



*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year ' Give me a light so that I may tread safely into the unknown'  
And He replied. . .*

*"Go out into the unknown and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way"*

Anon

Dear Parents,

Let us venture down the unknown paths that the New Year will take us by putting our hands in the hand of God, trusting that he will lead us safely. Abu at this time of the year is adorned with its winter finery. Clear blue skies, warm sunshine and plenty of peace and quiet. In school there's quite a bit of repair and renovation work going on. The walls of the big dormitory are in the process of being replastered from the inside. Over the years the plaster had become brittle and was showing the tendency of peeling and falling off. The replastering will solve this problem and also make the dorm look neater and brighter than it was previously.

#### **WEDDING UPDATE:**

Sir Egbert and Ms Charlotte were happily married to each other on the 20th of December last year. Apart from family and staff members the wedding was attended by some expupils, some parents and some teachers and brothers who had worked in St Mary's in the past. The choir was conducted by Br David and the wedding mass was said by our parish priest Fr Jackie. In the new academic year Mr and Mrs Pais will be moving in to take residence in a newly constructed extension off the big dorm. This proximity to the big dorm will make the supervision of the senior boys more convenient for Sir Egbert.

#### **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH MUMBAI PARENTS:**

The schedule for Mumbai/Pune/Nagpur/Gulf parents who wish to meet me in February is given below.

Wed 20th Feb : **Class 4 & Class 5** - ( 11:00 AM to 5 : 00 PM )

Thu 21st Feb: **Class 6** - ( 9:00 AM to 1 : 00 PM ) **Class 7**- ( 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM )

Fri 22nd Feb: **Class 8** - (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM )

Sat 23rd Feb: **Class 9** - ( 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Sun 24th Feb : **Class 10** - (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Parents of new admissions into the boarding please note that the purpose of the above meeting is to hand in pocket money, collect the calendar of the year's events and to find out specific information regarding travel arrangements etc.

**TRAVEL:**The travel arrangements for the parties for the year are as follows:

**BOMBAY PARTY :** The batch will be leaving Bombay on the 5th of March by the **(9707) Aravali Express** which leaves from Bandra Terminus. The current scheduled departure time for the train is **9:00PM**. You are requested to reconfirm this departure time from Railway enquiries. You are required to be at Bandra Terminus at least one hour before the scheduled departure time.

The boys will have to assemble on the platform from which the train is leaving. They will be accompanied up to Abu by the following teachers:Mr Egbert, Br David, Br Jerome, Mr Ivo, Mr Jitendra, Mr Vineet, Mr Robin and Mr Dragwidge.

New admissions travelling for the first time may not know that Bandra Terminus is a station quite difficult to reach. So you will need to leave your homes well in time.

**TRUNKS:** Trunks are to be delivered to the Salvation School undercroft on the 1st or 2nd of March. These will leave for Abu by truck on the 2nd night. **Parents living in Vasai are also to deposit their trunks in Dadar.** If there is any change in this position I will inform you when we meet in February. **DELHI PARTY:** The Delhi party will leave from Old Delhi Station by **9106 Delhi Mail** on the 5th of March. The scheduled departure time for the train is at around **11:00 PM**. Kindly reconfirm this time from Railway enquiry and be at the station at least one hour before the departure time. The boys will have to assemble on the platform from which the train is leaving. They will be accompanied up to Abu by Mr Tiwari.

#### **KEEGAN**

Keegan Pereira passed away on the 29th of December after a long struggle with leukaemia. His mom, dad and younger brother were with him at the end. Those who of us who knew him in school will remember his cheerful disposition and zest for life. His classmates, many of who were present at the funeral, will be sitting for their ICSE exams in March this year. Why he among them all was chosen to walk the narrow path of pain and suffering is a question whose answer lies in the silent wisdom of God. Let us remember the bereaved family in our prayers and ask that God will lead them, in his own time, towards acceptance of His will - that He will answer their questions and bring them peace.

#### **COUNSELLOR**

While many schools in Mumbai have trained counsellors as part of their staff it has not been easy for us at St Mary's to find a suitably qualified person fill the post. The primary reason was reluctance on the part of candidates to become full time employees because of the relative remoteness of the place. So instead of getting a full time counsellor it was decided that we should try and get a person who could come up from Bombay about two to three times during the course of the academic year to take sessions with those who needed help. In this we have been successful thanks to Mr Brian Dias. He has helped me to get in touch with a counsellor named Mrs Lorna Dsouza who has agreed to make the first trip up to school in early April.

**MOVIES:** If you have any movies suitable for children on CD or VIDEO please do send some up to school with your sons. They will be returned at the end of the year - or earlier if necessary.

That more or less sums up the latest from school for the New Year.

Best wishes to you and your families once again.

Br Anish.