

# SRI LANKAN SCHOOL – MUSCAT

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNIQUE 4 – (2011/2012)

### INTER HOUSE ATHLETIC MEET

I am sad to note that the authorities cancelled our booking for the grounds on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November due to another event that is to be conducted in the stadium. As a result we were compelled to shift the Inter House Athletic Meet to 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November. I know that most parents will not be able to attend since it is on working days. However we will continue to conduct the event with the ceremony it deserves. I request all parents who can attend, to do so.

More details will be made available in due course.

### HOUSE COLOURED T SHIRTS

House coloured T shirts with the school emblem, are available for purchase in the school. They are priced at R.O. 2.500. I request all parents to purchase a T shirt for your child before the meet.

### THE NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE

We are pleased to inform you that the new school website was formally launched by His Excellency Asoka Kumara Giriagama, Ambassador for Sri Lanka in Oman, at the Annual Awards Day function.

Please access the site at [www.sism.edu.om](http://www.sism.edu.om)

### FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

In line with the English National Curriculum, the school is formalizing Assessment for Learning which is generally known as continuous assessment. The teachers are required to do a series of assessments throughout the term. These assessments can take the form of projects, presentations, group work, oral questions, open book tests etc. in addition to the monthly/unit tests that teachers, students and parents are used to.

Two of these assessments per term will be selected to be entered on the progress report. The formative assessment marks will be out of 10 and 10. The remaining 80% will come from the Terminal evaluation.

If a student is absent on the assessment day for genuine reasons, he/she will still be assessed later. Parents are requested to ensure that the children do not miss the assessments for trivial reasons.

In grades where the new teachers in some parallel classes were late to arrive, the new system will come in to effect only from next term.

### VISIT OF PROFESSOR SARATH KOTAGAMA

I am pleased to inform you that the celebrated scientist and naturalist from Sri Lanka, Professor Sarath Kotagama will be conducting a presentation for parents, students and teachers of the school at 7.00

p.m. on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. The theme of the lecture/presentation will be 'The Glory of Sri Lanka -In the Eyes of a Scientist'.

The Science Department of the school, Environmental Society, Science Society and Chemistry Society will host the event. The students of these societies are performing a playlet and a song in honour of the illustrious guest.

Parents are kindly requested not to miss this opportunity to listen to a unique Sri Lankan.

#### VISIT OF PROFESSOR JOHN SPINKS

As a part of the Academic Guidance and Counseling programme being initiated in the school, Professor John Spinks, Advisor to the Chancellor of Hong Kong University will be visiting the school and making a presentation for all interested students, parents and teachers at 8.00 P.m. on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

HKU is not a very well known University in our part of the world and personally I too was unaware of the opportunities available to students, until I made a visit to the University two years ago on invitation. I was amazed at the facilities given to students and also to realize that it is right on top in the rankings among Asian Universities. I am pleased to inform the parents that Danish Mohammed, who won the award for best academic achievement at the Awards Day, joined HKU this year for his tertiary education.

Professor Spinks will speak about HKU and opportunities available to students and answer all questions. He will also speak on a wider spectrum on global trends in tertiary education.

This is a lecture/discussion, not to be missed, by students and parents of examination classes. Others too are welcome.

#### MOBILE PHONES

The school conducted a bag check and found a heap of mobile phones. I called the parents to ask why they have sent the phones knowing that it was against the school rules. Every parent gave me a lengthy explanation how important it is for them to contact the child at any time. I said that I can understand that, but why the phone should have camera, video, internet, email and a host of other high tech facilities. No one had an acceptable answer.

If you must buy a phone for your child, please buy a basic phone which only allows telephone calls.

*Somabandhu Kodikara*

Principal