

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

The theme for next week is: **Spirit of Giving**. I have included a message from Bill and Melinda Gates, along with Warren Buffett, the founders of the Giving Pledge at the end of the newsletter.

Prize Day



The Swaminarayan family comes together during these days of celebrating success. There are many who contribute to them, add their verve, charm and colour to the banner that we hold aloft. My thanks go to several notable contributions, they deserve my praise, namely, Pujya Paramtattva Swami for his notable speech and blessings; Manjula Patel, who brought everything together to form a whole, Hemal Gor, Misha Manani and Payal Halai helped by Vimal and Yogesh Patel for being the effortless comperes; the Head Girl, Ria Popat, the Head Boy, Jai Patel, for jointly giving an inspiring speech; Mr Benenson, Mr. Oza, Mrs. Kakkad and Mrs. Nafade for preparing the performances; the caretakers,

Laljibhai and Dineshbhai for their physical effort; the admin staff, the Mandir kitchen, our own kitchen staff, AV and photograph team for being so accommodating; Mr Raja, Mr Hopkins, Paresh Patel and all the teaching and non-teaching staff from both the Preparatory and Senior Schools, the Sixth Form students for being fine role models and support; the Santos, Trustees and Governors for being ever supportive; the parents for gracing this occasion; and lastly and most importantly of all, the students, our centre, our focus and for being the finest children I have had the privilege of guiding. Jai Patel was clearly the worthy recipient of the Mr & Mrs Narayan Award. We pray and wish him well in his interview at Oxford for PPE.

Part IV of Democracy: The Rule of Law

Democracy is a system of rule by laws, not by individuals.

In a democracy, the rule of law protects the rights of citizens, maintains order, and limits the power of government.

All citizens are equal under the law. No one may be discriminated against on the basis of their race, religion, ethnic group, or gender.

No one may be arrested, imprisoned, or exiled arbitrarily.

If you are detained, you have the right to know the charges against you, and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to the law.

Anyone charged with a crime has the right to a fair, speedy, and public trial by an impartial court.

No one may be taxed or prosecuted except by a law established in advance.

No one is above the law, not even a king or an elected president.

The law is fairly, impartially, and consistently enforced, by courts that are independent of the other branches of government.

Torture and cruel and inhumane treatment are absolutely forbidden.

The rule of law places limits on the power of government. No government official may violate these limits.

No ruler, minister, or political party can tell a judge how to decide a case.

Office holders cannot use their power to enrich themselves. Independent courts and commissions punish corruption, no matter who is guilty.

Try this Sound Experiment at home - Mr Cotton writes...

It should not take long and be quick, easy and safe and fun and interesting to do...

You will need two empty milk bottles (so don't put them in for recycling till later!).

Fill one about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with water, the other fill about $\frac{1}{4}$ full.

Tap the bottles with a pen or pencil or similar. Which one makes a higher pitch sound?

Now blow across the top of each bottle. Which makes the higher pitch sound now?

Can you explain these observations?

As "an initial prompt" you should remember that for sound the Pitch our ears hear corresponds to the frequency of the sound waves. This is affected by the elasticity of the material that is vibrating as well as the size. Bigger frequency implies smaller wavelength and vice versa. This is usually the case for any situation with waves, not just sound. Why? Such considerations are very important in the design of musical instruments, be they small or large; recorders, drums including the Tabla, guitars, pianos and trumpets, to name just a few.

Spirit of Giving

A message from Bill and Melinda Gates, Founders of the Giving Pledge along with Warren Buffett.



Parents all over the world do their best to give their children great opportunities. They work to give their children every chance to pursue their own dreams.

However for too many parents, their dreams of giving their families better lives are dashed. In the United States, their children don't get the education they need to succeed in life. In the developing world, their children succumb to diseases that have long since been eradicated in rich countries. Years ago, when we began to learn about global health, we were especially shocked to read that one highly preventable disease — rotavirus — was killing half a million children every year. Airplane crashes are

always front-page news, yet here was a killer of half a million children every year, and most people couldn't put a name to it, much less put a stop to it.

We have committed the vast majority of our assets to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help stop preventable deaths such as these, and to tear down other barriers to health and education that prevent people from making the very most of their lives. Our animating principle is that all lives have equal value. Put another way, it means that we believe every child deserves the chance to grow up, to dream and do big things. We have been blessed with good fortune beyond our wildest expectations, and we are profoundly grateful. But just as these gifts are great, so we feel a great responsibility to use them well. That is why we are so pleased to join in making an explicit commitment to the Giving Pledge. The idea of the pledge came out of discussions we had with other givers about what they were doing, about what had worked in philanthropy and what had not worked. Everyone shared how giving had made their lives richer. Everyone who attended was inspired by listening to the others' passion and encouraged to do even more.

For the two of us, because we see amazing progress every day, but also, how much more work remains, we're honoured to be a part of this pledge effort. For example, to us, vaccines are miracles, tiny vessels of hope and promise. And the world has made progress in vaccinating millions of children. But there are still millions more who die of preventable diseases. So we want to make sure lifesaving vaccines reach everyone who needs them, and that the world develops new vaccines.

We've seen similar progress in America's education system. We have visited schools that are breaking down old barriers and preparing every child for college and life. These are great schools—but there are not nearly enough of them. Now the task is to make sure that every student gets the same opportunity to succeed in college and in life.

Both of us were fortunate to grow up with parents who taught us some tremendously important values. Work hard. Show respect. Have a sense of humour. And if life happens to bless you with talent or treasure, you have a responsibility to use those gifts as well and as wisely as you possibly can. Now we hope to pass this example on to our own children.

We feel very lucky to have the chance to work together in giving back the resources we are stewards of. By joining the Giving Pledge effort, we're certain our giving will be more effective because of the time we will spend with this group. We look forward to sharing what a wonderful experience this has been for us and learning from the experience of others.

While we may not all be as wealthy as Bill and Melinda Gates, we can still give. Over the many years the school has been here, we have raised and donated tens of thousands of pounds to charities. Yet giving does not always have to be by donating money, we can give by giving up our time in the service of people, donating food, clothing... we can give by acts, gestures of kindness. We can give by serving in hospices, nursing homes, libraries and charity shops like so many of our Duke of Edinburgh pupils. Our scriptures say, "Give and the wealth of the whole world will come to you," so let us all learn to give to make the world a better place, and remember, the best form of giving is when we give without expecting anything back in return.

Yours sincerely,

Nilesh Manani