

reproduce themselves! They are non-renewable resources. They have to be used especially carefully

Probably the most important resource of the earth that we should respect is water. In some areas of the world, there is a water shortage and people, usually the women, have to walk for miles every day to collect it and, even then, it may not be drinkable. When the population grows, then even those nations with good water supplies, like Bangladesh, can have problems. We must learn not to waste water but learn how to use it economically. Mend dripping taps and leaking pipes. Respect the earth that is the mother of us all. The earth is very rich in resources but we have to be careful and not selfish or lazy. Mother Earth must not be taken for granted. Let there be respect for the earth. God bless you.



**THE MILLENIUM RESOLUTION – LET
THERE BE - 2**
Assembly 58. Monday April 6th 2003

Some of you went on a visit to a museum last Saturday and another visitor saw your behaviour and saw that you came from a school that organized such an interesting visit. This person was so impressed, that she came to the school and has registered her child as a pupil. I congratulate you and the teachers who organized the trip. Please remember that, wherever you go, you are an advertisement for this school – or the opposite!

We come today to the second Millennium Resolution. What did the first one say? ‘Let there be respect for the earth’. The second one says, “Let there be peace for its peoples.” I cannot think of anything that the peoples of the world want more at the present time than peace. We watch our televisions with great anxiety and

horror as we see some of the results of the war in Iraq. But what does the word ‘peace’ mean?

The word ‘shalom’ in Hebrew is a very big word – it means not only peace but harmony, well-being, everything working together as it was meant to work. When we say, “Salaamaleichum” we are wishing each other this peace. Peace is not just absence of noise. A graveyard, the place where dead bodies are laid to rest, is peaceful but there is no life there. A country with a dictator who murders whoever speaks against him, may seem to be at peace, but where there is no justice, there cannot be true peace. A person who has been tortured, neglected or abused may be quiet, but that situation screams to heaven for help.

This school is often noisy, but, if you are being noisy because of sport or drama or some creative activity, then we are at peace, the school is functioning as it should. People who do not have enough to eat, often sit around quietly but when they have enough to eat, they have the energy to work and play and there are the sounds of both, but one is false peace and the other is true peace. If a murderer or terrorist entered this school with a gun and our policemen friends captured him and took him away, there may be a terrible noise but that would be a sign that the peace-keepers were doing their work properly.

The War in Iraq is very terrible. The Coalition forces are trying to liberate Iraq from the awful influence of a dictator, Saddam Hussein, who has done some terrible things, murdering a million of his own people and thousands of others. But many in the world, including many in American and Britain, say that the method of this liberation is very wrong. Others say that the timing is wrong – either we should have fought this man 20 years ago, or waited for the United Nations to be united about it. Everyone in the world wants to help the Iraqi people to have true peace, but, because so many have not welcomed this ‘liberation’, what is happening seems to be the very opposite of peace and we just hope it will stop soon.

Germany too had a terrible dictator, called Hitler. The Second World War was going on when I was a little girl. He was defeated with terrible loss of life because he had such a grip on his own people who thought he was wonderful. Later, they realized what he was really like. Wicked people always need weak people to get power – and, when others try to take the power away from the wicked, the weak who have followed them are always the ones who suffer most. Millions of lives were lost in the two World Wars. People said, “Never again. We want peace.” But people still allow wicked men to get power – and keep power – and do not oppose them until it is too late. If you and I are serious about peace, then we have to confront evil when it is THIS size (*tiny*) – and not wait until it is THIS size (*huge*). Our personal war must be against everything that is wrong.

And, yes, every country must have an army and insist upon the good training of its armed forces. They are there if the forces of evil become too great for ordinary people to deal with. But any government must be very slow to send them into war to kill and be killed. The aim must be to confront evil in a better way and so make peace possible without war. We all wait and hope and pray that soon the guns will be silent and that justice and peace will come to Iraq – and also that foolish people do not make this war an excuse to do dangerous and violent things, all over the world, including in this country. Let there be peace for all the peoples of the world because there is submission to justice and goodness and love.

God bless you.



**THE MILLENIUM RESOLUTION – LET
THERE BE – 3.4**
Assembly 59 – Wednesday April 9th 2003

We are looking at the words of the Millenium Resolution. Let there be – what was the first? (*respect for the earth*) then there was? Let there be (*peace for its peoples*) Yesterday, when I was a guest at the American International School, Mrs Islam spoke to you about? ‘Let there be love in our lives’ – and today there is ‘Let there be delight in the good.’. Delight – *anundito*.

Just think of the things that fill you with delight. Maybe it is the beauties of nature. Bangladesh is such a beautiful country in some places. Some of you have told me, in your essays about ‘An unforgettable holiday’ of lovely places that you have seen. But some of you also wrote about the joy of being with other people and the fun that you had – because we can all be *anundito* about the beauty of human relationships – the love that some families enjoy – though not all, sadly.

At school, we hope, we can make you delighted about books! We are slowly building up our libraries. The Foundation School book trolley will soon be here, the Junior School is having library periods and the Senior School is learning to use some of the books that are, at present, in Mrs Islam’s room. We are all looking forward to one of our new rooms being a proper library, with bookshelves of books that you can borrow and take home to read, as long as you sign out for them. I hope you are all also delighted at the skills you are developing. Some skills we teach you in school, some skills you develop for yourselves at home – learning skills, sporting skills, relationship skills.

I hope that, as we get older, we learn to feel delight in the progress, not just of ourselves, but of other people, including