chance to perform their skills or are not guided to guide others, they fall apart. Youths are responsible to carry forward the legacy of freedom keeping their ideas of dedication.

As a member of this fascinating generation, I wish our journey becomes fulfilling and meaningful when we cross the bar.

Raunak Bansal is a student of Class XII and an active member of the School's Publication Department

WHY Spanish? by Mr. Taraknath Dey

Learning a new language always opens a new window to see the world differently, the database of vocabulary increases with yet another column; this improves thinking skills and moreover you better your mother tongue and the languages you have already tried to learn.

What happens when you learn a language which is been spoken as the official language in 21 countries and has almost become the second most spoken language in USA?

Will it not provide the extra mileage if you decide to study abroad?

Yes, with Spanish, you can reach almost 450 native speakers all over the world. You can apply to numerous universities which give scholarships only if

you can just communicate in Spanish.

For a moment consider yourself on vacation enjoying the opportunity to listen to 2 songs, read 2 books and watch 2 movies from Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

Wouldn't you need many more holidays to enjoy considering the number of countries you can choose from?

This year, during FIFA 2014 there were nine Spanish speaking teams out of the 32 participants, which is a huge community itself.

Imagine yourself in Russia during FIFA 2018 interviewing your favourite Messi, Rodrigues, Bravo, or Ochoa in Spanish!

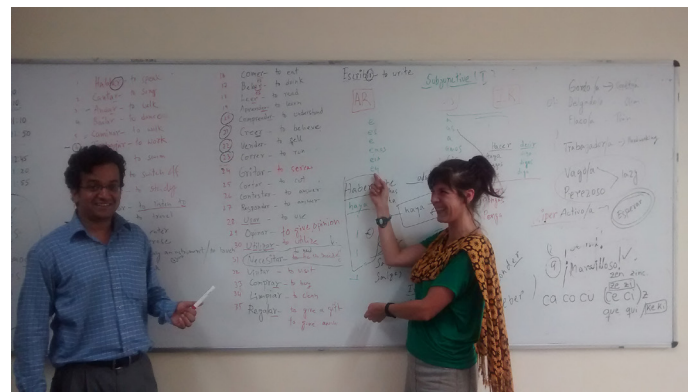
Mr. Taraknath Dey teaches Spanish at Kāsiga School.



Ms. Karin Zwiner shares her experience of teaching Spanish at Kāsiga

My experience in Kasiga as a teacher is very enriching, as it implies also lots of new things in my life. From small things and habits, to the biggest ones: food, weather, language, people, culture, home... etc. etc.

Living out from your country is a big adven-



ture, for sure not always easy, and it's a relief when you can at least find somebody talking to you in your language when you need something familiar.

I was surprised that Spanish language was taught in an Indian school, but more when I saw the kids talking, singing Spanish songs, and almost

having conversations. Also I still get surprised when some student says something to me using immaculate vocabulary and it makes me smile and feel connected with my environment.

It's very rewarding to have such a feedback and motivation from part of the majority of Spanish students and also for me to be able to express myself in my own language in a place where sometimes I really need it.

The Spanish class is a place where children can practise all they know with games, songs, role plays and different activities to make a meaningful use of the language and make them realize about what they know.

I think it will be a very useful tool for some of them, when they travel to Spanish speaking countries

and see that a language is more than just a language itself, and it takes you closer to people, as you have more powerful communication tool.

There is a big group of students in this school who are truly good in Spanish; that is amazing, and I just hope their interest and knowledge continue after the years, because they will have an opportunity that not everybody in their group has.

I'm also learning a lot here, about my own language and the way of making it easier to understand by other and to see how it works, how to explain, the learning/teaching process, that complex process in which we are involved here, exploring every day new ways of reaching a right method, a tool to wake up the curiosity of life, to deal with an interesting Education and to grow as a teacher.

Ms. Karin Zwiner teaches Spanish at Kāsiga School.

Occasions to Tease out of School Life by Som Raj Basu

In a school we often ask ourselves the question – why are we to learn so many things that can often be taken as unnecessary, alternatively, boring? We learn to say 'yes' to say so many things routinely and do as many things without taking any pleasure in it. Leaving the door of the dorms unlocked when you move to the dining hall or the absent mindedness which follows someone in the middle of his showers going late for class, to leave the tap running, may sound as familiar and fond memories that can be treasured from school. And it may also include other mischievous routines - of misplacing someone's book, to more vengeful ones – of taking occasional revenge and not letting your friend use the bath in time.

But often it is less emphasized why such things as petty and commonplace are the nuts and bolts that go on to make you better citizens of the nation. Not so long, after leaving the school corridors, you are considered adult enough to decide the fate of our countries and given voting rights. Try to fathom what an immense share of responsibility it might be for all of you, as you now have to not only know how to be courteous in exercising those rights given to you, but also better partners in nation-making and making your own lives. The ones who can not only look after her/himself, but is ready to take the share of his countrywomen/men tied through a bond of partnership. To whom your partners, latter in your lives will look forward to, rather than reprimanding you very embarrassingly for taking little care to leave the toilet clean after having a quick wash or tidying up our things. If all these known pranks sound as strangely boyish things to do, what runs against your general tendency as a growing sense of unease is actually

what will always be there to trouble you. Your problems won't end with school or the examination you pass with laurels.

