Parents Meet the Teacher Meeting (August 2015)

Welcome
Tonight the main purpose of us being here is so that you can get a chance to meet as many teachers as you can - easier perhaps for primary than secondary - but the key person to meet is the class teacher for primary and the class mentor for secondary - they are your first port of call for all academic or pastoral queries.

TBS Ethos & Vision
Before we begin the introductions, I would like to share my understanding of the TBS ethos and vision. You can read it on the school website - it is very long and I actually don't think it is very good - I don't think it is anywhere close to being representative of what a special place this is and one which we are all only passing through. I believe we are duty bound in our roles as teachers, parents, good human beings to diligently protect this special quality. In March 2015 we were visited by Mr Mark Evans who will carry out a full British Schools Overseas OFSTED in February 2016 - at the conclusion of his visit he said that he had selected 4 words that he said characterised what he had seen of the school in his short time with us - creativity, innovation, open-mindedness and confidence - I think he is right!

Some of our key objectives are:
1. We do want your children to enjoy their learning.
2. To achieve beyond their wildest expectations and to do as much as they can.
3. But we also want them to be ready to contribute positively in the world and to use their skills for good in what is for all of us, wherever we end up, an unknown future.

We have been working hard on a learning policy trying to articulate what we want our learners to be like and we would like learners here to be - thoughtful, adaptable & resilient, communicative & co-operative, respectful, responsible, creative & inquiring.

How can parents help?
It is important that you realise that no school is perfect - I don't ever want to be perceived as perfect - it suggests there is nothing you can improve, that the job is done, that you can’t go further and provide even more - I don’t believe this and I want us to be a school that will stretch beyond our expectations, to take sensible calculated risks and to be supported in learning from our mistakes - we want to work hard here and continue to make things better. We will try and give parents what they ask for and the vast majority of suggestions have been put into practice - better play areas, we have doubled the number of clubs, school shop, given secondary students more curriculum choice, etc - we ask that you are as supportive as you can be as we all want the same thing, the richest, most vivid learning experience for all the children here. It is sometimes extremely difficult to work in Kathmandu for a variety of reasons, but this team is one of dedicated professionals who are genuinely enthused to be working here, who want to try new things, to be given the opportunity to keep on learning and to each be supported by colleagues and parents. (Our teachers have chosen to be here and will gain a great deal from their experience, but they have left family and friends so they need patience, kindness and support from the whole TBS community.)

This is the ethos we want for your children - above all we want them to feel happy and safe, love learning even when it is not easy, we want them to try as much as possible and to make mistakes that they learn from - they should feel there is nothing they cannot aspire to if they are willing to put in the hard work required!

Building work on the school site
I have already spoken to parents on Monday and Tuesday about the works happening in the school and I would like to thank you all for your patience. For the short term inconvenience we will gain some excellent new spaces and our buildings will be safer than ever once the retrofitting programme is completed.

‘Surround yourself with positive people!’
As part of my doctorate I wrote a thesis, a book that sold zero copies - *Bunnies with Steel Tails: a study of gender identities in single sex schools* - it captured the imagination of all 3 of its readers and my next tome - *Leadership in International Schools: Things I have learned* - will stress the following key piece of advice - surround yourself with talented, positive people and give them opportunities to lead and to innovate in a supportive environment - If you can all work to a common vision your school will thrive. So I will introduce my colleagues to you..........

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