

ORCHID INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

HUMBLED TO ENTER THE LEAGUE OF TOP TEN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL OF INDIA

Nashik, Date: 12 September 2011

Orchid International School, Nasik has been ranked as one of the India's most respected TOP 10 boarding schools by the latest survey conducted by C-FORE Education World Survey, September 2011. The survey also ranks the school as the third best in western region and the best in Maharashtra state.

The school has been rated within the first five schools in four of the fourteen parameters of Excellence, viz. Academic Reputation, Disabled Friendliness, Sports Education and Value for Money. In six other parameters, viz. Competence of Faculty, Individual Attention to Students, Teacher Welfare and Development, Parental Involvement, Discipline and Life Skills Education, Leadership and Management Quality, it has been ranked within the first ten schools.

“It is indeed a matter of pardonable pride, that OIS has made a mark for itself within five years’ of its existence and has been able to be part of the extra-ordinary league of Indian Public School legacy. This travel has been challenging and steep for all of us. Gradually but steadily, the school has started achieving its mission that **“Its infrastructure and educational processes are designed to make it one of the most respected and one of the best residential schools of the country within a couple of years”**. All this was possible because of the foresightedness of the management and steadfastness of the OIS staff under the able leadership of Dr. Sundar Gandikota, Principal OIS. Nonetheless, this recognition has augmented our responsibility towards the school and society at large to do better every year and we will always be cautious of this noble responsibility” said Mr. Ravindra Sapkal, CMD, Orchid International School, while talking to the press.

On learning that Orchid International School has been ranked ninth most respected residential school in the country; its Principal Dr. Sundar Gandikota remarked that he feels humbled to be in the group of the ten most respected residential schools of the country which is led by the Rishi Valley School and The Doon School. He also expressed happiness that the simple and earnest endeavour of providing extremely rich and interesting learning spaces to the children has been thus recognised at a national level although the school prefers to keep a low profile. Both the founding Principal and the present Principal are faculty members from these two venerable and adorable institutions and the essentials of Orchid International School are influenced significantly by these two institutions.

25 kms from the ancient temple town of Nashik and 6 kms from Trimbakeshwar (the location of one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of India) Orchid International School is spread over 110 acres providing every possible facility in it on splendidly picturesque hill top. Well-planned and meticulously maintained campus also has a plethora of flora and fauna. It is an ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2004 & OHSAS 18001:2007 certified Residential and Day Boarding School.

The school believes that every individual is an integral part of the cosmos and that she is truly unique. It is the responsibility of an educational institution is to help every child bring out his or her own unique talent. The timeless Indian values and modern scientific thinking are brought together through carefully and innovatively designed educational approaches. The school would like the children to be sensible, sincere and sensitive human beings who live beautifully in the complex and fast paced world.

The Pre-Primary section offers child-centred, activity-based all round education. It provides the scope and depth of learning through play and creative expressions. The school timetable provides mandatory exposure to all children of the nursery and primary school to the basic multiple intelligences like music, dance, arts, crafts and a host of co-curricular activities.

The school assigns the critical function of house parenting to teachers who relate affectionately to the children. The house parents provide the required emotional and psychological ambiance for the child to feel at home. The boarders are exposed to interesting and enriching exposure in the weekends, including special art, craft, star gazing, carpentry, craft and technology club and many other exposures. The house parents play an active and parental role in understanding and providing the right ambiance to the boarders so that each child has space for himself. 'Home-sickness' is a word that is heard or thought of only for a short while even when the students have just joined the school. Morality, integrity and righteousness are imbibed in the tender minds to the extent that these values emerge in the children quite naturally.

In the middle and high schools the children are oriented towards the ICSE. There is a wide choice of subjects offered so that even children weak in Mathematics can take up other enriching subjects and develop themselves well. In the secondary section OIS offers a range of specialized subjects to equip students for higher education and the professional world. Marathi is offered as a second language for neighbourhood children and **specifically designed vertically grouped academic program enables children without strong base in English to take up the English Language based ICSE and ISC curriculum with ease and making their parents proud within a couple of years.**

The school educational philosophy is to make all domains of the school deep learning experiences for its children. **OIS deliberately moves away from**

the traditional, rote learning mechanism. Instead, it makes classroom teaching-learning processes more interesting and gripping so that children develop intrinsic interest in the subject matter, which in turn leads them to “study.” Some of the general characteristics of the progressive system of education followed in the school are that children should experience, discover, have fun and do various activities joyously as part of the learning processes. This approach requires subtle, dynamic and sensitive teacher, who put in a lot of preparatory work prior to meeting the students in the classroom.

The Principal explaining that the strength of OIS is its **strong and committed faculty members, who utilise the rich infrastructure productively bringing life to the life of the students.** The school has been able to invite educators with sound academic and experiential credentials. They come from more than twenty states of the country so that a pluralistic and rich social community is available for a wide canvas of inputs to be provided to the students. Design and implementation of teaching-learning approaches with an integrated curriculum in mind is one of the key features of the school. In line with the pedagogical approach towards assessment and evaluation is also different. Non quantitative reports are given a lot of importance for understanding children and reporting about them to the parents. **There are no examinations up to Class 5 and the child is guided closely by the teachers due to the low teacher student ratio of about 1:5 that the school presently has.**

The school provides a host of physical development activities including Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Caroms, Chess, Cricket, Football, Gymnasium, Handball, Horse Riding, Rifle Shooting, Roller skating, Squash Court, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball, Yogasanas/Pranayama, Slide, swing and see saw for the tiny ones of staff members. In addition to this special Adventure and Endurance Development camps are arranged twice a year for duration of about 4 to 6 days at the end of each of the two terms.

The school provides an excellent platform for children to explore, enjoy and learn by participating in different general and co-curricular activities like Class Assemblies, Special festival assemblies, Special small group assemblies, Kalaprakash-Fortnightly variety programs, Special occasion programs, Quizzes, Debates, Elocutions, Dramas, Skits, Mimes, Talks and presentations, Annual day function-Orchid Festival usually celebrated in December and the more than thirty Clubs.

The press conference was also attended by Mrs Kalyani R. Sapkal, Vice Chairperson, OIS and Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat, CEO, Sapkal Knowledge Hub.