

**CALORX OLIVE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

**AHMEDABAD**

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

**FEBRUARY 2017**



Dear COIS Parents,

Trust all is well at your end. As you would be aware, Parents, Teachers, Staff and Students of Calorx Olive International School celebrated Republic Day in School, on 26 January. The text of the speech delivered on that day is enclosed.

**REPUBLIC DAY ADDRESS BY DR COLONEL ATUL BHANDARI**

**26 JANUARY 2017**

Dear Parents, Teachers and my dear Students,

On the occasion of our Republic Day, I extend to each one of you my heartiest congratulations.

Today, I will talk to you about five points.

My first point is about – **The Significance of Republic Day.**

This is primarily for the children. We must be aware of the significance, so that it stays fresh in our memory. 67 years ago on this day, India proclaimed itself as a free sovereign Republic. Although India obtained its independence on 15 August 1947, the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950. During the transition period from 1947 to 1950, King George VI was the Head of State. Lord Mountbatten and Dr C Rajagopalachari served as the Governor-Generals of India during this period. On 26 January 1950, Dr Rajendra Prasad was appointed as the first President of India.

The Constitution of India was formally adopted by Parliament and India declared itself as a Republic on 26 January 1950, a date thereafter celebrated as our Republic Day.

The day is celebrated all over India with a lot of patriotic fervour. In the national capital New Delhi, the first event of the day is the laying of a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate, by the Prime Minister, to commemorate the jawans who have sacrificed their lives for our country.

Thereafter the President arrives in a motorcade. Soon afterwards, a 21 gun salute is presented. Then the President unfurls the National Flag and the National Anthem is played. This marks the beginning of the

Ceremonial Parade, which starts from Raisina Hill near the Rashtrapati Bhawan, along the Rajpath, past India Gate and on to the historic Red Fort. Incidentally, I have had the privilege of taking part in this Ceremonial Parade in New Delhi.

Different units from the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force take part in this parade. The salute is taken by the President of India.

The parade concludes with a Fly Past by fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force. These fighter aircraft, flying at supersonic speeds, roar past the dais, symbolically saluting the President.

The Chief Guest of the Parade is usually a Head of State of another country. This year the Chief Guest is the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Similar parades are held in the State capitals all over India.

This was my first point, regarding the significance of Republic Day.

My second point is about – **Leadership by Example.**

Leadership should be the central idea in everybody's life. Leadership involves leading ourselves. **If we cannot lead ourselves, how possibly can we lead our children ?**

Leadership cannot be learned just by reading books or by attending seminars. Leadership is Experiential, Transformational. For our children, we have to develop leadership as early as possible, consciously and carefully. **Using improper words, speaking in an offensive manner, speaking loudly, all this gets recorded in the brain of your child. So we have to be very careful how we talk.**

Great leaders are not defined by the absence of weaknesses, but rather by the presence of certain strengths. It is our bounden duty to ensure that we pass on good qualities to our children.

This was my second point, that **we must set a very good personal example for our children to emulate, moreso in the manner in which we talk.**

Now we come on to my third point, that is – **Preparing for the Future.**

Howard Gardener, the Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, has some very pertinent views on this. He says that if a person is to have the capability to perform effectively in the future, he or she must have, what he calls – the Five Minds.

The First Mind is – The Disciplined Mind. Research confirms that it takes up to 10 years to master a discipline. To be able to face the future, the child must have the knowledge of at least one discipline. If not, he is destined to march to someone else's tune.

The Second Mind is – The Synthesizing Mind, that takes information from disparate sources, understands and evaluates the information objectively and puts it together in ways that make sense. **In today's world, where each one of us faces an information overload, this ability to synthesize information, to separate the wheat from the chaff, is a very important trait. We need to have the capability to take in large amounts of information, thereafter 'unclutter' our mind and focus on what is truly important.**

Undoubtedly, the mind that will be most at a premium in the years to come will be the mind that can synthesize information.

The Third Mind is – The Creative Mind, that breaks new ground. It puts forth new ideas and shows new ways of thinking. The Creative Mind must be at least one step ahead of the most sophisticated computers.

The Fourth Mind is – The Respectful Mind, that welcomes differences between individuals, differences between groups and variations between people of different ethnic backgrounds. It understands these differences and seeks to work effectively with all of them. In a world where we all are interlinked, where an election of a person in the United States has an almost instantaneous effect in Ahmedabad, our watchwords have to be – Respect, Collegiality and Human Understanding.

