

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.



**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.



'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!

But sometimes the word 'new' can be frightening. If you are visiting a place that you have never visited before, you may ask yourself, "Will we find it all right – and will we like it?" If you are meeting new people., you wonder, "Will I like them?" Taking a new job, new kinds of food, going to a new school, taking a new sport or hobby can make us feel nervous, anxious, even fearful.

Last Thursday, we did something new. We had a Foundation Day Ceremony. Before we went onto the field, I went round the classrooms and found, in one classroom, a boy pupil and, in another classroom, a girl pupil who did not want to join the rest of us and I had to help them to have the courage to leave their classrooms and come with me. This was quite understandable. There were a lot of people there and they were young Junior School pupils.

But life will give you many new things to do. Sometimes it will be exciting, sometimes it will be frightening. Every day is a new day to live and we never know what it will bring. Every day is a new adventure. Let us help one another to have courage and not be afraid.

God bless you.



TO BE TRULY MODERN - CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!

Assembly 16 - January 27th 2003

In the time of my grandfather and grandmother, when my father was a little boy, they usually had a little maidservant living with them. Such girls usually came from poor homes, knew very little, had had almost no education and the housewife had to teach her everything. She was paid a low salary and given her clothes. If the family she lived with were good and kind, her life was good. If

they were bad and cruel people, her life could be hell. This was in England 100 years ago. It was rather like Bangladesh today.

In England, all that has changed. In the last century, we had 2 World Wars and full employment and most of the domestic servants left. Now, only the very richest families have servants who live in the house because the salaries for such servants are very high. Also, houses with extra rooms for servants are very expensive. So most people cannot afford to have servants who live with them. Some middle and upper class people have women who come in and clean their homes. These cleaning ladies usually come in when all the family is out at work and school. They have the key to your house and clean the house when it is empty. You trust them totally and leave them a note as to what to do. My cleaning lady is a good friend and I pay her 700 taka for every hour of work which is a fair price, because the cost of living is very high. If you are rude to your cleaning lady or treat her badly, she leaves and you have great difficulty finding another one.

If any of you go to university overseas, there may be a cleaning lady for your part of your hostel and room but she will only come once a day. If you make a mess, you have to live with it for the whole day until she comes again on the next day. In most student accommodation, there is a kitchen that is shared by a group of men and women students who do their own cooking because going to the student canteen is too expensive. So both men and women students have to learn to shop for food, cook it and clean up afterwards themselves.

In this school, we are trying to prepare you for life. Many of you have servants at home who clean up after you. We have support staff here but it is not their job to clean up after you when you have made a mess unnecessarily. Do you understand that? They are not your personal servants. Please try not to drop paper and food on the floor. When you eat your tiffin, take it to a chair, and sit down until you have finished eating it. Do not walk around the school eating. When you have finished eating, don't just put