



**MARIS STELLA KINDERGARTEN**

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Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you today to inform you of a fee revision exercise which will be implemented by Maris Stella Kindergarten with effect from 2 January 2011. I am attaching to this letter a table that sets out the school and other fees payable for your child starting from 2 January 2011.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on a few developments in the Kindergarten, and to share with you my vision for the Kindergarten in the years to come.

At the end of 2009, in consultation with the Provincial Superior of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM), of which the Kindergarten is a part, a management committee was established to oversee the strategic management and development of the Kindergarten as well as to formalize and fine tune the working processes of the Kindergarten. The members of the management committee bring with them their expertise – we have on board an accountant and a lawyer who are able to help us with financial and legal issues faced by the Kindergarten, as well as a full time homemaker and mother who is able to share with us the aspirations and needs of today's children and their parents.

Amongst the many issues discussed by the management committee over the last several months is the quality of education provided by the Kindergarten. We believe that today's parents want both an academic and a holistic education for their children. This is also in line with the Kindergarten's goal –to help our children develop intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, physically and socially in a fun learning environment. To this end, the Kindergarten has started two initiatives which some of the children have participated in. These are (a) the introduction of meals in the Kindergarten, and (b) the Sportball programme.

The idea of having meals in the Kindergarten started when some parents shared with us their difficulties in getting their children to eat a wider variety of food, or to eat at the dinner table. Eating is a social skill - by sharing a meal together, our children learn to eat together with their friends, to sit at a table to finish their meals, and to explore other foods which they may not otherwise eat at home. "Peer pressure" is also an excellent tool in helping our children to be more adventurous where food is concerned!

Maris Stella Kindergarten

Sportball encourages our children to lead active and healthy life styles. Coached by professionals, this skills development programme exposes the children to several popular sports (like tennis, soccer, golf and basketball), teaches them the basic concepts and skills involved in these sports, develops their motor skills and cultivates their interest and confidence. It also enhances instruction taking skills in our children – by learning to follow instructions and taking turns, etc. In 2010, Sportball was offered as an enrichment programme; the feedback that we have received is very encouraging. We are confident that offering Sportball as part of the Kindergarten curriculum will benefit our children enormously.

We have also received feedback from parents concerned about the preparedness of our children for Chinese at primary school. As a result we will be increasing by half an hour a week the time devoted to Chinese lessons. This will in effect work out to an additional Chinese lesson per week. We are also studying the feasibility of having a Chinese teacher in each class throughout the school day to increase the exposure to spoken Chinese. We will keep you posted on further developments on this issue.

To incorporate in these initiatives into the curriculum, the school hours will also be increased by half an hour every day with effect from 2 January 2011. The new school hours are 8.45am to 12.15pm and 12.30pm to 4.00pm. We believe the additional 2 ½ hours a week will allow us to do so much more with your children and will go a long way towards improving the quality of education provided by the Kindergarten.

I hope the above has been insightful. I look forward to working with each and every parent to develop each child to his/her fullest potential, and in the process, to give them a happy memory of their first school years in Maris Stella Kindergarten.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

Yours in Christ

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Sr Anne May Chua FMM  
Principal