

Dear Parents,

On behalf of all at MotherCare, I write to express my gratitude for your continued support and understanding during these trying times. The tragedy that our country went through during this natural disaster is immense and my heart weeps for all that was lost. However, life must go on and we at MotherCare are making necessary arrangements to forge ahead. I am in constant conversation with the core management (Salini, Natasha and Srijana) and have established some concrete plans for reopening the school. However there are some necessary elements that need to be addressed before the school reopens for the new academic year and some as follow-ups during the year. The following plan was adopted and will be carried out in succession prior to beginning the new school year and during the length of the next term.

- Structural assessment of both buildings by experts (immediate)
- Revamping and replenishing earthquake preparedness kits (immediate)
- Training of staff for first aid and evacuation drills (ongoing)
- Training of staff to rehabilitate children suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in children (ongoing)
- Rehabilitation and awareness programs for parents

Although both the school buildings withstood the tremors, it is necessary to make structural assessments so that we know that our buildings are safe for all. The core management team is making necessary arrangements to bring in experts for this. Revamping and replenishing our earthquake preparedness kits is another immediate need and we require your participation in this matter. We would appreciate if two volunteers from each class provide their consent for participation. Further details regarding this will be dispersed in due time. First aid training and evacuation practice drills is another important component in our agenda. We are in the process of identifying sources that provide such trainings and would appreciate your input as well. Please contact the office if you know of any such organizations that are willing to provide these trainings. Rehabilitation of traumatized children and learning how to correctly deal with disorders

that may arise after a natural disaster is another important factor for a successful year ahead. Many children, parents and our staff must have suffered some form of trauma or stress after this disaster therefore it is necessary to make arrangements for their restoration and reentry into daily life and schedules. I am collecting information and undergoing some online training in collaboration with ACEI (Association for Childhood Education International) and other such agencies to learn more about this aspect. I aim to equip myself with some relevant information and tool kits prior to my arrival towards the end of May so as to provide a comprehensive training to all staff. I will also be available to provide necessary support to children and parents if required during the month of June.

The school will reopen after the 14<sup>th</sup> of May (please look out for emails with notices) and further information regarding the status of each step of the plan will be sent in due time. I wish you a happy and joyful academic year 2015-16 and thank you for your cooperation and understanding. I look forward to seeing you strong and ready for your children. As Isabel Allende (2015) says ‘we don’t know how strong we are until we are forced to bring that hidden strength forward, especially in times of tragedy...the human capacity for survival and renewal is awesome’.

Have a good day!

Sapna Thapa

Director-Principal

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