

Vinay Pande
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Dear Parents and Old Sanawarians,

As I sit down to write to you all announcing my homecoming after a gap of about 19 years, I cannot stop myself from sharing the following quotes with you all.

“All travel is circular. I had been jerked through Asia, making a parabola on one of the planet’s hemispheres. After all, the grand tour is just the inspired man’s way of heading home.”

Paul Theroux

“Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving.”

Terry Pratchett

I am back to from where I began. In these 19 years I experienced a plethora of changes, be it in the realms of teaching and learning or in the aspiration and expectations of our stakeholders or for that matter in the ever changing field of technology. Life has become quite fast paced, far more complicated and definitely very stressful. While the opportunities and facilities have improved by leaps and bounds, the associated problems have become far more menacing.

Addressing the School community recently during my first assembly, I referred to Rudyard Kipling’s famous line about Sanawar – “Send him to Sanawar and make a man of him”. I posed a simple question to the audience. Who is a ‘man’ in its true sense? Is he the one who is capable of beating the living daylights out of you and consequently ‘toughen you up’ to face the perils of life later. Or is he the one who will always stand up for what is right and someone who always strives to get the best out of his own self as well as help, guide and nurture others to achieve the same.

I have come to Sanawar with a dream and that is to place Sanawar among the top boarding Schools in the country. There is a simple formula (just to remind you all that I am a Chemistry teacher) to achieve this goal. In my view the success of a school is directly proportional to the happiness quotient of its stakeholders. I would prefer The

Lawrence School, Sanawar to be called the home of happy students and staff rather than being identified only with the success story of a few individuals.

Top academic results are always welcome. Success and achievements in other spheres of life are very important to boost one's morale. All of these can be achieved if we allow everyone to work in an environment where unnecessary pressures and stresses do not impede our progress.

I am grateful to all of you – parents, old Sanawarians and other well wishers for reposing your trust on me to take The Lawrence School, Sanawar forward. I am sure I will continue to get your support and cooperation in achieving this goal.

I will be communicating with you all regularly; seeking your views on how can we make this happen. I will be happy to establish closer contacts with parents and old Sanawarians by embarking on a 'Sanawar Calling' campaign where I intend to meet parents and old Sanawarians at certain places, largely within the country and a few abroad.

Before I close, an earnest request to all parents and old Sanawarians. While your concerns, suggestions, criticism, help and support will always be welcomed, infringement of School rules and regulations may kindly be avoided.

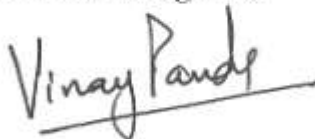
On my homecoming I have been 'baptised with fire' (most of you must have heard or read about the forest fire scare near Sanawar a few days back). Let me assure you everyone is safe on the hilltop.

I also take this opportunity to place on record my thanks and gratitude to the teaching, administrative and support staff in the School who continued to work admirably in the absence of the Headmaster. A special mention is due to Ms Shonu Mukherji for steering the ship so efficiently in the last one and a half years.

I am looking forward to seeing Sanawar regaining its past fame and glory.

Never Give In

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vinay Pande". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

[VINAY PANDE]

May 6, 2016