

Letter to Parents and Old Sanawarians

Dear Parents and Old Sanawarians,

It has been almost three months since I wrote to you all. However, the communication with parents and Old Sanawarians has been going on quite actively through other medium. One of the most satisfying things that have happened for me is the fact that a number of OS Chapters have either been re-vitalised or established. In the last one year I have been to Lucknow, Mumbai, Kathmandu, Dubai, Karnal and Chandigarh and got an overwhelming response from the OS fraternity in all those places. What was very evident everywhere was that the OSs want to know more about what all is happening on the hilltop, their second home and how can they contribute to ensure that Sanawar does justice to the sobriquet 'the best school of all'. The OS Dubai Chapter is already in touch with the School to take on a major project for funding. Individual OSs are directly contributing to the FOSS account to fund projects in School. Two notable individual contributors in recent months have been Mr. Vivek Mehra [Himalaya 71] and Mr. Rupinder Sidhu (Ringo) [Himalaya 71]. The Class of 92 has contributed approximately Rs.50 lakhs.

I am visiting Jalandhar on March 31 and later Dimapur on April 21 to join the launching of the new OS Chapters. The OS Society is working towards launching / re-energising the OS Chapters at Dehradun, Canada, Singapore, New Zealand and many more places. I urge the OSs living in sizeable numbers at various other places, both within India and outside, to get in touch with the OS Society and activate their Chapters as well. I would be delighted to visit you all and connect.

While the School is able to carry out basic maintenance / renovation work with School budget, major projects are only possible when they are adequately funded, in our case by our alumni. I am **attaching an excel document** with this letter, highlighting the various maintenance / renovation work that we have carried out in the last year or so. I have also attached some pictures of the sites to give you an idea of the nature of work carried out. Let me assure you that we are committed to improve the quality of infrastructure in Sanawar.

The following works have been earmarked for the FY 2018 – 19:

- Repairs to Building Nos 24, 26, 31, 85 and 93
- Repairs to 30 Support Staff Quarters and addition of 06 Washrooms
- Repair and Replacement of Wooden Floors in Dormitories
- Special Repairs to GD Outer Washrooms
- Special Repairs to Girls, Ladies and Gents Washrooms at Birdwood
- Special Repairs to PD Washrooms
- Special Repairs to Washrooms in Holding House in BD
- Special Repairs to BD Outer Washrooms (Near Himalaya House)
- Special Repairs to BD Night Washrooms
- Special Repairs to PD Outer Washrooms
- Special Repairs and Upgrading Swimming Pool
- Re-carpeting and Repair of roads
- Repair and reinforcement of retaining walls

Apart from these work, we are continuing with the following capital work:

- Conversion of old PD Assembly Hall to PD Girls' Ground Dormitory and addition of Washrooms
- Construction of balance perimeter fence with concertina coil

In order to augment water supply in School a lot of efforts are being made. A water pipe line has already been laid from a nearby private water source and is providing us approximately 7000 ltrs per day. We have recently applied for participation in Kalujhanda-Kasauli water lift supply scheme in PPP mode [Himachal Pradesh Government] which could give us a substantial amount of water when operational.

The School is working on the preparation of a 'Master Plan' for the School. Some of the projects we would be keen to initiate as soon as funds are available are as follows:

- Construction of an additional Girls' dormitory to decongest the existing Girls' dormitories and accommodate additional intake of girls in future. This complex will also have accommodation for Staff and facilities for some extra-curricular activities.
- Construction of a new Academic Block for the PD
- Expansion and renovation of the Central Dining Hall and the kitchen area
- Construction of two new Squash courts
- Renovation of the Girls' dormitory [Sparrows] in the PD
- Projects on Rain Water Harvesting tanks, recharging of old Bore wells and Garland Drains
- A performing Art Centre

While the Board has given its go ahead signal to us on these initiatives and projects, what is most important is to find the money to finance these projects. Most of these projects are high cost projects and cannot be financed by the School fee and that's the reason why I have been advocating the need of a greater participation of the OS fraternity in helping their alma mater.

In my previous letter I had spoken about the introduction of an International Curriculum at Sanawar. I am **attaching a comparative study of two International curricula** that may be considered. I will encourage all of you to send your views on this issue.

To expand the catchment area of the students' intake, four new examination centres (Lucknow, Hyderabad, Kathmandu and Dubai) were added in 2017 for the School's entrance examination. These are in addition to Mumbai and Kolkata added in 2016. These steps are beginning to show effect. The progress may be slow but changes will be visible in near future.

We are encouraging students from the neighboring countries to come to Sanawar. I will be visiting Bhutan later this year to meet prospective Parents there. We are working towards starting students' exchange programmes with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and have taken suitable steps in that direction. I am taking a students' delegation to Sri Lanka towards the end of April to tie up some exchange programmes with schools in Colombo.

The second edition of The Sanawar Leadership Programme is scheduled from June 19 – 29, 2018 in Sanawar. The leadership programme is open to current students of Sanawar as well. Details are available on the School's website.

Due to the Class X Board examinations, Class XI (L VI) will begin late (in April). The School has made adequate arrangements for these students by providing additional academic time to cover up the lost time. The schedule will definitely be a bit taxing but none of them will be deprived of adequate involvement in extra-curricular activities and sports.

I am happy to share a few new appointments made this term.

Mr. Gaurav Sood is the new Head of Faculty (Commerce); Mrs. Subhadra Sharma is the new Matron of PD Girls' (Sparrows) and Mrs. Jyotsna Harjai has joined as the second School Counsellor. Mrs. Harjai will look after the students of L III to U IV while our previous School Counsellor Mrs. Priya Dhillon will look after the students of Classes LV and above.

Many of you may know that our School RMO Dr. Bandita Sangha is leaving us at the end of this month. She served the School for more than 14 years. Her job competence and energetic and cheerful disposition endeared her to one and all. She has decided to move on and be with her family to spend some quality time with them, something which many of us miss out on due to our School commitments.

We wish Dr. Sangha and her family all the very best in future. Wing Commander (Dr.) Sonal Sharma (Retd.) is the new RMO who will take over from Dr. Sangha. Dr. Sharma served in the Indian Air Force for 14 years.

We have received a positive response from many parents regarding School parties for journeys to and from home during vacation. We request other parents to take this option to ease problems faced by the School.

The new Prefectorial team has settled down quite well. There is a perceptible change in the leadership styles of our Prefects. I am **attaching the link to the articles** written by our Head Girl and the Head Boy that appeared in The Tribune recently. <http://epaper.tribuneindia.com/c/27106502>

We are looking forward to welcoming the parents for the PTM scheduled for Tuesday March 27, 2018. The PTM begins at 10.00 am and ends at 1.00 pm. You all must have received the detailed programme, including the seating plan, for the PTM from the DoF. We have organized a special session for the parents and students of current Class X (U V) with prominent Career Counsellor Dr. Amrita Das, Director, Institute for Career Studies, Lucknow. I strongly urge all the UV parents and students to attend this interactive session as decisions on subject / career choices at this stage are vital. UV parents may meet the tutors / teachers after this session. **The Career Counselling session will commence at 10.00 am in Barne Hall.**

Warm regards,

Vinay Pande

March 24, 2018