

**Annual Report of Academic Year 2016-17, presented on the occasion of the
Annual Day Celebration, 4th February, 2017**

(Formal salutation)

Swami Vivekananda once spoke on the purpose of Education, 'Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there, undigested, all your life. We want that education by which character is formed, strength is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet.'

If we think deeply and reflect on this quote it transcends the purpose of education from mere literacy to something deeper and higher.

Excel Public School is nearing the completion of one more year of its transformative existence and the year past has certainly been largely rewarding and satisfying, though quite challenging and trying, at times. Taking stock of last year, we have only increased our faith and strengthened our resolve to refine and pursue our purpose of educating young minds 'the EPS way'.

The paradigm shift in education is ongoing and the challenge for a modern day school, in the current context, is to continually align curriculum to the skills and competencies that are essential for life, work and engaged citizenship, in the 21st century. We strongly believe that Excel Public School's vision, '**to empower young minds towards a progressive and humane society**', stands relevant to our times. We are confident that this vision would help us realize our resolve to create a confident, forward looking and optimistic generation of young men and women. Let us, together, strive to create as many opportunities as we can for this generation to develop their individual talents and abilities and help them reach their potential.

At EPS, we help our learners think outside and beyond curriculum and develop multiple activities to foster in them the capacity to innovate, to solve problems creatively and to bring new possibilities to life. Such preparation is necessary to create empowered professionals and leaders, capable of initiating the process of change that our society and today's world is longing for. When we talk about empowering students for a progressive and equitable society, it is about raising transformational leaders who can take ownership for systemic change, people who can connect the dots and figure things out on their own as the drivers of change.

Dov Seidman, the author of '**Why how we do anything means everything**' puts it, "*our highest self-conception needs to be redefined from "I think, therefore I am" (the French Philosopher Descartes) to "I care, therefore I am; I hope, therefore I am; I imagine,*

therefore I am. I am ethical, therefore I am. I have a purpose, therefore I am and I pause and reflect, therefore I am.”

The life-breath of the EPS' culture is the deep humane connection through genuine relationships, among all the members within this eco-system. The legacy we seek to impart to our students is to place this human connection at the center of everything they do, all through their life, so that, while they leverage technology to gain advantage and find success for themselves in this competitive world, they will also handhold others along the way. They would be men and women who would indeed build a better world and reduce human suffering. This is our wish. This is our prayer.

Highlights of the year gone by

I wish to share some of the achievements of the Excellites during the Academic Year that is drawing to a close.

- Our Third Batch of Class 10 students brought laurels to the school by securing 100% results in the CBSE Board Examination.
The highlights of the result are as follows: Total number of Students 29
10 CGPA: 8 students
9.0 to 9.8 CGPA: 9 students
8:0 to 8.8 CGPA: 7 students
Below 8 CGPA: 5 students
We have 52 students in the Fourth Batch who would be taking the Board Examination in a month's time from now. I take this opportunity to wish all my students all the very best in their forthcoming examination and life thereafter.
- Prithve Kiran Shekar of Class 10 was selected by The Junior Academy at New York City, USA to complete the innovative virtual programme and interact with STEM professionals from around the world. He was the only student from India to be selected for all-expense paid visit and also, it was the second year in succession that our students got selected to the prestigious scholarship.
- Three of our students reached the final of this year's 'Code to Learn Contest' organised by Google for school students across the country.
- Our Team emerged the Mysuru City Champion at the Interschool Quiz competition, 'Conquistador' organised by PES Institution, Bangalore.
- Excellites were also adjudged as the Mysuru District Runners Up at the Cryptic Crossword Contest, organised by the CBSE at Police Public School.
- EPS was declared champion in the Interschool Debate Competition conducted by Builder's Association of India, Mysuru. Our students walked away with the First prize.
- Our Debaters were the City winners and reached up to the Semi Finals both in Kannada and English editions of the 'Verbattle', a state-level debate competition held in Bangalore.

- In the Rural IT Quiz organised by TCS and the Govt. of Karnataka, our students secured the Fourth position in the Mysuru Regional Level (Comprising of Eight Districts). They were the only High School students competing against the PU students in the final round.
- Our school won the Champions at the Interschool Quiz Competition conducted by the JSS Public School, Siddarthanagar.
- At the, 'Aarohan', a Science Fest organised by Amrita Educational Institutions, EPS emerged the toppers in the IQ Tech Fest.
- In the Sahodaya Interschool Quiz competition held at the Mount Litera Zee School, our students emerged the Runners Up.
- EPS was crowned Overall Champions at the Interschool Cultural, Literary and Sports Competition, at the 'Anu Fest', the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Atomic Energy Central School, Mysuru.
- The School choir won the Winners title in the Senior Section during the Carol Singing Competition organised by the Carmel Catholic Association Mysuru.
- At the recently held DH & Prajavani Quiz, our team was the Regional winners and stood Fifth at the State level.

Special Individual Achievers

Apart from academics and cultural honours, some of our students have excelled in various chosen field in Sports and Games. I would like to mention the names of a few of our students, who are certainly going to hit the headlines in the coming years for their exceptional performance and undying spirit.

- **Neeharika Thangamma** of Class 9 is an emerging Golfer. She has won Four Major Tournaments Titles, four Runner-up titles and is currently Ranked No. 4 at the All India Level, Category B. Niharika also won a series of Club Tournaments in Mysuru, Coorg and Bangalore.
- **Disha Kavery**, a student of Class 7 is another golfer on her path to a brilliant career. She has secured Two National Titles and two Runner-up titles. She has also won the South Zone Gold Tournament. She is currently No.1 in South Zone, under category C. These achievements are in addition to a handful of Club Tournaments that she won in and around Mysuru.
- **Mustafa Raja** of Class 4 who is in the news at frequent intervals for his impressive achievements in the Game of Tennis is also a proud student of EPS. Master Mustafa, who is just 10 years of age, has already won 7 National Titles during the past one year. I must also mention that he won most of these tournaments competing against players who are older than him.

