

## **'Innovate or Perish'- Schools must wake up to the needs of the time.**

Distinguished Chief Guest of the evening M. D Randeep IAS, Honoured Chairman, Prof. M H Dhananjaya, Secretary Mr. D Sudhanva, School Correspondent, Mr. H M Prashanth, Trustees, Members of the School Managing Committee, invited Guests, Parents, members of the Teaching and Non-Teaching Fraternity of the EPS Family and dear Children.

**Steve Jobs** once said, "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower," and that statement has never been more meaningful than it is today. '**Innovate or perish**' is not only a reminder to the business sector, but a wakeup call to the educational fraternity as well.

In his groundbreaking work '**Creating Innovators**', education expert **Tony Wagner** makes a provocative look at why innovation is today's most essential real-world skill and what young people need from parents and teachers to become the innovators of tomorrow. In this age of rapid transformation, where human life is being influenced by phenomenal changes all round, education remains 'unaffected', unfortunately. Its high time our schools focus on creating 'the change makers of tomorrow', by developing in our schools "a culture of innovation, based on collaboration, interdisciplinary problem solving and intrinsic motivation".

We, at EPS has been making a sincere effort to promote the **21<sup>st</sup> century skills of Creativity, Critical thinking, Collaboration and Communication** among our learners. The various teaching learning strategies at EPS are designed to foster and promote the above skills, in order to make learning more relevant and purposeful. While we agree that a lot more need to be done to impact this new culture of learning, we are confident that we are in the right direction. Education is not all about what the learners know, or need to know, it is more about preparing them to do what they need to do with what they know. While many countries are channelizing all their energies and resources towards the 'reimagining' of their educational system, it appears that our obsession with 'traditional schooling' is hard to die. I stand here, to assure all present, that our resolve to make a marked difference in the way we educate our children .and our belief in a system of education that goes beyond 'schooling' would continue, and we would leave no stone unturned in this effort.

### **Highlights of the year gone by 2017-2018**

In EPS the hall mark of success is the way we redefine the teaching-learning process through newer perspectives. The current Academic Year witnessed EPS receiving a couple of **recognitions for its tireless efforts** to redefine the teaching learning process.

- In a recent **National Education Survey** by the popular Human Resource Magazine, '**Education World**', EPS has been ranked at No. 1 in Mysore, No. 14 in Karnataka and No. 87 at all India Level among the day schools.

- EPS was also bestowed the **“School Excellence Award”** by **‘Brainfeed’** a reputed educational magazine under **‘Best Academic Excellence’, ‘Best ICT Implementation’ and ‘Best Infrastructure’** categories.
- Our School, with its unmatched facilities and efforts for the promotion of interdisciplinary project based learning and STEM learning, has been recently **granted approval for setting up the Atal Tinkering Lab**, an initiative of the Atal Innovation Mission under the NITI Aayog, Govt. of India. I am sure, EPS Tinkering Lab will certainly become a ‘Centre of Excellence’ in promoting scientific temperament and spirit of experimentation among young innovators.
- Our commitment to ‘Swachata’ has been recognised by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India, with the **District Level Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2017**. We are now shortlisted to vie for the same position at the State and National Level.
- The credit for the excellent landscaping in EPS goes to the School’s campus maintenance team. Their tireless efforts to create a pristine lawn and colorful campus has won the **first prize for the third consecutive year in the Dasara Flower Show 2017, under the ‘Ornamental Gardens Category’**.

Along with the cheer comes the responsibility to surge ahead, improve, innovate, and imbibe excellence at every task that we undertake in our school. While we are humbled by these recognitions, I would like to reiterate our commitment and dedication to service of this nation, through quality education.

### **Growing beyond EPS**

The year past has also witnessed our students excelling in various facets of their school life, whether it be in academic excellence, aesthetic activities or physical domains. Let me make a mention of few of their accolades. While some of these achievements are in team events, we also have many of our students who etched their mark in individual performance as well.

