The fact that one of my family members had plenty of money did not protect him from the heart-ache of having a son who became a drug addict.

So, all over the world, people are walking uphill, facing lives that are difficult. Some lives are much more difficult than others, I know. I think of parts of Africa with no rain and an estimated 11 million children who have no father and mother because the HIV/AIDS epidemic has taken around 25% of the young adult population. Bangladesh is rich compared to parts of Africa at the moment. You and I are so lucky to have enough to eat and health care and people to care for us. We are being strengthened for the journey of life that lies ahead of us, where the road to responsible living will be uphill for much of the way. But, if you and I live responsibly, the world will become a better place. God bless you.

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## THE DREAM OF A GROUP OF ARTISTS BECOMES AN ART EXHIBITION HERE!

***Assembly 30 – February 26th 2003***

We have been thinking this week of the martyrs, the witnesses, the people who remind us that nothing that is truly great happens without sacrifice. Life is difficult and we need people who say, "Yes, OK. It is difficult, but it is not impossible – so we shall do it!"

We think of the founding of this school which began with a dream in the heads of a small group of people – and here we are, 3 years later – not perfect but working at it and with a lot to be proud of.

A few years ago, a group of artists had the dream of taking really good works of art and exhibiting them in schools round Dhaka. In some ways, it was a crazy idea. Good paintings are



worth a great deal of money. Was it not too risky? But this group of artists said, "We must give men and women, boys and girls, the chance to see and appreciate real works of art. We can do it!" And they did! It is our pleasure and our privilege to be host to this wonderful exhibition for the next few days. Lots of people will be coming in and climbing our stairs to the exhibition. Please be very polite with our visitors. Smile at them and say welcome and behave well on the stairs.

The exhibition will be opened at 11.00am this morning by a famous artist – Mustafa Monwar. You too will have an opportunity to see the exhibition in your Art classes and, as you look at it, remember what a lot of hard work and organising has gone into it but how much we appreciate it. As always, the more you put into life, the more you, and others, can get out of it.

God bless you.

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## IDENTITY DISKS – WHO WANTS A LABEL?

***Assembly 31 – February 31st 2003***

I think that the office has now given most of us our identity disks to hang round our necks. They are very smart. But when I was given mine, I had mixed feelings. There was a voice inside me that said, "Why do I need a label? I am not a parcel!" But I thought about it and realised there are many reasons why we have our identity labels. Can you think of any?

Intruders! The school guards must have a way of identifying you for when you are collected. Sometimes, when I go off on my own into the streets of Dhaka, I wear my label in case I am in an accident. I have had a rickshaw accident, a baby taxi accident and a car accident, since I have been in Bangladesh so I know the roads are not safe.