

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, AYANAGAR

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021

A very warm good evening to one and all present on the zoom platform.

Rev.Fr Aju Abraham, The Chairman of the school, Rev.Fr. Jaison Joseph, Office bearers, Managing committee members, Principals, D.E. Nominees, Teachers and Parents representatives.

We all are aware that COVID-19 pandemic raised a very big challenge in front of us to manage our day to day activities amidst the lockdown. Though it was very challenging to face the adverse conditions, but not difficult, with the extended support of our families, relatives and friends. Our school also faced the challenges of providing, good quality education to our beloved students, in such times. We were able to overcome this challenge with the support of the management and the joint efforts of the staff and parents.

Adapting to the challenges and keeping in mind the educational needs of the students, St. Paul's School adhered to its mission and vision by maintaining a balance between academics and co-curricular activities in the pandemic times. Classes were conducted in online mode via zoom, google and other platforms on regular basis, to bridge the gap between the teachers and the students.

“Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today.”

With this thought, I indeed feel honoured and privileged, to present before you the Annual Report for the year 2020-21.

St. Paul's School, Aya Nagar was founded under the aegis of The Orthodox Syrian Church Society on **August 28th, 2003** as a golden jubilee project with an aim to impart holistic education to the students that would empower them with a global outlook and instil age old values in their minds and hearts. Now it boasts of a strength of **1428** students with **48** dedicated and committed teaching staff, **3** office staff and **22** supporting staff. The CBSE inspection which took place on 19th October 2020 was a stepping stone towards success for the St. Paul's School fraternity, as we got the **affiliation order** from **CBSE** for starting the senior secondary level classes. It gives us immense pleasure to inform you that our school is now completely equipped with all the necessary infrastructural facilities such as well-equipped and sufficient class rooms, reception, office, integrated library, medical room, activity rooms and staff rooms. The management and faculty of St. Paul's School, Aya Nagar constantly strive hard, to augment the knowledge acquisition and its effective application in day to day lives of its students.

The safety of children and staff is our priority. For this purpose the entire school campus is installed with **CCTV's** and school buses are under the control of the **GPRS** system. We have upgraded the **fire- fighting** equipment's as well as the staff has been trained in disaster management in case of emergency. **Generators** have been installed for power back up to avoid disruption in daily educational activities in school. We have

provided sufficient water coolers with **RO facility** to ensure the health and hygiene of students and staff.

Rainwater harvesting systems have been made functional and a vast playground has been constructed for recreation of our children. The Management has appointed adequate number of security staff for the safety of the school, staff and students. We also made sure that the employees submitted the **Police Clearance Certificate**.

The school has well-trained, sincere and dedicated faculty for monitoring the curriculum, so that the syllabus can be designed and disseminated to meet the desired learning outcomes. Planning, implementation, active learning, motivation, assessment, evaluation and prompt feedback are the key areas to be focused on in the teaching learning process. Conducting of online classes during pandemic, was a new experience as well as a big challenge for the teachers. During the lockdown the teachers strived hard to keep themselves updated with present educational reforms by keeping a strict watch on the government reforms and policies made from time to time. Online workshops and training sessions were conducted to update the teachers regarding various online learning platforms such as **Diksha, google classroom, whats app, zoom online classes and web ex cisco**. The teachers were kept updated on regular basis regarding various circulars issued by **CBSE, NCERT and MHRD**. **Pragyata Guidelines for Digital Education, Alternative Academic Calendar** issued by **NCERT and MHRD** were also followed for conducting successful online classes. They were also trained in use of various modes of online teaching and testing aids such as ppt presentations, you tube content, google forms, worksheets, handouts and posting of online study material, audio- visual aids, making own educational videos etc. Conducting **PTM's** via zoom platform was challenging but innovative for the teacher's as well as the parents. The teachers also kept in touch with parents through calling by phone for smooth conduction of online classes and keeping track of the students learning and attendance. Life became very tough for children during the lockdown as they were completely isolated from their near and dear ones. The appointed school counsellor took online counselling sessions and guided the children in resolving the issues related to academics during the pandemic. These sessions also helped them to deal with the emotional, psychological and social challenges faced during lockdown. **Online staff meetings** were also conducted by the principal to keep track of the developments in online classes and to help teachers resolve their queries regarding the academics. This year the teacher's day was also conducted in online mode. The Chairman of the school, Rev. Fr. Aju Abraham presided over the meeting. He appreciated the teacher's for their dedication and hard work for smooth conduction of online classes during the lockdown.

