

## EXPLANATORY NOTE REGARDING FEE RISE- January -2009

(For Parents Nursery to Class VI)

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**Dear Parents,**

Subsequent to the fee circular sent on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2008. There were many queries from parents expressing shock and concern over the announcement. PTC on 10<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2009 saw groups of parents meeting self and Shilpa seeking explanation for such a decision.

I am sending this note to explain TOS stand on fee rise. After reading this note, if you still want to meet face to face for a discussion, we are available on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 1.00pm at school.

Some notes regarding fee rise:

- The fee hike is not a sudden announcement as perceived by many.
- The decision to raise the fee by 25% for 3 consecutive years was taken in 2007 and the first phase was implemented for 2008-09 fees as year 1.
- We had met groups of parents and made a presentation last year around the same time. I also mentioned it in the parents' orientation meet.
- This fee hike is not only connected to inflation.
- The timing is purely coincidental with the economic crisis.
- This is driven by our effort to make TOS a self sufficient and financially manageable organization for now and coming years.
- The parent body has given the "Core Funding" for startup – land, building infrastructure, furniture, fixtures and capital assets. It has also bridge- financed for first 4 years the running expenditure.
- TOS does not and will not receive any funds from the Government as we are classified as "Permanently Non-grant In- Aid Institution".
- The annual increase in Fees for old parents is 25% for year 2009-10 and 25% for year 2010-11.
- Further annual increase in Fee for old parents for years 11-12, 12-13, 13-14 will be 15%. Review of expenditure will be taken and further fee structure will be announced. At this juncture we can say no quantum hike will happen.
- The fee difference from Sr. KG to Std 1 is because of the leap in number of hours the child will be in school and increase in activities and subjects.
- There is a nominal fee difference when child moves from primary to middle and middle to secondary level.
- The Fee structure for parents seeking admission in Nursery level from year 2009 will be 50,000 per year. They will have an annual hike of 15% for five years. From this group,

however there will be no level fee increase when the child moves level SR. KG to Std 1. Review of expenditure will be taken and further fee structure will be announced. At this juncture we can say no quantum hike will happen.

- All new admissions at any level are charged 1 time non-refundable education fees – 50,000/ per child from year 2009. This too will not be reviewed at least for next 5 years.
- This differential fee structure for old and new parents is a gesture to acknowledge those parents who trusted us in the initial startup years when we were not a big brand name or a much sought after school. However, we are unable to address the concern of a portion of parents who fall in both categories, except with the guarantee of assured walk-in admission in the “Sibling category” whenever vacancy gets created.
- TOS fee rise is in response to making our ends meet and not in line with any other school or market trends. Each institution has its own priorities and strategies to address.
- TOS cannot reduce operational costs in terms of staff reduction or service reduction as done in companies -when we would like to extend the same high standard infrastructural and child centric facility all through.
- No parent body can continue to support financially any project end less in time.
- This year TOS has setup
  - E-Patashala- an interactive learning system for middle school
  - E-Diary- a facility for e- communication with parents
  - ASSET-for level 3 to 6 -an assessment and diagnostic tool and facility offered to bench mark our institution and its teaching method choices
  - State of Art three Science Laboratories
  - 20% interim extra salary allowance to our staff to align to the coming 6<sup>th</sup> Pay commission recommendations.
  - CCT V(Close Circuit TV) for security purpose and safety
- Year 2009-10 TOS will have
  - State of art Senior Computer Lab, Math Lab,
  - Well equipped 2 visual arts centres
  - Very modern activity centre for the Kindergarten.
  - I-Discover program- a project based learning system for early primary classes
  - Weekly Tie-up with Balewadi for regular team Sports Coaching.
  - Enhanced pay-package if the Government announces 6<sup>th</sup> Pay commission.

This fee rise decision has come after much discussion, deliberation and weighing all options.

Warmly yours,

**Lakshmi Kumar.**

**Director.**