

Annual Report 2014-15

(Presented on 21st February 2014 on the occasion of the 6th Annual Day Celebrations)

Distinguished Chief Guest of this evening Mr. R Guru, Secretary of the Excel Education & E-Learning Trust, Mr. D Sudhanva, Mr. H M Prashanth, the School Correspondent, invited Guests, dear Parents, members of the Staff and Faculty of Excel Public School and my dear children.

The Academic Year 2014-15 is drawing towards its close. This has been a year of consolidation and reflection. This year brought fresh perspective and influence with slight but significant changes in the school's vision and priorities. While the intent of the school, i.e, the pursuit of creativity, authenticity and quality within learning, remains the same, we have been able to explore newer ways of finding expressions to these finer aspects of schooling at EPS. I am happy and proud to say that Excel Public School has carved a niche for itself among the educational institutions in the state of Karnataka and is being recognized at the national level, too. With a deep sense of gratitude to all those who stood by our side during these six wonderful years, let me present before this enlightened gathering a report of the year gone by.

Currently we have 1040 students from Playschool to Class 10 on our rolls. The strength of the staff stands at 116, which include 70 teaching, 7 administrative and 39 ancillary staff. The second batch of our Class 10 students, 26 of them, are going to appear for their Board Exam in a couple of weeks from now. I take this opportunity to wish them all the best in their forthcoming examination and life thereafter. I wish and pray that these students live by all the values and principles that their teachers have inculcated in them.

The CBSE Class X results of our maiden batch has been the starting point of good times at EPS this year. Our students scored a 100% result with our first batch for the year 2013-14. Out of 18 students who appeared in the examination, one third passed with a complete 10 CGPA, another one third scored between 9-9.8 CGPA and the rest scored between 7-9 CGPA. This can be rated as one of the best results in the state level, at least. It is heartening to note that this was achieved without tuitions, remedial camps and the test-retest traumas: proving the efficacy of the 'EPS way' of learning. I must, on this occasion, congratulate and thank the first batch of Class X students and their parents for this wonderful beginning that they gave us.

EPS also won a national recognition this year by receiving the National Award in the All India Competition for Innovative Practices and Experiments in Education, organized by the NCERT, Govt. of India. This came as an appreciation for the innovative and contemporary teaching learning practices that we follow at EPS. I am happy to inform that

Excel Public School was the only CBSE School from the whole country that was eligible for this prestigious Award this year. My sincere appreciation and hearty congratulations to all my teaching staff, especially the faculty of English for this marvelous achievement.

The new academic year began, just like every other year, with a three weeks long training programmes for the existing and newly recruited teachers. Empowering our teachers to equip themselves with the necessary skills and competencies, to impart the right kind of education in the right manner has always been a top priority at our school. The training programme was followed by various kinds of interventions and follow-up programmes at regular intervals. I must appreciate our teaching faculty for their constant efforts to learn and grow from these programmes and keeping themselves abreast with the recent approaches to teaching and learning. Our teachers have also been attending seminars and workshops of educational relevance held outside the school at regular intervals.

As Principal, I have had the opportunity attend a number of Educational Conferences and Seminars in Mysore and at other places. I also had the privilege of presenting a Paper on 'Principal Leadership for Better Teaching and Learning,' at an International Educational Conference held at Little Rock Indian School, Udipi. Meeting with peers in the field of education facilitates a healthy exchange of ideas and experiences, leading to more effective school management and leadership. I am glad to inform you that I was honored with the 'Best Teacher Award 2014' by The Mysore Literary and Cultural Association and Mrs. Gubain Mathew, our Head Mistress won the 'National Best Teacher Award 2014' by Charis Internationale, New Delhi. With recognition comes responsibility and we will continue to make all possible efforts to innovate and create in the realm of education.

The recent incidents, raising concerns about the safety of children in schools have triggered serious discussions and debates in ensuring safe schools for our children. At EPS, we always believe that ensuring the physical and emotional safety of children is our primary responsibility. We have already come out with a document on Child Safety Measures at EPS, which is available on the school website. We have also set up a Child Safety Committee, consisting of representatives from the Management, Staff, Parents and public servants. We have also organised various programmes in the school for the benefit of the students, teachers and ancillary staff to sensitize and educate the various stake-holders about the need, importance and ways to protect our children from any kind of abuse, physical, emotional or sexual. We have also installed CCTV cameras at various vantage points in the campus and all our school buses have been installed with GPS and surveillance cameras. However, let me at this point, also mention that a child- parent relationship based on mutual trust and confidence and a home environment where there is regular and unprejudiced interaction among the members of the family, and the presence of parents who are more interested in the child than in the child's academics will be the best safety measures to protect our children from any kind of exploitation and

maltreatment. We have spent around Rs. 2, 000,000/- to install these additional safety measures.

The School encourages participation in various competitive exams conducted by reputed educational institutions and organizations. This year too, the school prides itself on exemplary performance of our students who participated in the National Olympiad Exams, the ASSET exams, the Spelling Bee contests, The International Smartkid Challenge, The International Talent Hunt and the National Hindi Competition for School Students, to name a few. Many of our students secured top positions at the District and State levels in these competitions.

Nurturing inherent talents and tapping potentialities of a child through co-scholastic activities has been our hallmark. Our students have participated in as many as 20 interschool competitions within the district and a few at the state level and have won laurels for us.

Our attempts to provide platform for children with varied intelligences found reflection through the First Musical Night Programme, which was an end to end in-house production, beginning with lyrics, composition and rendering. This one-of-a-kind-event saw musical talents from Class 1 to Class 10 coming to the fore. We hope to continue such efforts to provide platform for our children with special talents and abilities. Let me express my appreciation to the faculty, especially the Music Faculty for their dedicated efforts in making this event a reality.

