From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Aditi!

I must begin with an apology. I have not been writing to you as often as I should. I will try to set that right with this letter and follow up with more regular communications. This letter is fairly detailed. I hope that this very detail will convey a sense of the vibrancy, energy and engagement that this school is about. Please take the time to write back to me. Interacting with parents is something that I find both enjoyable and hugely useful. You are, each one of you, an integral part of the Aditi (dare I say it?) family!

The results of the ICSE/ISC examinations were announced on May 18. They were as outstanding as ever. Highlights are provided below:

- **Subjects in ICSE where the class average was 85% or above**: English (85%), Kannada (92%), Environmental Education (90%), Mathematics (86%), Economic Applications (86%), Computer Applications (97%), Physical Education (95%), Hindustani Music (96%)

- **Subjects in ISC where the class average was 80% or above**: English (89%), Environmental Education (81%), History (92%), Political Science (80%), Sociology (91%), Psychology (82%), Mathematics (85%), Physics (84%), Chemistry (83%), Home Science (81%), Computer Studies (91%), Art (89%), Physical Education (96%)

- The class average was 84% in both ICSE and ISC.

- **Outstanding Individual Performances**:
  - **ICSE**:
    - Kopal Seth (94%, including 100% in Computer Applications)
    - Gaurav Bhandari (92%)
    - Prarthana Iyer (92%)
    - Gaurav Reddy (91%)
    - Mohit Gayatri (91%)
    - Rohan Adithya Jayanthi (90%)
    - Nicole Rocque (90%)
  - **ISC**:
    - Advik Iyer Guha (95%)
    - Shruti G.Iyer (94% including 100% in History)
    - Gauri Billore (91%)
    - Tushar Das (90%)
    - Rhea Mathews (90%)
    - Rahul B.Sharma (90%)
    - Rahul D.Wadhwa (90%)

For both the ICSE and ISC, all subjects have been taken into consideration.

The results of the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) were declared on August 13, 2012. I am delighted to report that they too were outstanding! Here are a few highlights:
In the Std.12 *Advanced International Certificate of Education* (AICE Diploma) 17 students received *Distinction*, the highest possible, for the diploma. This represents 53% of the students who were eligible for the diploma.

Std. 10 IGCSE, 12 students out of 15 students who were eligible, received the International Certificate of Education (ICE) with *Distinction* (80%).

**IGCSE Subjects where 30% or more of the class received A*/A:** Biology (50%), Chemistry (50%), Computers (33%), Economics (69%), English Language (96%), Food and Nutrition (100%), French (70%), German (100%), Geography (33%), Global Perspectives (89%), English Literature (80%), Mathematics (63%), Physics (78%), Art and Design (30%)

**AS Subjects where 30% or more of the class received A (A* is not awarded in AS):** Biology (60%), Business Studies (67%), Chemistry (32%), Economics (52%), Environmental Management (67%), Geography (50%), History (33%), Literature (92%), Mathematics (48%), Physics (35%), Sociology (83%), Art and Design (33%), English Language (64%)

**A-Level Subjects where 30% or more of the class received A*/A:** Biology (83%), Business Studies (40%), Chemistry (45%), Economics (40%), History (60%), Literature (40%), Mathematics (54%), Physics (47%), Sociology (75%).

**Outstanding Individual Performances:**
- Straight A*s in IGCSE: Suviti Chari
- Straight A*/A in IGCSE: Dhuva Gowda Storz
- Straight As in AS-Level: Sooraj Mahesh, Sohum Bagaria, Avisha Gopalakrishna, Rrahul Topiwala, Prithvi S, Avirukt Mittal, Siddarth Govindan, Amar Kashyap.
- Straight A*/As in three or more A-Levels: Riana Minocher, Vidur Garga, Digant Tyagi, Uma Prakash Arora, Nikil Konduru Raju, Shalini Menon, Helene Leuzinger.

Needless to say these results have translated into our students gaining admission into some of the best institutions in India and abroad. An indicative (non-exhaustive) list is provided below. Please note that the list represents offers of admission, particularly overseas, where each student could have more than one offer. In India students tend to get one offer which they accept.

**INDIA**
- Christ University
- Christian Medical College, Vellore
- FLAME, Pune
- Jain University
- Manipal University
- Mount Carmel College
- MS Ramaiah College of Engineering
- National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata
- RV College of Engineering
- Srishti College of Art, Design and Technology
- St.John’s Medical College
- St.Joseph’s College of Arts and Science
- St.Stephen’s College
- Symbiosis University
OVERSEAS
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
College of Wooster
Columbia University
Duke University
Hong Kong University of Science & Technology
Imperial College of Engineering
King’s College, London
LaSalle College of the Arts
London School of Economics
Loyola Marymount University
Maastricht University
New York University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pepperdine University
Pomona College
Rhode Island School of Design
Sarah Lawrence College
School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS)
UC, Berkeley
UCLA
University College, London
University of British Columbia
University of Cardiff
University of Melbourne
University of San Diego
University of the Arts, London
University of Toronto
University of Warwick
University of Waterloo

Mahindra Awards:
The K.C.Mahindra Trust instituted the Mahindra Search for Talent Awards in schools across the country. These are awarded annually to students of Stds.8-11 for outstanding academic performance. In 1992, Aditi was one of the schools to be chosen for this prestigious award. My tracking of Mahindra Scholars from Aditi over the years reveals that they have vindicated the faith reposed in them by the award. Apart from gaining admission into the finest institutions, they have gone on to make significant contributions in a range of career contexts. The Mahindra Awards are not currently available to students of Stds.9 and 10 (IGCSE). In this connection, I
invite you to contribute to a corpus that will enable us to make comparable awards in these two classes. The Mahindra Scholars for the academic year 2011-2012 are as follows:

Std.8 : Divyanshu Pachisia
Std.9 : Venkat Murali Subramaniam
Std.10: Kopal Seth (Honour Scholarship for winning the award a second time)
Std.11: Yashna Sureka and Ishita S. Karra (ISC Social Sciences and Humanities)
Std.11: Vignesh S. Prasad (ISC Sciences)
Std.11: S.Prithvi (AICE)

**Mangharam Award:**
The Mangharam Awards were instituted by Siddarth Mangharam (ICSE 1990) to recognize a student who has seriously and assiduously pursued an interest beyond academics. This year, the award was shared by two students of Std.12 ISC: Vaishali Moova and Iqbal Bhalla.

**Model United Nations:**
For over seven years now, Aditi students have been participating in Model United Nations events in India and abroad. Model UN was first introduced in Aditi by Rudra Chaudhuri (ISC 1999), an alumnus who worked in the school for two years. Rudy went on to complete his Ph.D at Kings College and is now an Assistant Professor at the same college. Rudy has published widely on international relations and recently won an award for outstanding teaching at King’s¹. Model UN is an extremely valuable learning experience:

Model United Nations is an authentic simulation of the U.N. General Assembly and other multilateral bodies. It promotes student and teacher interest in international relations and related subjects, increases the capacity for students to engage in problem solving, teaches aspects of conflict resolution, research skills, and communication skills, and creates the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Students have benefited from and enjoyed this interactive learning experience. It not only involves young people in the study and discussion of global issues, but also encourages the development of skills useful throughout their lives, such as research, writing, public speaking, problem solving, consensus building, conflict resolution, compromise and cooperation. ([http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/faq.html](http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/faq.html))

This year, we have already participated in three Model UN events. Some highlights are provided below:

**Doon School, August 2012:**
Rishab Menghrajani, Rahul Bhatia and Vaishali Moova: Best Delegates

**WEMUN Expo, China July 2012:**
Anish Malladi: Best Delegate
Diya Deviah and Sanjukta Mohan: Outstanding Delegates
Romanshi Gupta and Chetan Khanna: Best Position Paper
Neha Bhalachandra, Ananya Poddar and Dhruvtara Sharma: Honorable Delegates

The Model UN at Aditi has been anchored, over the last four years, by Dr. Anjana Banerjee.

**Glorious Festival of Choirs:**
Aditi’s senior choir participated in the Glorious Festival of Choirs at Sophia’s School auditorium on September 1. Trained and conducted by Tanvi Rao, they turned in an excellent performance. Tanvi (who joined Aditi’s Creative Arts Department earlier this year) has been invited to

¹ [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/warstudies/newsevents/newsrecords/rudra.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/warstudies/newsevents/newsrecords/rudra.aspx)
perform at the Cultural Olympiad-World Event-Young Artists 2012 at Nottingham later this month.

**Out-of-the-Box and Exeter Science Challenge:**
The Interact Club of Aditi organized an inter-school competition, Out-of-the-Box, which was held on September 1, 2012. I think that this event was significant because it was, for the most part, student led. Six schools participated in a range of innovative and challenging events ranging from three-a-side soccer to photography and a mock trial. Kudos to the board of the Interact Club and to the faculty facilitators, Anusuya Roy and Chitra Punja.

On the same day, Aditi partnered with the University of Exeter to hold the Exeter Science Challenge, an inter-school science and technology quiz. Thirty five teams participated with the National Public School and Aditi finishing first and second respectively.

**Frank Anthony Memorial All-India Inter-School Debate Competition 2012:**
Both our junior (Stds.9 and 10) and senior (Stds.11 and 12) teams have qualified for the national finals of the Frank Anthony Memorial national debate. The finals will be held in Kolkata on September 25. Our teams are:
Seniors: Diya Deviah and Siddharth Sangameswaran
Juniors: Anugraha Anand and Venkat Murali Subramanian

**To Bee or not to Bee:**
On August 30 and 31, Std.4 presented what they had learned in the course of their unit on bees. It was a magical performance that incorporated music, movement, science and stand-up comedy. One parent described the performance as truly engaging.

We look forward in the coming weeks to the Std.9 and Std.11 plays, the Student Council’s benefit concert and Aditi’s sports fest. Our excellent performance in sports deserves a more detailed exploration, which I will do in my next letter.

What I have presented are glimpses of the first term at Aditi. It is neither comprehensive nor equally representative of all sections of the school. I know that Coordinators and Class Teachers have been communicating with individual classes and sections. As I come to the end of this letter on September 5, I take this opportunity to celebrate all those (particularly at Aditi) who are engaged in the truly significant vocation of teaching.

Please do not hesitate to write or call. I would love to hear from you to address specific issues and to hear positive and encouraging feedback as well. I will write again in the near future.

Warmest regards,

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