

# SRI LANKAN SCHOOL – MUSCAT

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNIQUE 1 – (2011/2012)

### NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new teachers in to the staff of SLSM:

Mr. Lalith Kumarasiri – Physics/Maths

Mr. Janake Somarathne – Science

Ms. Deepashika Gunasekera – Maths

Ms. Prerna Sharma – Foundation Stage

Ms. Hasna Rizwan – Foundation Stage

Mr. T.M.N.C.Sampath – Maths

Ms. Wathasara Perera – Science

Ms. Chandani Rangodage (English) and Ms. Lushani Perera (Accounting) will soon join the staff as soon as the authorities issue the relevant visas.

### TEXT BOOKS

The school placed orders well in time with a book supplier who quoted the lowest. Three orders were placed on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. He promised to supply all the books within four weeks from the date of purchase order. However when we made inquiries from our contacts with the publishers, about the progress of the process of procurement, we learnt that no orders had being placed with the publishers in UK by our supplier. We requested the supplier repeatedly, to produce some evidence that our book order is being processed by him. When the supplier could not produce such evidence we cancelled the order.

Then we placed a fresh order with the same supplier who supplied books for several years, in spite of the delays caused in January 2011. This order for books worth RO 14,033.000, was placed on 4<sup>th</sup> July and the supplier gave us a written undertaking to deliver on or before 15<sup>th</sup> August.

This supplier delivered books to the value of RO 1245.000 on 18<sup>th</sup> August. He delivered another set of books to the value of RO 10,390.000, on 4<sup>th</sup> September. The third delivery from him for books worth RO 1212.000 was on 14<sup>th</sup> September. He is yet to deliver 608 books to the value of RO 1496.000 which is approximately 10% of the total order. These books are expected to be delivered at any moment.

When I arrived in Muscat with my teachers on 5<sup>th</sup> September I found that the officer in charge of the book shop has informed that she is unable to come to school during the holiday period due to a personal reason.

As a result I had to curtail the staff training programme that was planned and get the services of the teachers to attend to the books issue. I am grateful to my teachers who arrived in Oman 4 days before the school started and helped me to distribute the available books to the parents before school started.

I am grateful to the parents who patiently tolerated and understood the difficulties faced by the school staff due to a lapse on the part of the book supplier.

I also like to point out that 117 parents did not indicate the requirement of books in spite of three rounds of reminders, before the deadline given. Books requested by these parents, after the deadline, were once again ordered to the value of RO 4145.00, through another supplier who has promised to deliver them by the second week of October.

I am sure that all my parents would understand that the school is not a bookshop and that the Board of Directors and the staff is doing its best to help the parents to get the books for their children. I am also aware that some parents have been hostile to the school staff when they did not get the books that they ordered in time.

I can only say that it hurts me to hear that, because I am aware of the hard work done under immense pressure, by my staff – both academic and non-academic.

#### **MISCONCEPTION ON DISTRIBUTION OF TEXT BOOKS**

Some parents seem to think that people who paid for books last term are not supplied, while those parents who paid in September are given. This is not true. The school collected the request forms from the parents in April/ May and ordered the actual numbers of books that were requested for. The cost of books were debited to the parents' accounts in the school receipts were drawn. Some parents paid for before school closed and some paid after we started the new term. These are all parents who requested for books within the deadline.

The cashier was instructed in September, not to accept payment for books from any parent who did not order the books before the deadline. These parents will get books when we receive the new order.

#### **REMEDIAL ACTION**

I have advised the teachers to take photocopies of all assignments given by them for the students who have not got the books yet.

#### **IGCSE IN JANUARY**

The school has decided to allow the students in the current Year 11 class, to sit for a few subjects at the January 2012 session. The reason for this is that the IGCSE syllabuses, which are designed for 2 years, have been done for 3 years in the school. It is not in the best interest of the students, when the curriculum is thinly spread. The syllabuses have been covered a long time ago in many subjects and hence the teachers are made to keep on revising.

However the school has not decided that all students should compulsorily sit for the January session.

### **MISCONCEPTION ABOUT IGCSE IN JAUARY**

No student is forced to sit for the January session. The school will not promote the students to do Advanced Level classes after the January examination. No student will do all the subjects at the January examination. The school will not discontinue Year 11 or IGCSE curriculum after January session.

The Year 11 classes will continue till the end of the academic year and promotions will be done in September 2012.

### **INTER HOUSE TOURNAMENTS**

The inter house tournaments in Badminton, Table Tennis, Basketball and Athletics meet will be conducted this term.

The Inter School Basketball tournament and the Annual Awards Day too will be conducted this term. As such the term will have hectic activity.

I request parents to allow the children to take part in these activities and I request the students not to lose their academic focus due to sporting activities.

### **CASHIER**

Please be informed that the cashier's counter will be open on weekdays as follows:

Morning            from 7.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Afternoon        from 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Evening           from 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

The Board of Directors is actively investigating measures to be adopted to minimize the long queues. Your input is welcome.

### **LATE COMING**

It is a very ugly sight to see many students coming to school after the school bell is rung. Parents are kindly advised to make suitable transport arrangements to avoid the children being embarrassed. Ironically I have noted that most often it is the children who live in Wadi Kabir who come late. Very poor show.

*Somabandhu Kodikara* - Principal