

SRI LANKAN SCHOOL – MUSCAT

PRINCIPAL'S COMMUNIQUE 11 – (2011/2012)

PARENT TEACHER INTERACTION

The PTI will be conducted this time in two parts - before and after the vacation - on experimental basis.

Parents who are leaving Muscat after the term tests may come for the PTI in January. Teachers of all classes including the FS and KS 1 will be available on both days. Parents who do not get an opportunity to see any subject teacher may come on both days. But priority on the second day will be given to parents who come to meet the class teachers.

Dates: 20th December and 3rd January

Time : 17.00 to 19.00 hours on both days.

ASSESSMENTS

Many parents have asked me various questions about adding 20% of the marks from the ongoing assessments. Even some students came to me and said that unit tests are not done under proper examination conditions. I know that even some teachers have still not understood the philosophy behind formative assessment.

This means that the school is not yet ready for this major change in educational methodology. As such the marks of the unit/monthly tests will not be added to the final score this academic year.

I will conduct several sessions for parents next term to educate them on assessment (in contrast to evaluation). Parents should understand that the school is falling in line with the English National Curriculum and that Assessing Pupils Progress (in the lower Key Stages) and Assessment For Learning (in the upper classes) is a vital component of it.

All interested parents are requested to search the internet on APP or AFL to educate themselves beforehand.

We are also in the process of designing new progress reports, based on proper formative and summative modes of assessment, for all classes. These will be introduced at the beginning of the next academic year.

LATE COMING

I am pleased to note that late coming was arrested to a great extent and on 7th December no student came late. This I think is a major achievement. Habitual latecomers were asked to purchase alarm clocks and parents are requested to ensure that these children do not go back to their old lazy habit during the holidays.

CLEANLINESS

I wish to thank all the House Masters and Mistresses and the House Captains for keeping the students tents tidy during the inter house athletic meet. At the end of the meet there was very little

cleaning to be done in the students' areas. Unfortunately the same thing cannot be said about the area used by the parents. Parents are kindly requested not to get offended but understand that we need to be role models for our children.

MOBILE PHONES

The safe in the school contains a large number of mobile phones confiscated by teachers and prefects. These are properly labeled and are safely kept. The phones with the basic facility of only taking a call will be returned to the parents with instructions on what the children should do. The phones with camera, internet and other facilities will be handed over when the child leaves school.

Recently a parent told me that the child should not be punished because it was he who gave the phone to the child. Another parent told me that the parents should not be punished for what the child has done. Many parents insist that it is necessary that they are able to contact the child at any time of the day. One parent told me that it is not possible to deprive his child of a phone with all modern facilities because the child's friends are having such things. Some students inform me that while teachers are teaching some students are sending texts to each other. Some parents have complained to me that some boys take photographs of girls and put it in the Face Book. Others say that in some schools, faces of girls are added to naked figures taken from the internet and distributed.

Would you like that to happen to your daughter?

Please help the school to eradicate this menace.

PARTIES

A few months ago an ICT teacher caught a student who went in to a pornographic site in the school ICT lab, while she was teaching. She had conclusive evidence of it and gave me details of the machine used, the time, the site address and the name of the child who logged in through the said machine.

When I called the parents of this child, I wanted to know how, this primary school child knew the addresses of such sites. These parents were apparently simple people and said that they do not have access to internet at home and whatever the child learns about computing is in school.

Later I talked to the child and asked him the same question. He said that he learned it at a birthday party of a classmate. I asked whether the parents of the friend were not at home. He said they were having their own party with their friends and the children were in the friend's room. I asked whether there were girls also and he said 'yes, but they left the room after a little while'

A parent told me that if the school has not spent money on it, organized it, invited students to come, sent teachers etc. then the school has nothing to worry about. I leave it for your own judgment. I do not want to overstep my authority, trying to tell parents how to organize private parties. Please be careful when you send your children for such parties.

Parents are strictly advised not to organize any parties/functions/events/meals etc. for school teams without permission from the school.

Somabandhu Kodikara - Principal