If life itself can be taken as a growing up experience as the seers say, if you take it upon yourself to be pleasing towards others, you first and most necessarily become pleasing to yourself. At ease with yourself, unalarmed whether your friend will rebuke you for being less stylish or a slow eater, you become yourself, and others too slowly learn to appreciate that fact. It is only when you can start pleasing yourself that you can be pleasing towards others. The irritation that often makes you to withdraw your attention from someone eager to speak to you in class because of her / his poor conversational skills, sprinkled with local dialect or stutter, won't make you poorer in conversational skills, but it most definitely makes you feel so. Isn't it? Eager to get attention from whom you consider to be 'only your' friends, you often forget to create an environment of friendliness and cooperation. But once you care to do so, you teach yourself a very important lesson in life – to stand by others – or in the words of the great French Revolutionary ideals – Fraternity. These core revolutionary ideals, in other words are the guiding principle directing our constitution, enshrined as the 'directive principles of the Indian constitution'.

Try going back to look at these words in your text book no longer as hollow and meaningless. You will be helped if you can remember that in a school you are not meant to be taught anything new, but just made aware how you are expected to conduct yourself for the rest of your life, by society.

Mr. Som Raj Basu teaches Sociology at Kāsiga School.

Humanity before Fashion by Tejasvini Kaycee

Cancer is an abnormal growth of a body cell or group of cells. If it is not destroyed or removed, cancer can spread very rapidly and eventually lead to death. The abnormal cells form an invasive (malignant) tumor which spreads to other parts of the body through the bloodstream or lymphatic system.

Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy are often wary of the stigma fuelled by hair loss. The anti-cancer drugs used during this treatment aim to destroy cancer cells and stop them from multiplying but most of them are not specific to cancer cells and target all rapidly dividing cells such as bone marrow cells and hair follicles.

My inspiration was one of my friends who donated her hair and told me the reason. A friend of hers was being teased since she became bald due to chemotherapy which she had to undergo. This upset her so much that she finally changed schools. The lack of compassion, support and ridicule forced her to.

I too donated my hair to a registered charitable voluntary organization which was set up In 2004. The organization is called Cancer Society Nepal and the only agency dedicated to help patients by creating awareness programmes, counselling patients, coordi-

nating and cooperating between them and their relatives. The objective of CSN is to convince the patients that this disease does not necessarily mean death, you can treat it and live a full life.

This organization provides free wigs to children undergoing cancer treatment. The concept is straightforward and simple, anyone who wishes to donate her hair can go to any designated parlour where the hair is cut, sorted and cleaned for wig making. Each wig is customized for the patient based on inputs from the doctor concerned. As many as 300 stylists all over Nepal have been trained. Many girls have tonsured their hair for this good cause.

I have cut my hair before but this time, it was for a good cause not because I wanted to be trendy and look good but I wanted to be part of a social commitment to help those in need, so that I feel good about myself. My friends and I have been helping Cancer Society, Nepal because, being Nepalese we want to help our country in whatever way we can. Nepal is still a developing country lacking funds, medical expertise and resources in tackling a life-threatening disease called cancer.

Tejasvini is a student of Class X at Kāsiga School.

LET CHILDREN EDUCATE THEMSELVES by Ms. Chitra Sharma

Let children educate themselves. But how? Through fancy and elaborate curriculum, or by writing impressive lesson plans or more to add through testing them? Oh! Please give them a break. Let them learn the way want to. The way they understand things and the way they want to understand things. At Primary levels children are like hunter gatherers, they learn when they are left to their own self- directed play and exploration.

“Knowledge that is acquired under compulsion obtains no hold on the mind” - Plato

Then what should we do to encourage learning in children at primary levels?

Build a child friendly approach to impart education. Do not forget that children come into the world with powerful educative instincts, which include their natural curiosity, playfulness, sociability, attentiveness to the activities around them, desire to grow up, and desire to do what older children and adults can do.

Over the past 50 or 60 years in the United States, as schooling and other adult-directed activities have usurped ever more of children’s free time, children’s opportunities to play freely with other children have

continuously declined. This decline in play has been accompanied by a well-documented rise in childhood anxiety, depression, and suicide; a decline in children’s sense of control over their own lives; a decline in empathy, and a decline in creativity.

When young people in our culture are granted the freedom and opportunity to educate themselves, outside the traditional boundaries of school, they generally do so fully and joyfully. Through their everyday engagement with life, they acquire the skills, knowledge and values needed for success in our culture.

No wonder, successful schools today treat every student as an individual and their emotional and social development is a key concern for them. The curriculum provides a framework for a range of sensory and experiential learning.

Though child development patterns are reasonably universal, every child is unique, has individual potential and will learn differently from their peers. Go out of the way with them and create a world of Belonging, Being and Becoming.

Ms. Chitra Sharma is the Head of Junior School

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