I wish to congratulate these students and wish that they inspire many more students of their age to chase their dreams. EPS also congratulate the parents and trainers of these budding talents.

Others

Our lush, green School lawn was adjudged as the Best Maintained Lawn for the second year in succession, during the Mysuru Dasara 2016. I wish to appreciate the earnest and spirited efforts of our gardeners and campus maintenance team.

CCA Activities

136 competitions, spread across the Literary, Cultural and Art and Craft categories were conducted from Kindergarten to Class 10 spanning over a period of three months. Every student got an opportunity to participate in a maximum of 6 Competitions spread across the various categories.

As part of the two Annual Sports Days, organised in the month of December 2016, a total of 269 events were organised under 8 categories. Out of these, 129 were team events, meant to foster and promote various life skills among our students, along with their sporting abilities. There were individual as well as team events for boys and girls, where every student got a chance to participate in all the individual events and at least 5 group events.

In this context, I wish to appreciate and acknowledge the efforts and planning made by the CCE Department in the successful conduct of all these competitions.

Other Initiatives

EPS hosted an interschool **Math Fest 'Taxi Number 1729'**, on 22nd December 2016, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great Indian Mathematician Sri. Srinivasa Ramanujam that gave an opportunity for students to explore the joy of Mathematics. 12 Schools, affiliated to CBSE, in and around Mysuru participated in the fest and St. Joseph Central School, Vijayanagar emerged as the Champion. Keeping up the EPS tradition, as the host school, our students did NOT participate in this event.

Excel Public School believes in Inclusive Education. In order to identify and provide remedial support to the students with Special Needs, we have set up an exclusive **Resource Room** this academic year. It is equipped with learning materials and manipulatives. A Special Educator is available full time to cater to the varied learning needs of students and to interact with their parents.

We have also introduced **Lunch Facility at the School Canteen** this year in response to the repeated requests we have been getting from our parents, especially working couples. As on today, we have around 600 students from LKG to Class 10 availing this facility, in addition to 60 teachers. All the members of the support team (drivers, attenders, security staff etc.) are provided free lunch at the School. I thank Annapoorna Caterers, one of the leading caterers in South India, based in Coimbatore, for providing tasty and hygienic food to our students and staff. I also thank the parents and students for their positive and encouraging feedback to continue this facility.

I would also like to formally announce the decision of the Management to start **Senior Secondary Classes (Plus One)**, from June 2017 along with a Career Preparation Programme which would be an integral part of the two-year course. This would facilitate selected students from our school to pursue their senior secondary classes at EPS, without having to return to a conventional system after their Class 10. Admission to senior secondary shall be restricted only to students of EPS, and to only those students of EPS who satisfy the selection criteria.

One of the most prestigious recognitions to EPS came in the form of an opportunity to **partner with the world famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, USA**. EPS, through its parent organisation, Excelsoft, would be tying up with the Media Lab of MIT to launch one of their innovations for language learning, namely Curious Learning. This programme would be starting at EPS in a month's time from now.

Social Responsibility

EPS' responsibility towards the larger society, especially towards the less privileged ones continues to be one of our prime concerns. In addition to providing free education to 52 students admitted under the Right to Education Act, we also have students of various classes receiving fee concessions and scholarships under various categories. We have also been able to raise a fund of Rs. 268, 695.00 through our fund raising programme Kids' Carnival this year. I wish to thank all our students and parents for their wonderful support and cooperation towards this initiative of the school. As on today, we have extended financial help to various individuals and institutions to the tune of Rs. 389, 611. 00 from our Charity Fund.

Before I conclude, let me place on record my sincere gratitude to all those who have helped us make this academic year an eventful and fruitful one.

At the outset, my sincere appreciation and gratitude to our Chairman, Prof. M H Dhananjaya, the man who have given the vision and direction to this institution, Mr D Sudhanva, the Secretary of Excel Education and E-Learning Trust, who is the thought leader and the guiding force and our School Correspondent, Mr H M Prashanth, an academician par excellence. My thanks to all the members of the School Governing Council and the Managing Committee for their unwavering support and for all their undying efforts to promote this institution, to make it a school with a difference.

I also place on record my sincere gratitude to the Heads, Managers and our colleagues at Excelsoft, especially the Administrative and Accounts Departments for their support and timely assistance.

Let me express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the members of the K-12 Team—Instructional Design Team, Activity Design Team and Facilities Team. I wish to mention the names of Mr. Sanju Nair, Ms. Chitra Uttaiyah and Ms. Prameela, and all their team-mates who always extend the most needed support to our teachers and students.

We are blessed with a team of teaching and non-teaching staff who always keep the welfare and progress of the institution in mind and work diligently towards the realisation of this goal. My sincere appreciation and a word of gratitude to all of them for putting their best foot forward to keep the EPS flag fluttering high always. A special thanks in this context to the Headmistress and all the Deputy Head Teachers.

The Student Council for the Academic Year 2016-17 deserves a special mention for their contribution to the smooth and successful conduct of the various functions and activities during the year.

Our sole ambassadors, during the past eight years, have been our students and parents, standing by us at all times, both good and bad. They have been our constructive critics, benign guides and active supporters. We are confident that we can always count on them. My sincere thanks to all of them for everything that they have been to us. We look forward to their continued support and guidance in the days ahead.

Thank you very much and have a great evening.