

A Note in Gratitude - from The School KFI

'Now, we are finally here' - a statement repeated often in the first week of this academic year - in appreciation, in excitement, in disbelief and relief. This is where we are - here and now! This note is an expression of gratitude to all that has brought us to this place and time.

In gratitude:

To the parents who have journeyed with us these seven years of incredulity, anger, acceptance, and the creative transformation of these emotions that only strength and conviction can achieve; to the parents who have joined us in between knowing the school will move and not knowing where; and to the parents who have joined us these last two years in trust undeterred by the impending move of a forty five year old school.

To the students whose responses over the years are etched in our memories. The initial bewilderment that the school would have to shift from a campus that they had loved as their own and then the desire to do something about it - from marching in protest, through heavy silences at the mention of relocation, to making smooth 'mud ladoos' to sell for a lakh of rupees each to create their new campus. Then there was the maturity of their participation in the planning of the design of the school and in their art work on the compound walls and the making of a mango circle on the campus before construction.

To the alumni who have, perhaps, been affected the hardest. For them it would be most difficult to separate the campus they have known from the pedagogy they have appreciated so deeply; and they would miss the location of their memories. Of great significance for the school is the support from them in rebuilding the school and their intense good feelings. Their parents have found time to find out, visit and help in the relocation of the school and furtherance of its work.

To all our well-wishers - former parents, teachers and parents of our sister schools; and people who we do not know but who feel the importance of our work - a reader of the Vasanta Vihar newsletter in a village in Maharashtra, a district sub-collector from Tamilnadu, interested educators and general public. We have been moved by the support we have received from friends in all walks of life and the various government officials we have interacted with who have taken effort to listen to us and understand and have worked with us with curiosity, interest and good wishes.

To our architects and designers who have worked to know us, our needs and our hopes and who have dared to create for us a space of great beauty. 'Dare' is a significant word because we were leaving behind a campus five times larger, with a building and trees decades old, and emotions formidably entwined. We owe much to the project manager, the construction company and the supervisors whose magic and skill we see in the period of one year. Finally, we owe gratitude to the workers we will never really know and the significance of whose labour they themselves may never imagine.

To all of us teachers whose exploration of the educational vision of J Krishnamurti and the joy of teaching and learning with young people has held the school together in strength and trust. The school is our creation and our labour. The office, dining and maintenance staff whose hard work, good cheer and confidence have been most inspiring and instilling of courage. From the initial demand that the school must go on, through the immense good will and trust we have received as a school; to the overwhelming happiness at the end of the task we have learnt much about the importance of the work we do and we will find the courage to move radically deeper. In all this we need to learn that all reality is transitory, that change can be transformation and that our ways of relating to the earth, trees and skies are our own and yet unimagined

To the members of the Executive Committee of The School KFI and the trustees of the Krishnamurti Foundation India on whose behalf this is written and whose responsibility, determination, concern and support have been crucial to this endeavour.

Thank you from all of us at school,
Jayashree Nambiar

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