Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of TBS,

Another eventful week is drawing to a close and I have nothing but praise for the TBS children and students during these difficult times. There has been so much they have been excellent at. All the children were so efficient, calm and patient during our earthquake procedures, the students taking public examinations have shown amazing resilience and dedication, and the children have been able to play, be good friends and enjoy their learning despite the tragedies occurring outside the TBS walls. We know how fortunate we have been and long may this continue.

However, this does not mean we are ignoring the difficulties of Nepal and many of its people. Quite the opposite! Children have held charity bake sales this week and are planning more fundraising events, many of the older children are volunteering for organisations across the city, we are beginning to plan the Dhading visits that will seek to help get our three partner schools up and running, and our thoughts are always with those who have been less fortunate than us. Schools, groups and individuals across the world are signing up to donate to our TBS charities and to work with us to support children and education in Nepal. The support from COBIS and FOBISIA schools in particular has been superb! At TBS we will continue to look for ways to support the local community and the wider community across Nepal in the difficult weeks and months ahead.

NB - Follow us on Twitter @TbsKathmandu - it is another way we can get messages to parents if we need to.

**End of Term Change!**

Please note that the last formal day of term is June 26th (2.30pm)!

**UPCOMING EVENTS…**

**MAY**
- 15th - Walk or Cycle to School day!
- 18th Clubs restart (see Ms. Rachana Adhikari for the revised schedule)
- 23rd - DEADLINE to let Mrs. Shapat-Priest know about 2015-16 intentions
- 25th - Staff visit to Dhading to begin discussions of building programme in our 3 partner schools
- 25th-29th - Secondary Examination week & Progress in Maths and English tests

**JUNE**
- 19th - 2.30pm - Garage sale - see Ms. Manisha Bajracharya if you would like a table
- 22nd - 25th June - Creative Arts Festival
- 26th - 2.30pm - End of term
- 29th - 3rd July - TBS Activities week

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**Upcoming… PRIMARY**

**MAY**
- 26th & 27th May - New Foundation 1 open afternoon
- 29th - 2pm - Year 4 class assembly (all family assemblies will be in classrooms)

**JUNE**
- 5th - 2pm - Year 5 class assembly
- 12th - 2pm - Year 3 class assembly

**Upcoming… SECONDARY**

**MAY**
- Public Examinations continue in the Sixth Form Centre (good luck to all our students)
- 4th - 3.30-5.30pm - Year 7&8 Parent consultations
- 15th-17th - Year 12 University preparation week
- 17th-19th - Year 11 Bridging course
- 19th - 6.30pm - Graduation ceremony and dinner (venue t.b.c.)

for all dates and to double check the above, please visit the calendar on the TBS website.

Follow us on twitter @TbsKathmandu for daily updates!

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**Happenings & Events**

**End of term arrangements & TBS Activity week**

I hope parents received a letter this week (Tuesday) about the revised arrangements for the end of term. **We will end on 26th June with a Whole School Leavers’ Assembly at 2pm (which should finish by 2.30pm).** This is when formal lessons will end and reports will have been sent out that week. Ending a week earlier will help all those families who have already told me that they are leaving Nepal before 3rd July. For those TBS families who are remaining in Kathmandu **we will run a TBS activities week from Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July** (see the attached flyer). The deadline for reply slips to reserve a place is Wednesday 20th May.

**Admissions for 2015-16**

I realise that this is a difficult time to be asking families about their plans for the future. If your plans have changed or if you are uncertain about whether you will be returning to TBS in August, then please let Mrs Shapat-Priest know. The deadline for intentions to be made known is Friday, 29th May. Thank you in advance.
Parent contributions to TBS charity efforts!
As noted above we have had a very impressive response to our TBS charity drive and we hope our own parents and ex-parents will feel they can spread the news about what we are doing and how people can donate money (or perhaps their skills) to help us help the children and students learn about helping others. I know many parents are already doing an immense amount to help others through their own charities and links and it is great to see so much happening in this sphere as the TBS children speak of such work with great pride.

Last Friday, Mr. Rohit Sigdel visited our Dhading schools to take emergency supplies and to continue planning discussions which began when the Dhading Principals visited TBS the week previously. After this week's earthquake, we have been in touch with them again and whilst children and families are safe and sound there, the schools are in desperate need of help to get them up and running again. We hope to be able to get something temporary and safe in place as soon as possible and then look to begin building once specifications and details are worked out. This is the link to follow if anyone would like to follow what we are doing in more detail - TBS Communities work!

Chris’ Mountain biking success (Year 10)
I have written about the mountain biking exploits of Chris in Year 10 before and he has hit the headlines again, this time in an international mountain bike magazine. He is a very talented and modest young man and comes across very impressively in this interview. Well done Chris! Follow this link to read more

Dr. John Moore
Principal

Mr. Steve Priest
Vice Principal

Mr. Basanta Silwal
Bursar

Ms. Rosie Elphick
Head of EYKS1

Mrs. Jenny Swift
Head of Key Stage 2

Ms. Manisha Bajracharya
Primary Office Manager

Mr. Matthew Phillips
Head of Key Stage 4

Ms. Shraddha Rajkarnikar
Secondary Office Manager

Ms. Nancy Khetan
Sixth Form Office Manager

Update on TBS retrofitting
We have been in touch with various engineers, but CORD are the company who have been working with us on retrofitting all our buildings. They are currently putting together a detailed plan and drawings for strengthening all the buildings, as well as rectifying the two areas where we did have some minor damage (which we are not using until this is done of course!). We hope this work can be done over the summer in the main but, as we did at the start of this year, we will plan for all eventualities and keep parents updated with what we are doing.

Thank you to our fellow COBIS and FOBISIA schools
It is in times like these that it is particularly important to be part of a larger community of international schools. Many of our COBIS and FOBISIA schools have sent messages of support and you will see if you follow us on twitter @TbsKathmandu that schools are also raising large amounts of money for the TBS charities. Thank you to everyone for all they are doing - the people we are helping are in serious need and will require our support for a long time.

End of year examinations/ assessment weeks
A few parents have asked me about the end of year examinations and/or assessment week in primary. They will happen, but I would like to clarify why we do such things. We do them to learn more about our children so we can teach them better and the children should do them to see where they are confident and secure and where they need to focus in the future. I always say to my classes that they should be fun (or as fun as they can be) and there is no need to worry about them because, until children get to Year 10 and 11, it is all just practice. In my classes I would rather someone get 0% than 100%. All 100% tells me is that I haven’t challenged them enough! I want to know what they can’t do because then I can help them learn it. It is also worth saying that we are all learning all the time and, whilst children do need to get used to tests and challenges so they are relaxed about them, they are but one of the million things we do in school. As teachers and parents we also need to make the children see them as learning experiences and reward effort not the score! I don’t think we will ever have a test that could capture the complexity, multiplicity, beauty and joy of learning. Ironically if we can get children to view tests in this non-threatening way, they will become better learners.

Clubs on Monday 18th May
Clubs will restart with all outside providers and coaches on Monday - we currently have less children to cater for so there is a revised timetable (see Ms. Rachana Adhikari - radhikari@tbs.edu.np).

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