Under Literary and Cultural Competitions, we conducted a total of 128 events under 7 categories. These competitions provided our students opportunities to exhibit their talents in the chosen area along with promoting a healthy spirit of competition. We also organized 171 Sports and Games events as part of the Sports Days, involving students from Kindergarten to Class 10. I must appreciate the efforts taken by the CCA Committee and the Physical Education Department in successfully organizing these competitions.

In September this year, Excel Public School hosted the First Interschool Volleyball Tournament in association with the Mysore Sahodaya School Complex. The event witnessed participation from 14 schools from the districts of Mysore, Mandya and Hassan.

Extended learning activities were conducted right through the year with the help and support of the K-12 division of Excelsoft. There were 54 class wise learning events conducted for the students of Classes 3 to 10, kindling scientific temper and spirit of enquiry among the students. These activity-based learning sessions helped our students gain deeper understanding into various subjects, ranging from material sciences to space science and geographical phenomena to archaeological excavations.

Field trips are also part of the extended learning activities. It is worth mentioning that this year we organized 31 field trips that catered to learning opportunities in areas like Life sciences, Maths, English, Home Science and Languages. Students from LKG to Class 10 were taken for on-site visits that included agricultural farms, factories and industrial units. Out of these, 12 trips were conducted in collaboration with some of our parents who wholeheartedly supported these initiatives. I must also mention that many parents, who are part of the 'Parent Resource Pool' volunteered to be resource persons for various programmes for the benefit of teachers, students and ancillary staff. My sincere thanks to all of them.

Developing social sensitivity and civic responsibility among our students has been one of the primary objectives of EPS. I am happy to testify that our parents and students have been responding positively to all our efforts in this direction. From the charity fund that our students and staff maintain, we have been able to donate an amount of Rs. 2, 09, 950/- to as many as four organizations and two individuals who were in need of help and assistance. In addition to this, the students and staff together have contributed Rs. 200,000/- to the PM's Relief Fund to aid the victims of the flash floods that hit Jammu and Kashmir. I must place on record my deep sense of gratitude to our parents, students and members of the staff for their kind gesture and active involvement in the School's efforts to reach out to the needy and less privileged. I also take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have actively contributed to the success of the Kids Carnival this year, through which we generated an income of Rs. 1, 90,926 which was the main source of income for our social outreach programmes.

We also have 23 students from the socially and economically backward sections admitted to our School under the Right to Education Act and apart from this 20 students study under various scholarships that involve fee waiver of 50% to 100%, to the tune of a total amount of Rs. 453,250/-

We have two computer labs with 80 touch screen enabled computers powered by the latest operating system. I am happy that our children make use of the IT facilities during their leisure times, in addition to the allocated periods of study.

Our Libraries both Junior and Senior, are well stocked with over 5000 books that include reference books, encyclopedias and books for general reading. We also subscribe around 30 periodicals and journals pertaining to various subjects. There is also a voluminous collection of educational DVDs and CDs, covering a whole gamut of subjects. The Library department also arranged an interaction with the famous author and leading sports journalist, Mr. Shamyas Dasgupta, to expose the students of the higher sections to writing as a promising career option. The Book Fair organized in association with Scholastic

Publishers gave the children and their parents an opportunity to shop for their favourite books and authors in the school campus.

We have invested an additional amount of Rs. 2,200,000/- on our Computer Lab and Libraries this academic year.

Before I bring this report to a close, let me place on record my sincere gratitude to all those who are helped and supported us to bring this institution to its current stature and standing. An enlightened management is the biggest asset of any educational institution and we are fortunate to have progressive visionaries, who work so selflessly and earnestly, for the growth of this institution at its helm. I am grateful to all of them. I would like to thank our beloved Chairman Prof. M H Dahanajaya who is the single most important factor behind the existence of this institution. My thanks to our honoured Secretary Mr. D Sudhanva, whose able guidance and support always remains the most compelling factor behind our success. I would also like to place on record my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mr. H M Prashanth, the School Correspondent, for his infectious passion, zeal and ever willing support.

My thanks also to all the members of the School Managing Committee, Heads, Managers and our colleagues at Excelsoft, especially the Administrative and Accounts Departments for their support and timely assistance.

Let me also make a special mention of all the members of the K-12 Team, Instructional Design Team, Activity Design Team, the Teacher Training division, and the Facilities Team, who always extend the most needed support to our parents, teachers and students.

At EPS we enable and celebrate learning that is connected, real and engaging. A committed and dedicated faculty is the bedrock of any educational institution. We are blessed with a team of devoted and dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff who always keep the welfare and progress of the institution in mind and work diligently towards the realization of the institution's goal. My sincere appreciation; and deep-felt gratitude to all of them.

Our sole ambassadors, during the past six years, have been our students and parents, who always stood 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 and my sincere thanks to all of them for everything that they have been to us. Dear parents, we look forward to your continued support and guidance during the most exciting days ahead.

The smile on the face of our students is the secret of our success and keeping these faces ever smiling is our mission. I thank all our students for their unconditional love for their school and for bearing testimony to the unique learning experiences, and for upholding the values and principles imbibed at EPS, day in and day out.

We are fully aware of the tremendous task lying ahead of us and we will put our best foot forward to ensure a distinctive and unmatched learning experience to the students who are sent in our direction. We will utilize all our experience and expertise to make sure that EPS becomes a synonym for 'contemporary education in India'. The presence of an enlightened Management, the unwavering trust of our parents, and the commitment and dedication of the faculty, and of course, the excitement and enthusiasm always found on the face of our students and their unconditional love for their school are our biggest strength.

Let me conclude this brief report with a relevant quotation by John Dewey, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. Education, therefore, is a process of living and not a preparation for future living."

Thank you very much!.



Mathew K G
(21st February, 2015)

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