

**8<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

**My Dear Students, Parents, PNES Board members, Team TOS, Associates, Alumni and Well-wishers,**

**Today The Orchid School enters into 16th year of its existence!!**

**I along with my team and Board Members of PNES convey our heartfelt gratitude and greetings on this occasion.**

**Gratitude for trusting us and choosing to be part of the journey. Greetings for a great future for the school so it can continue to serve the community.**

**Anniversaries are also reflection time and make me look backwards to imagine what the future will be like. I have been thinking about the journey so far and envision the time ahead for the school. We have had an eventful time so far building the institution in its foundation, nurturing minds, developing a meaningful learning system, creating an organisational climate that is nurturing and conducive for all types of learners and riding some hard times together.**

**Through the years of ups and downs, achievements and setbacks, the message we always received from each of our valuable stakeholders is that you have trusted us.**

**COVID times has taught many valuable lessons – specially in terms of what is significant for our life; what is precious in for relationships; what is basic for our survival; what it means to be grateful for what we have. I am intrigued by the idea of SCHOOL in times of lock down. Centrality of the idea of school – especially when we are not sitting in physical space called school premises!**

**Lockdown times has reminded me once again that**

**-It is not the physical infrastructure alone that makes a school a school.**

**-It is not the methods of teaching through online that defines a school.**

**-It is not the projects and programs – the unique ones that are part of our flagship model- that characterises the school.**

**-It is not the local rootedness and the global context we bring to classrooms that makes conceptualises a school concept.**

**-It is not the process-oriented systems we use for operations that define us.**

-It is not the policy driven decisions that frames our school.

What is it that makes Orchid a school when we are not assembled at this moment in a physical location, nor going through the routines and rituals?

I would like to believe that it is the INTERCONNECTEDNESS of all the above through the RELATIONSHIP aspect that binds it all. It is about having our students at centre of it –

**STUDENTS FIRST**, a crystal-clear belief that translates into all our practices through 5 P's – People, policy, program and processes.

All driven by the most crucial 5<sup>th</sup> P – Passion.

Some may call it being personal; some may call it fuzzy; some may call it humane in its approach. For us, it is the organisational climate – created by people, for people, of people , with people.



It is what I call it the collective ETHOS – commitment of people that is central to the Orchid School.

We as a team are transparent and vision driven. This is what we experience even when we are not sitting in physical spaces. I hope you see it as I sense it.

We always have dreams, we see new dreams, we can be crazy to follow to make it happen.

**And that's why people came along, came with their ideas, who felt that they can join and that's how we kept flowing like a river, finding its own way but never giving away fundamental of why we are in the field of education.**

**Today it makes me emotional to look back and see all those events and days that happened in front of my eyes.**

**On that day, 8<sup>th</sup> of August, 2004, when PNES members came together for an idea of a school..... with a mission, a road map for many objectives. Along with delivering traditional tools of education.**

**I realise that none of what I said above is going to be the past – it's always going to be there; all the events will happen again and again. Because past shapes what the future is all about.**

**To have a future that we like, we have to care a lot for what the past is going to be!!!**

**So we enter into another year and renewing our commitment – we continue to nurture our students who can create their future.**

**Thanks everyone who have always been with us, together in this amazing journey in to unknown:)**



**Warm regards and gratitude,**

**Lakshmi Di**