- Our fourth batch of **48 students** came out in flying colours with **100% result in the CBSE Class 10 Examination, in May 2017**. 14 students secured the perfect 10CGPA, while 8 students secured between 9 to 9.8 CGPA. And 16 students secured between 8 to 8.8 CGPA. 10 students secured CGPA below 8. I congratulate every one of them for their success. In another few weeks, we have **80 students in our fifth batch** appearing for the CBSE Board Examination. I take this opportunity to wish all my students a healthy self and do their very best in this examination.
- This year, we commenced our **Senior Secondary Classes**. Career Preparation Programmes have been introduced to facilitate students achieve their dreams and aspirations. Eminent personalities from various walks of life conducted various sessions to expose them to several career options and competitive examinations.
- What started with one student a couple of years back is now a phenomenon at EPS. We have **12 students of classes 9 and 10** who are contributing as researchers in **Junior Academy Program 2017-18 at the New York Academy of Sciences**. These students

have been invited to collaborate with peers around the world and develop research-driven solutions for global problems.

- Mst. Joel S Mathew and Mst. Vishal R have been shortlisted in phase 2 of **All India Asteroid Search Campaign**, a unique international platform created by SPACE for Indian students and amateur astronomers across India. Our students Inchara U Athreya, Anushree R M and Pallavi M also made the preliminary discovery of asteroids.
- Mst. Sandeep A Rao of Class XI won the **Global Product Innovation Challenge posed by a European Company-Fibre Optic Valley to digitise their product "I-QORO"-a product to help people with Dysphagia**. Sandeep won a cash award of 2500 Euros for this enviable achievement. Sandeep's another project **to analyse case symptoms through neural networking. was accepted by Griptape, US**, and he has received a scholarship of US \$ 500 to continue his research.
- Mst. Sandeep A Rao also secured the **First Rank at the International Level of the 7th SOF International English Olympiad**.
- **Three of our students received the Diplomacy Awards** for their exemplary performance in the Model United Nations Conference conducted at De Paul International School.
- EPS team shared the overall championship with St. Joseph Central School in "Jo-Fest" 2018 hosted by St. Joseph Central School, Yelwal.
- EPS won the Overall Championship at the Interschool Competition organized by Sharada Vidya Mandir, Mysuru.
- Our young innovators, Ms. Aditi Bhat and Ms. Divija Arjun emerged **runners-up in the State level 'Tinkering Challenge 2017'** conducted by Science Ashram in association with the Times Foundation.
- EPS Quizzing teams have won the city round 'Conquistador,' organised by the PES University and **topped the District level round of Rural IT Quiz organised** by TCS. Team EPS also emerge **Runners in the same event at the Mysore Region level**. We also won the Junior Quiz Competition conducted by Mysore Sahodaya School Complex in association with Kautilya Vidyalyaya,

### **Individual Achievements Par Excellence**

Apart from academics and cultural honours, our students have excelled in various chosen fields in Sports and Games.

- **Mst. Mustafa M Raja** has been awarded the scholarship from the famous **Rick Macci Tennis Academy, Florida, the US**, for a month-long training program. This is certainly going to be life changing experience for this young tennis player. Currently Mustafa is ranked **14th at National Level and 2nd in the State Level**. During the current year he has won 22 titles in the Under 12 categories. His numerous titles and winning streak are phenomenal.

- **Ms. Disha Kavery of Class 8** is ushering in a new era of power and athleticism in the Women's Amateur Golf segment with many winner and runners-up triumphs in her kitty. She has been adjudged the Best Women's Player in several tournaments. She bagged 6<sup>th</sup> position in The IGU All India Ladies Amateur Golf Championship 2017.
- **Niharika C V** of Class 10 represented the **Karnataka State in the under 17 Girls Football Team** in the National Football League Tournament conducted by the All India Football Federation.
- **Abhay Rangan of Class 9** attended the selection camp for state U-14 probable team in Bangalore, organized by the Karnataka State Cricket Association.

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

I am proud to announce that the **EPS cricket team won the Runners-up Trophy** at the K L Venkatasubbaiah Memorial Inter-School Cricket Tournament and the Naveen Memorial Cricket Tournament organized by the KSCA, Mysuru.

