

Respected Family members, alumni, parents, children, teachers, staff, and well-wishers,

Every year it is my privilege to congratulate the graduating class, this year being the ninth class to graduate from the school. What strikes us in the school at this time of the year, is how much has happened over the past years, how each one of these graduates has grown and developed in his or her own way, and how all has been encouraged throughout by the teachers.

We all remember the wonderful activities that you created and participated in... the science club in the LP, creating unique machines, making mountains with snow, tunnels and roads in the sand, mastering the fundamentals of mathematics with the Mortensen rods, making a desert and discussing a desert habitat, and making paper rockets and participating in food fests. As you grew older, we remember your enthusiastic participation in skits, collaborative work on the quarry project, a project on chikungunya and the environmental projects of recent years.

The positive far-reaching effect this type of education can have is demonstrated in the confidence and successes of our alumni as they have entered universities and professional careers. A question commonly asked of our school is: how are the children in this school prepared to face the world? Alumni have answered this question by saying that it is only because of this school that they are able to face the world as they do. Employers and universities have noted the special qualities demonstrated by our alumni, such as self-confidence, self-assurance, and the ability to work well and lead a team.

As the Founder, Sri Adwayananda, has said, "f you want to change the world, you have to start with education." These qualities which the children have grown to in the school build day by day and come to naturally, if they are allowed to develop. Then, when the opportunity arises, these qualities are evident.

The enthusiasm and dedication of the teachers to foster the children's interest and growth over the years must be acknowledged and appreciated. Also we must note the continuing role of the parents in supporting the school and providing a positive home environment for the children, which only enhances their development. The efforts of the non-teaching staff in ensuring the smooth operation of the school are also appreciated. It takes all of us, working together, to support a child's development so that he or she has the opportunity to live a happy and productive life.

We know that each of these graduates will make an impact on the society wherever they go, each in his or her unique way.

We would like to present each one of you with a *Senior Yearbook*. May I request each one of you to come forward when I call your name: