

**St. Cecilia's Public School (Minority)**

(Sr. Sec. Recognised & Affiliated to CBSE)

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**“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving”**

**By Albert Einstein**

Dear Parents,

These words resonate with me when I look back at the year 2020 in retrospection. It's been the year of upheavals, trials and tribulations. At the same time, it's also been about moving on with the available resources and equipment for the greater good of all.

On this note, I earnestly hope that you all are in sound health and good spirit. Covid-19 pandemic brought about immense uncertainty in our lives. However, that could not put a halt to the noblest calling on this planet, i.e. Educating Young Minds.

My teachers shouldered the responsibility of executing an uphill task of online teaching impeccably and flawlessly. They transformed themselves into tech savvy, digital educators in the blink of an eye. Imparting supremely high quality of education has remained our goal and we did not leave any stone unturned to focus on providing emotional and mental support to our students during the challenging times. No truer words have been said ever, “The influence of teachers extends beyond the classroom, well into the future.” How well we could witness it, particularly, more so in 2020!

I would also like to appreciate my students who exhibited wholehearted cooperation in making this roller-coaster journey to function with success and ease. Having to keep aside human to human interaction inside the physical classrooms with smiles, laughter and a whole lot of emotions on display, they showed equal zeal and enthusiasm in the virtual classrooms wherein we have been trying to build newer and brighter futures for times ahead.

The academic field in our education system saw a glimpse of such novelty, innovation, creativity and energy that it is entirely unprecedented and phenomenal. Beginning from the kindergarten, wherein parents were so apprehensive initially and rightly so, about a plethora of issues, ranging from the unfamiliar teaching method, time table, etc. to the primary, middle and the senior wing of the school, everything was dealt with sensibly. Problem solving approach and practicality were the keys that aided us in opening the locks of new challenges popping up every single day.

Right from the kindergarten level, teachers never ceased to seek new methods of teaching to engage students sincerely. With umpteen fun videos, power point presentations, quiz activities and other teaching aids which could be used effectively in the online mode, it was ensured that each child is involved in the classes. Remedial classes and extra classes were also a part of the journey where individual attention was paid to all.

Especially, the pre-primary wing of our school can boast of regular yoga activities and physical activities in general. Gayatri mantra and assemblies were made a part of the digital teaching which also helped boost everyone's confidence in the emerging system of education.

Constant contact with parents was also one of the important goals which was fulfilled majorly through calls and scheduled Parent Teacher Meetings online. The queries pertaining to their wards academic field as well as personal and emotional well-being were always our top priority.

Thankfully, the pandemic could not slacken our festive spirit during the later half of the year. India always stands out on a global scale when it comes to preserving one's culture, heritage and rituals during festivals. Even though, the mode has changed, our spirits still get energized during the festive season and that's what cecilians celebrated with much fervor, gusto and warmth. All the special days and festivals including Janamastami, Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Raksha Bandhan, Deepawali, Ganesh Chaturthi, Gurupurab and Christmas witnessed huge participation from students at all levels. This breathed a wave of fresh air into everyone's lives as we had been staying at homes since such a long time.

Besides this, quite a good number of competitions also helped bring out some new talents in front of all of us. Essay writing, quiz, video making, English rhyme and recitation, poster making are a few among many. Not to forget to mention, the noble initiative taken up by the Eco Club of the school during the season of Deepawali. It was highly commendable. Constant appeals were made to students and parents not to burn crackers on the day of Deepawali.

Primary wing of our school emphasized a lot on Reading habit of students. Zero period used to be dedicated to reading. Assessment of Speaking and Listening Skills was conducted to help students be fluent in English and Hindi languages. Role play was also incorporated in this. In terms of academics, students showed great participation in EVS activities by sending their pictures while planting new saplings. Buying and selling activities were designed and executed for better concept clarity in Mathematics. Students also prepared Power Point Presentations for festivals. Their expressive qualities were also enhanced with 'Expressing Yourself Round' at the end of each event wherein they spoke about the activities.

Middle wing of the school remained highly active with Club activities. A lot of competitions were organized under the five clubs – Eco, Editorial, Geekoz IT, Scientia and Quiz Clubs. Power Point presentations were created and presented to mark the importance of National Education Day. Fancy dress competition was organized on the occasion of Deepawali. Online Magic Show was also thoroughly enjoyed by students which was a novel activity conducted by Scientia Club.

In the Senior Wing, prominent steps were taken for making holistic development of students a success through online mode. Virtual assemblies were held regularly. Amidst all the fun and frolic, examinations could not have been avoided. The school conducted numerous examinations from time to time.

Board classes X and XII were given special attention in this field. Complete preparations were made to give genuine practice to students who will be appearing for their Board examination in some time. The school also made efficient use of OLabs wherein lab experiments can be taught using internet.

Overall, the school management put in relentless efforts to counsel the students from time to time and answered parent's queries whenever there were any. We remained sympathetic towards them as everything seemed to be in chaos at the start. We also lent our helping hand to the teaching fraternity in making this unique year a memorable one for the right reasons. We have also learnt varied things simultaneously. While doing that, we wished to do justice to the cause of imparting education and shaping young, fragile minds towards the path of confidence and optimism.

St. Cecilia's never failed to live up to the expectations of its own motto: **Education for Knowledge, Wisdom, Character and Courage**. We stayed conscious of it throughout our teaching and learning because that's how the future youth of our society and country should be like.

I would praise my students for maintaining decorum while attending virtual classes through digital teaching. I hope that we will continue to see honesty, integrity and sincerity from you all in future also; during examinations and in behavioural aspects. Our agenda is to help students attain good marks while also growing as an individual with all the essential virtues intact.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to parents for their wholesome groundwork which helped us in furthering the task of betterment of students. I would humbly request the parents of students studying in classes X and XII to remain patient as far as Board date-sheet is concerned. We have to focus on sincere preparation by the students so that they are mentally prepared to brace up for the exam, whenever the date-sheet is announced. Till then, keep your hands joined with us in motivating them to continue doing better.

With this, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one for sailing through difficult waters with such calmness and composure, for it is suitably said, “Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow” 2020, undoubtedly pushed all of us out of our comfort zones but not to deny that it also paved the way for growth and milestones.”

I on behalf of school management and staff members, wish our beloved students and their parents and family a very Happy and Prosperous New Year, 2021. May God Bless us all!

Our prayers and wishes are with you all.

A very Happy New Year, 2021!

With warm regards,

*Inderpreet Bhumra*  
**Principal (Acting)**  
**St. Cecilia's Public School**