During this session, the teachers have attended various online refresher courses, webinars and other creative workshops as a part of their professional development. As per the orders of the Directorate of Education, the teachers enrolled for the online training programme '**Nishtha**' on the Diksha platform. The teachers successfully completed various modules necessary for professional development, which were each supplemented with a course completion certificate. The Principal of the school and the science teachers also attended an **anti-microbial awareness campaign** organised by **Delhi Society for Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs**. The principal also received a token of appreciation from the organizers and it was distributed to the teacher representatives.

The Principal also attended the webinars organised by the **Times NIE** and **Scholastic Foundations**. The topics of the webinars being “**New norms for children of post COVID-19 world- How to adopt!**” and “**Education in changing times**”. The webinars were innovative and informative as the panellists were renowned and eminent personalities from various walks of life.

The school follows the C.B.S.E curriculum and syllabus in which periodic tests and term end examinations are conducted and progress reports are issued as per the guidelines of the CBSE. The academic excellence awards were given at the end of each academic year based on the performance of the student in the previous academic year. Under the EWS scheme 25% students are granted admission at the entry level with the free ship of books, uniform and fees. We also provide financial assistance to the deserving students. This year the tests and examinations were conducted in online mode through google form, google classroom and zoom platform for all the classes.

Early years of schooling are the most significant years for the child’s growth and development. It is the time when the child wants to explore, feel free, express and learn to build new self- concepts. The participation in preschool programmes helps the child to strengthen his all -round capacities and life long learning. At this stage it is our prime duty to organise activities which not only unfolds the various domains of development but also provide strong foundations to inquiry and self-regulation. The school ensures the equal involvement of parents and teachers in providing emotionally supportive, child-oriented and stimulating learning environment which is deep rooted in our culture. In this session various competitions and special assemblies such as Show and tell, Hindi recitation, English story-telling, Fancy dress competition, grandparent’s day and graduation ceremony were conducted through online mode with the collaborative efforts of parents and teachers.

Special assemblies are an integral component of the school curriculum as they help to develop good moral values and retain our traditional values. The school believes in giving the opportunity to all classes for conducting special assemblies to celebrate national festivals, religious festivals and other prominent festivals to cultivate the spirit of nationalism, patriotism and secularism among students. As per the circular issued by DOE/CBSE, a number of programmes like Environment day, Pi Day, National Science Day, Independence Day, Hindi Diwas, Gandhi Jayanti, Children’s Day, National Unity Day, Republic Day, Mother’s Day, Doctor’s day, Constitution Day etc. were celebrated through zoom platform so that the students can have the same experience as they have in school. Our students have left no stone unturned in putting their efforts in making the virtual world colourful with their beautiful and mesmerizing videos. Though pandemic situation distanced us from each other and did not allow us to celebrate the various festivals in physical mode, but still we celebrated the various religious festivals like Patron’s Day, Onam, Raksha Bandhan, Janmashtami, Dussehra, Diwali, Guru Nanak Jayanti and Christmas through online platform to keep up with the spirit and message of unity and oneness. Competitions such as Hindi and English Recitation, English and Hindi story-telling, Sanskrit Shlok, English elocution, Extempore and debate were conducted to keep the competitive spirit alive. As a part of their grooming process, the students took active participation in **Model United Nations (MUN)** where they championed various political and social causes. **MUN** was conducted in online mode which

was a new experience for all the delegates to share the views of their countries on the global threat due to COVID-19 pandemic and the actions taken by them in the present situation.

Our school conducts **SOF Olympiads** every year to promote scientific attitude and temperament among students. **SOF** provides a unique competitive platform where the students can prove their talent in various subjects. This year also **Science Olympiad Foundation** conducted online Olympiad exams to nurture the talent of students in pandemic times. Our students participated in these exams and won laurels for school by securing positions in almost all exams. **Byju's Super league** online exam (in collaboration with NIE) was conducted on 22nd August 2020 from class IV onwards. **Akash Institute** conducted a talent hunt online test ANTHE for the senior classes. The toppers of the class got the facility to register for the course free of cost. An International online Mathematics competition, **BRICS MATH.COM** + for school students was organised by Dino Lab in which the students participated enthusiastically in the trial round as well as the main round. The students of classes VI to VIII also participated in the **Online Antimicrobials Awareness Campaign for School Children 'IDEATHON'** organised by the **Delhi Society for Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs**. Online pre-quiz and post quiz were also organised for creating awareness in children by the teacher representatives. Our students also participated in various activities conducted under '**Nagrik Kartavya Paalan Abhiyan**' organised by teachers in accordance with the circular issued by **DOE**. The activities conducted were essay writing, reading of preamble and fundamental duties, slogan writing and poster making. Our Students also participated in online painting and letter writing competition on COVID-19 being conducted by **Delhi Postal Circle** in the month of December. Our students also participated in the online drawing competition held by the **Information and technology department** of **DOE** to spread awareness about the precautions to be taken against the corona virus. The school also organised a **Marathon / Cross country race** on 18th December 2020 as a part of **Fit India Week** activity of **DOE**. The race was flagged off by Rev. Fr. Jaison Joseph from the school premises for the students of Classes VI to VIII to promote healthy life, awareness regarding fitness and sports to encourage them to make running a part of their daily life style. The PT teachers and students participated in the Marathon whole heartedly extending their full co-operation which made the marathon a great success.

