I hope you are going to bring lots of visitors. Please tell people that they can have a good time even if they do not speak English very well because I have asked that nearly all the speeches and announcements will be in both Bengali and English. We are going to need you to work very hard today to make sure that your classrooms are interesting for your parents to visit, with your best work up. Today is the day when teachers have to get the final copies ready of examples of your best work to put up in the classrooms. Please help them as much as possible by writing out neatly what they ask you to do. Don't be late for Assembly tomorrow as we have a famous artist visiting us.

Tomorrow, some people will be working in your classrooms. Some will be helping with the Art work, and those of you taking part in the cultural events are going to be very busy – and those of you who are serving the food are going to need to know where to go and how to be good and gracious servers. Please make sure that no teacher wants you for a special purpose and then, if not, you can join me and my working-party which is going to clean up the field next door.

Then on Thursday, we will all come in our nicest clothes. You will come in nice clean leather shoes and uniform, please, unless you have been given special permission by a teacher for some special purpose to come in different clothes. But, remember, the day will be no good if we do not have lots of nice visitors so bring your parents and grandparents and others, either for the morning or the afternoon or both. Let us give everyone a very happy day and, in that way, give ourselves a good time also.

God bless you.

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A VISIT BY A FAMOUS ARTIST

Assembly 13 – January 21st 2003

Thank you all for how hard you are working for our Foundation Day tomorrow. We are all looking forward to it very much. Do remember to give your invitations to your parents and grandparents and neighbours. Work is beginning to go up in the classrooms so that, after Prize-giving under the canopy on the field, you bring your visitors back from Prize-giving for lunch here, and then you can take them upstairs to the classrooms to see your work. Thank you to the boys of Class 9 and 10, (some of whom worked harder than others) for beginning to make a real impact on the rubbish in the field. We will need some more clearing up there and today is the day for the bonfire. I think that some of the local children thought we were mad to bother to pick up the rubbish – after all, they take it for granted. But we are role-modeling better values. Remember that tomorrow we come to school in our best clothes and uniforms, with our leather shoes clean and no sneakers or trainers. Those visitors who can come in the morning will experience not only our cultural programme at 10.00am but Prize-giving at 11.00am. The prizes will not only be given to those with top marks. Your form teachers have found interesting ways of encouraging others also. I am very impressed with the achievements of many of you and I am very pleased that such nice prizes have been bought. The cultural programme will take place again at 2 pm so that those who cannot come in the morning do not miss it.

We are very honoured today to have a special visitor, Rafiqun Nabi, who is not only Professor at the Institute of Fine Art here in Dhaka, but is also a fine artist in his own right whose work has been shown in exhibitions in many countries. Some of you love to

read children's books and you know how lovely the cover designs can be? Well, he has won a particular prize, for the covers of children's books, 11 times! He is also a very clever cartoonist and his cartoons can highlight social issues. One of his characters is called Tokai.

Every way in which you and I are creative involves are hearts and feelings as well as our brains. In the good education we are trying to give you at TBS, we are trying to help you to develop all your gifts and we respect the work of artists and take the teaching of art very seriously – so we look forward to the development of our Art Department very much and we welcome our guest today. It is my great honour to ask Rafiqun Nabi to speak to us and to launch our painting project for our Foundation Day.

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REFLECTING ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESOLVING IMPROVEMENTS

Assembly 14 – January 25th 2003

We had a lovely birthday party on Thursday, didn't we? It was the first time this school had had such a big party and I am asking people to make long lists of what we shall do next year to have an even better party! But your families kept telling us how very much they enjoyed themselves and liked the programme so we did lots of things right.

Thank you to everyone who worked so very hard for the success of the Foundation Day Ceremony – the teaching and non-teaching staff and, of course, so many of YOU – including the performers.

The one thing that was very sad was the electricity cut which meant the dancers only did part of their dance then the music stopped. They had worked, probably harder than everyone else, to

prepare their performance so let us give them a special clap.....

I hope we can have a cultural event including Bengali dancing on Ekushey February or Bengali New Year as we really want to see you dancers again. Moreover, because we have learnt from that experience the management are seriously thinking about a back-up electricity supply for the school so that sort of tragedy cannot happen again. We are making a folder of ideas for next year so, if any of you have ideas about how much better it could be next year (could we do this or that?) then please let your Coordinator or me know while the event is fresh in your mind.

This, after all, is one of the things that is meant by being an educated person – not being afraid to do new things, making some mistakes – and learning from those mistakes, rather than refusing to think about them. In this way, educated people are always improving, developing, growing. If you leave TBS able to do that in your families, businesses and society generally, you will be the sort of people who can help Bangladesh to improve, develop and grow – and you will inspire your children and your grandchildren to be like that also.

God bless you.

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'NEW' CAN BE FINE – OR FRIGHTENING

Assembly 15 – January 26th 2003

I want us to think today of the word 'new'. Often the word 'new' is exciting. I have new shoes! We have a new car! That is something to be happy about. I have recently bought a new television. It is the first new television I have ever had in my life. Before, I have only had old or hired televisions so I like my new television!