The Fifth Mind is – The Ethical Mind, that ponders the needs and desires of the society in which we live. This mind examines how we can serve purposes beyond our own self-interest, and how we can work to improve the life of others in our community.

These Five Minds are already at a premium today and will be at an even greater premium in tomorrow's world. We need to realize that conditions in the world are changing rapidly. Hence it is imperative that we arm the students of today with these Five Minds, so that they can effectively and confidently face the world of tomorrow.

This was my third point, that we must develop in our children The Disciplined Mind, The Synthesizing Mind, The Creative Mind, The Respectful Mind and the Ethical Mind.

Next, we come to my fourth point ie – **The Importance of Respect in the Life of a Child.**

Respect is a very important quality. It is a core value in our School.

Respect includes respect for other people, so that we acknowledge their point of view; respect for elders, so that we give the due to those who are elder to us. It also includes respect for our brain, so that we do not feed it with mindless television programmes, respect for our body, so that we do not feed it with junk food. We should also have respect for our country.

Unfortunately, respect is going out of fashion. To my mind, if a person walks past someone who is elder to him or her, but does not wish the elder, it tells me more about that person's grooming, than anything else.

Good grooming is an indication of a person's pedigree, culture and sanskaar. Due to misplaced priorities, Tablet PC's are in, respecting others is out. iPods are in, wishing elders is out. Touch screens are in, being polite is out.

Is this acceptable to us ? Is this how we want our children to be ? We must inculcate a Culture of Respect from now onwards. In college, it is too late to develop a Culture of Respect.

This was my fourth point, that each one of us must teach the child to be respectful to elders.

Next, we come to my fifth and last point, that is – **The Importance of Self Discipline in Becoming a Better Person.**

Why are some people more successful, happier and wealthier than others ? What is the secret of their success ? What is the magic mantra ? The answer is – Self Discipline. While there are many reasons which lead us to success, these reasons work only when the person has a sense of Self Discipline. The common bottom line is and always will be – Self Discipline. Successful people are invariably self disciplined people.

Self Discipline is about managing ourselves. It is about moderation in Life. Self Discipline teaches us to act correctly, to behave respectfully towards others, to exercise moderation in our manner of talking and behavior. A person shows his pedigree and how civilized he is, by his manner of talking.

In most cases, the typical person looks for shortcuts. We want to be rich and happy quickly. But there is no elevator to success. We have to take the stairs. We must stop this culture of always being in a hurry, of wanting immediate gratification, of speed reading, speed yoga and speed money.

We need to realize that excellence comes at a price. We have to take the steady path and move up one level at a time. That is why Self Discipline is a prerequisite for high performance in any field.

As a predictor whether a child will be a success, the Self Discipline rating of the child is of much higher value than the IQ score of the child.

To develop Self Discipline, I recommend the following 10 points :

1. When you go back today, write down one professional goal and one personal goal.
2. Schedule your day and week. Then stick to it. Avoid distractions and time wasting activities.

3. Be punctual and make it a habit.
4. Divide time between work, play and relaxation.
5. **Become serious about reading good books**, to gain knowledge.
6. Listen carefully to what others are saying. Become a good listener.
7. Control your mind and make it quiet through focus. We must focus our thoughts, think with clarity and arrange our ideas systematically.
8. **Be respectful to your parents, your teachers and your elders.**
9. Take care of your personal appearance. Being well groomed will boost your self-confidence.
10. Remember that Self Discipline is the key to your personal greatness.

That was my last point, ie the importance of Self Discipline, to become a success in Life.

Dear parents and children, on this Republic Day, I urge you to achieve greatness, in your Professional Life and your Personal Life.

Let each one of us present here take a pledge to do at least one good thing each week, to improve our country.

Finally on behalf of the School Management, I wish you the very best. My best wishes to each one of you ie the grandparents, parents, teachers, staff and students.

We at Calorx Olive International School develop the complete range of the child's personality, from the physical to the aesthetic, and from the cognitive to the spiritual.

Some say that for us the sky is the limit. I think that together for all of us at Calorx Olive International School, even the sky is not a limit !

Thank you.

Jai Hind !

**Dr Colonel Atul Bhandari**  
**Director**  
**Calorx Olive International School**  
**Ahmedabad**