

## DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL

BRS NAGAR, LUDHIANA

Dear Students

From 22<sup>nd</sup> March when the nation responded positively to the Prime Minister's call for 'Janta Curfew' to 22<sup>nd</sup> April today, it has been one month of staying under lock down. A lot has happened in the world since the first appearance of Novel Corona Virus cases in Wuhan, China and then its spread to almost all parts of the world and WHO declaring it a global pandemic. We have understood the word 'unprecedented' in its real sense now as none of us has seen a situation of this gigantic proportion ever.

But, perhaps we had forgotten that "what goes around, comes around." The way the mankind had treated mother Earth and its abundant natural resources in the last six to seven decades has led to the grim situation we all are in today. Mahatma Gandhi very rightly said, "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." Man started exploiting nature and natural resources at such a pace to satisfy his ever increasing, justified or unjustified needs, all development giving a total miss to sustainability, totally ignoring the vulnerability of nature, that it has led to this catastrophic situation which we all resent and wish and pray to come out of it at the earliest.

Today is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'World Earth Day' which is celebrated annually around the world on April 22 in order to create awareness and garner support for the protection of environment. It was first celebrated in 1970 and now includes events coordinated globally in around 193 countries. But today while celebrating 'Earth Day' sitting at home under this lock down, we need to contemplate the role that homo-sapiens have played in the last 50 years since the inception of World Earth Day and what we need to do today, tomorrow and in all the times to come if we want to live, if we want our race to survive.

Simply creating awareness about environmental degradation, sloganeering in support of environment protection, conducting events/competitions to mark this day, signing petitions, speaking for and against some movements is not going to help us any further. Today, it is time for ACTION. With all our understanding of the causes and threats to the environment and knowing very well about the ways to protect it, we all need to take a personal stand, a

Hippocratic Oath, in line with the Oath written by Hippocrates which is still held sacred by physicians: to treat the ill to the best of one's ability, to preserve a patient's privacy, to teach the secrets of medicine to the next generation, and so on. Let us create our own Hippocratic Oath: to treat nature with respect and dignity, to use judiciously and not abuse the natural resources, and to pass on the lessons we have learnt through COVID-19 a hard way to the generations to come.

The past and the present generations living on this planet owe a sincere apology to not just mother nature but to the future of the world, the children of today, for all the mess created globally. And today this World Earth Day is the best opportunity with us to accept our follies, offer our apologies and make sincere promises for a better future. Dear children, let us together take the mammoth task of restoring nature to its lost glory and our action starts now.. toady.. this Earth Day!

Let us pray that nature gives us a second chance to lead a life of responsibility with 'Development with Sustainability' as the core value.

And I would like to share with you, dear children, that the theme I chose for our Activity Calendar and Students' Diary (Almanac) for the session 2020-2021 incidentally is 'Sustainable Development Goals – 2030', and how appropriate it is in today's scenario. I wish and pray that normalcy returns quickly and these important documents related to your daily school routine are in your hands and you are with us – the school, the teachers and your loving Principal.

Till then, stay home, stay safe but stay gainfully engaged in activities which make you learn new skills relevant in today's world, build strong loving bond with your parents and siblings, listen to stories of human love, valour, patience and sacrifice from your grand parents, watch good movies/series on TV/Netflix/Prime Video etc. and be grateful for all the good things in our lives.

With all my love and best wishes

Yours educationally

Jaswinder K Sidhu

Dated: 22/04/2020