### **CCA Activities**

We have conducted **187 literary, cultural** and art and craft competitions for Kindergarten to Class 11, spanning over a period of 5 months. Every student got an opportunity to participate in a maximum of 6 competitions spread across various categories.

Similarly, **210 events, under 10 categories**, were organized in the course of two **Annual Sports Days**. Various individual events and Team events ensured participation of every student.

I appreciate the efforts of the CCA and Physical Education Department in the successful conduct of all these competitions.

We have also hosted **15 external competitive examinations, including the National Level Olympiads and Asset, which witnessed a total registration of 1289 students**.

Needless to add, most of our students have secured very good ranks in the national, state and district levels in these examinations.

### **Environmental Activities**

Excel Public School strongly believes in environmental conservation and practices all measures to keep the surrounding clean and green. With this belief we initiated different programs this year.

- **Sensitizing the Dengue** outbreak, our teachers had organized various awareness programs for students of various classes.
- **Rally for Rivers**, an initiative by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev and Isha Foundation had us pledging our commitment to adopt practical lifestyle changes thus contributing to the revival of the lifelines of our nation.

- EPS community took **Swachhata Shapath during Swachhata Pakhwada 2017**, an initiative of the CBSE. A **cleanliness drive** was organized to enhance awareness. A **painting competition** was also organized for the parents on the theme 'Clean India, Better India'.
- Celebrating the **World Environment Day** the school eco-club 'Green Warriors' was established. The new beginning saw a flurry of activities that included the creation of seed balls, planting saplings and garden survey, and a Kids Dhamaal stall. They reviewed Silviculture systems and forest dynamics in Nagarhole. A great way to create, think, sustain, and learn.
- EPS celebrated **International Yoga Day** by participating in **the Chain and Mass Yoga Program organized by the Mysore District**. In addition to this, all our Teachers attended a **workshop on 'Yoga for Physical and Mental Wellness' by Dr. Raghavendra Pai**, a renowned Yoga expert.
- Commemorating International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, we hosted **'Enchanting Expeditions', an inter-school workshop cum competition**, spreading awareness about the importance of heritage and its conservation. It was attended by students from 18 schools from the city.
- An **essay writing competition** on the topic "My Vision- A corruption free India" was organized by **BEML Ltd.** as part of Vigilance Awareness Week.
- Observing special occasions like the **Independence Day, Teachers' Day, Children's Day and the Open Day** deserve special mention for the passionate involvement and enthusiastic participation of every member of the EPS community.
- In this context, I would also like to place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those **parents of our students who have either been Guests, Resource Persons and Facilitators for the various in-house orientation programmes** or those who enabled and helped us organizing various field trips and extended learning activities. Your contributions as members of the **'Parent Resource Pool'** has been of invaluable support to our students and teachers. We look forward to your continuous involvement and support in the days to come.

### Field Trips

The school takes pride in conducting numerous field trips to ensure enrichment of children's knowledge through active practical learning experience, thus strengthening the concepts learned in theory. So far we have **completed 23 field trips, for various classes** put together convening a variety of learning experience and opportunity for extended learning.

### Library

A special mention to our state of art libraries, a repository of resources with a huge collection of **7455 books including 2000 plus reference books and an exclusive reference section for our Senior Secondary students and Teachers**. We also have the subscription

to 29 magazines, periodicals and 5 newspapers. Encouraging our learners to focus on their reading habits we hosted two book fairs this academic year which received great attention and appreciation from our student and parent community.

### **EPS' Social Responsibility**

We at EPS strongly believe that a School is a social institution and it has certain obligations and responsibilities to maximize our positive impact on the society. With this strong belief in mind, we have proffered our facilities to the educational needs of the local community. I am proud to say that during this year EPS has extended its support to 5250 students and 60 Teachers from 25 Govt. schools from the district of Mysore through providing free materials and support to conduct **an interdisciplinary project called the Great Plant Hunt, jointly developed by Excelsoft and the Kew Botanical Garden, UK.** We have also **trained 120 teachers from as many govt. schools of Mysore District in ICT skills.** This is expected to benefit a total of 36000 students studying in these institutions. Currently we are engaging **40 students and 10 teachers from 10 Govt. High Schools of Mysore Rural Block in training them in an Engineering Challenge Programme at our Innovation Centre.** I must thank our promoters, Excel Education and E-Learning Trust for its service mindedness and our parent organization Excelsoft for providing the unwavering technical support and assistance to set benchmarks in public impact and affect society significantly through our actions and behaviors.

Our responsibility towards the larger society, especially towards the less privileged ones continues to be one of the prime concerns. In addition to providing free education to **84 students admitted under the Right to Education Act,** we also have students of various classes receiving fee concessions and scholarships under various categories. From the **EPS Charity Fund,** we have spent an amount of **Rs. 247384** towards various philanthropic activities. The beneficiaries include **2 institutions and 8 individuals.** I wish to sincerely appreciate the sense of social sensitivity and responsibility demonstrated by our students, their parents and our staff by regularly supporting our initiatives to reach the helpless and needy. A special thanks to those parents who were directly involved in this year's Kids Carnival.

### **Faculty Development**

An enlightened and empowered team of Teachers is the biggest asset of any educational institution. At EPS, we expose our teachers to regular professional development programmes and ensure that they keep themselves abreast of the latest pedagogical practices and developments. In addition to in-house workshops and training programmes, they are also sent to attend various faculty enrichment programmes outside the school. The Principal also attended an International Educational Conference organised by the

International Congress for School Education and Improvement at the Nanyang Technology University, Singapore, in January 2018.

## **Conclusion**

As it is rightly said, **‘if you never thank God after every smile, then you have no right to blame Him for every tear.’** I thank the Almighty for giving us the wisdom, fortitude and confidence to take the ‘less trodden path’ in the field of education. This has certainly been a gratifying and rewarding experience, thus far.

My sincere gratitude and appreciation to our Chairman, Prof. M H Dhananjaya, whose presence, gives us the strength to think differently.

Mr. D Sudhanva, the Secretary of Excel Education and E-Learning Trust, whose thoughtful leadership helps us plan our goals.

Our School Correspondent, Mr. H M Prashanth, whose active involvement and encouragement guides us towards success.

My thanks to all the Trustees and the members of the School Managing Committee for their support to make EPS an educational institution with a difference.

My thanks to all the Heads, Managers and our colleagues at Excel Soft, especially the Administrative and Accounts Departments for their support and timely assistance.

A special mention and appreciation to Mr. Sanju Nair, Ms. Chitra Uttaiyah, Ms. Prameela and all the members of K-12 team, who always extend the most needed support to our teachers and students.

I place on record my earnest thanks to the Headmistress Mrs. Gubain Mathew, DHMs, Subject Coordinators, and the entire teaching faculty. The school’s **Administrative Team** deserve a special mention of appreciation and acknowledgement.

What we do at EPS could never be achieved without the commitment of the staff behind the scenes. The persistence and initiative of the entire **non-teaching staff** are brilliant, and I appreciate their dedication and professionalism.

I extend my hearty thanks to The **Student Council 2017-2018**. They deserve a special mention for their leadership abilities personated during various functions and activities this year.

Now, the parents of EPS, who are the most engaged and enthusiastic people I have ever got associated with. EPS owes a heartfelt gratitude for your support and the effective partnerships.

Before I close this Annual Report, let me quote **Mr. John Holt**, author of path-breaking books like, '**How children fail**' and '**How children learn**', "children do not be made to learn, told what to learn or shown how. If we give them access to enough of the world, including our own lives and work in that world, they will see what things are truly important to us and to others, and they will make for themselves a better path into that world than we could make for them". Dear parents, let's believe that for humans learning is as natural as breathing. Let's trust in our kids' innate curiosity and their ability to explore and experiment. As parents and teachers, our role is to kindle that spirit of enquiry, promote that quest for innovation and experimentation and ensure that they live in a safe, stimulating and healthy environment, free from internal stress and external distractions.

Let's commit ourselves to that important responsibility.

Thank you all and have a great evening.

**Mathew K G**  
(10<sup>th</sup> February 2018)