Keeping ourselves up with the pace of the modern world, complete digitalisation of the school was undertaken which transformed the entire functioning of the school bringing in more transparency and enhanced communication with parents. The school portal was updated with enhanced features so that the parents can keep a real time track of the status of their wards progress in terms of personal information, daily attendance, fee status, periodic results, progress report, uploading of online assignments, SMS facility, school circulars etc. through portal app on phone and through online web portal. The school considers the feedback and suggestion of the parents equally important for the smooth functioning of the school as it is not only beneficial for the students but also for the management. Orientation Programme was also held with the parents in online mode for the purpose of orienting them about the mission and vision of school.

To upgrade our students in the ever changing day to day scenario and to instil in them knowledge and awareness, the school has joined the "**Newspaper in Education**" initiative commonly known as the **NIE programme of the Times of India** newspaper and **Hindustan Times Newspaper in Education Programme**

(HT PACE). The students were introduced to **web editions** of the **e- newspapers** every day through what's app in lockdown as an added advantage. To enhance the habit of reading within our students during the lockdown period various webinars, storytelling sessions etc. were organised in collaboration with **Scholastic Foundations, Times- NIE and Hindustan Times-PACE**. Every year the management spends a good amount to upgrade the library with more infrastructure and a collection of good books for inculcating reading habits in students'. As a whole we have a collection of **17,000 books** and **13 periodicals and 3 dailies**. A **virtual book fair** was also organised by the **Scholastic Foundations** on 28th October 2020 from Nursery class onwards. An awareness generating video on new series of books published by Scholastic Foundation was also shared.

Yoga and meditation are an integral part of the holistic grooming of students at our school. During the pandemic the morning routine of yogic exercises blended with the online classes' worked wonders. Online physical exercise classes and yoga classes acted as a stress booster for the children who were glued to the screens of their laptops and mobile phones during the pandemic.

For promoting the artistic and literary qualities in our students we bring out the school magazine **"Impressions"** every year which helps in envisioning and reflecting the creative talents of our students.

We paid our prayerful tribute and **deepest condolences** to Mr. Mahender, our school bus driver who passed away from this earthly sojourn.

We also conducted an online meeting to bid **farewell** to Rev Fr. Pathrose Joy, the resident director, and Mrs. Biji Varghese, one of our staff members. We shared our feelings and wished them with good wishes for their future endeavours. **Rev. Fr Jaison Joseph**, the Assistant vicar of St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, **joined the St. Paul's School Family** and took charge as the Resident Director of the Institutions of Aya Nagar from October 2021 onwards.

Let the intercession of our Patron Saint St. Paul, be our fortress and refuge. We express our gratitude and respectful regards to His Grace Dr. Youhanon Mar Demetrios the Metropolitan of Delhi Diocese. We laud the commendable initiative and leadership of Rev. Fr. Aju Abraham, the Chairman of the School. We express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Susan Jacob, Principal of St. Paul's School, Hauz Khas for her valuable guidance and support. We also render our thanks for the co-operation and support shown to us by the Office Bearers and the members of the Managing Committee of the Delhi Orthodox Syrian Church Society. We also acknowledge the support and assistance of Rev. Fr. Jaison Joseph, the Resident Director of the Institutions of Aya Nagar and the parishioners of St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, Hauz Khas.

Above all, let us praise and thank the Almighty Lord for His abundant blessings showered on us during the year of report and pray for His further blessings so that we may continue to forge ahead on the path of glory and excellence.

Thank You.

VALSAMMA PHILIP

PRINCIPAL