

*The Mira Press*

# SHOWCASE

*Bidding a Fond*

*Farewell*

*To*

*Dr. Gulshan*

*Gidwani*

*Principal, St. Mira's College*

*1999-2021*



# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It feels almost like a fever dream to live to see the day of an educational enigma such as Dr. Gidwani retiring from her post as the principal of St. Mira's College. Having felt her presence ourselves for the past 5 years, we have been taken aback time and time again by her kindness and her erudition. It's been 22 years, but her message has never lost its vibrancy. An education supplemented with age-old values is unheard of in this day and age, but for those of us who have studied at St. Mira's; it has been a blessing in itself.

Every step that she has taken has led to a more enriched student life within the college, whether it be the groundbreaking Mental Wellbeing program, the launching of the SOUL project, or the countless workshops, seminars and courses that have been made available to us. In St. Mira's, every single one of us strives for excellence and to beat our personal bests and this culture of courteous competition has been set by Dr. Gidwani herself. We have always been encouraged and nurtured in the college we consider home, and principal ma'am has the biggest hand in that. Every idea that we propose is met with enthusiasm that mirrors our own, and to collaborate with her is a learning experience that we cherish dearly.

We all will experience a huge hole in our chests as you leave this institution to embark upon an even more adventurous journey: retirement. But know that you take our respect, our gratitude and all the love in our hearts with you.

As Billy Boyd sings,  
"To these memories, I will hold  
With your blessing, I will go  
To turn at last to paths that lead home.  
And though where the road then takes me  
I cannot tell,  
We came all this way.  
But now comes the day  
To bid you farewell  
I bid you all a very fond farewell..."

# A WORD FROM THE ALUMNI



Dearest Ma'am,

Thank you for being a role model, being so passionate, caring and making an impact on innumerable women, while making each of us feel special. You have always been a visionary who has encouraged me for the better. I truly laud your achievements and years of hard work.

Happy Retirement!

Yours Sincerely,  
Nehak Mewawalla  
(BBA, Batch of 2018)

Dear Ma'am,

I shall always cherish my interactions with you as a student council member. I have been inspired by your patience, wisdom and motivation. On this special day, I wish you a happy and healthy retirement!

~ Swetha . L

Batch (2015-18, BCA)

~~Swetha~~  
♥♥

Dear Ma'am,

You have been a great source of inspiration and motivation for the entire batch of students. You have always guided the students towards the glowing light. You will be remembered for your guidance, leadership approach, and friendly behaviour. We wish you all the best for your future endeavors. We will miss you!

- Ravital Agarwarkar (M.Sc - Computer Science) 2019-2020





Thank you for being an inspiration to me and many who came across you in personal or professional way. Your lifework towards women and society always gives me a sense of self worth and doing better each day. You are definitely one strong female leader who taught us toughest elements of life with a beautiful smile. Thank you for your precious years with us. BEST WISHES!

DEEPIKA DIXIT  
BSc. (Computer Science)  
2009



My hero, my strongest support system, and my most precious pillar of strength. These words don't seem enough to help me express just how much gratitude you deserve for your countless sacrifices and endless love. You're the reason I believe in my dreams everyday.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

Mishika Bhandari

Words cannot describe how thankful we are for the work you have accomplished as our college Principal. You have shaped our future and taught us to learn and succeed. Thank you for inspiring us to achieve our dreams every single day.

- Chetna Rajput  
BSc. Comp. Science  
Batch 2009-2010

Dear Ma'am,

The walls of St. Mitas College will feel hollow, corridors will feel empty and it would be never the same without the inspirational presence of a principal like you. I on the behalf of batch 2015-2017 were lucky to have you as a principal and could experience the positivity you had in the campus. I just wish you a happy retirement, a healthy & happy life ahead. Thank You so much for everything.

With lots of love & respect,

Simran Suri



Dear Gidwani Madam

Thank you for always motivating us to be bold, bright and upright women. I am extremely grateful for your support to achieve my dream to pursue my education and career in Japan. I wish you peace and success in the future.

Best wishes,

Shienel Ambrose (BCA 2013)

Shienel

Dear Madam,

I am fortunate that I got a chance to thank you for everything you did to make me what I am today. I still remember your words on my convocation ceremony which still inspire me to do the best. I really appreciate your time and efforts. You will always be my biggest and greatest role model. I will always try to make you proud of me. I will really miss you madam. Thank you!!

Tyoti Sharma  
B.Sc. (Computer Science)  
2016 Passed out.



# STUDENT SALUTATIONS

She was one of the few humble and honest authorities I've ever seen in India. She was always the one who sincerely tries to help. I was always comfortable going and talking to her. She allowed such a space.

Grace Yun (TYBA)

Ma'am inspires me to be patient, however difficult the problem, how to patiently and calmly solve the issue is something I've learnt from her. Similarly, she is always smiling and her smile automatically makes you feel cheerful and happy.

Freny Daruwalla



Dear ma'am,  
It is said that "In life never remain under anyone's shadow except that of a great teacher-" and we all are blessed to be under your shadow. Now even as we are bidding you farewell, truly we aren't doing that as when it comes to teachers there is no such thing; gurus are always with us through their teachings.

It was indeed an honour and a privilege being part of this college with you and creating memories that will last forever.

I would say "A principal, a teacher, a guide, a friend like you is really an asset to all of us. Thank you for shaping our lives with knowledge and wisdom. We truly will miss you!

Devyani Rupeeja (TYBCS)



Principal Ma'am has always been a pillar of strength for us. Her soft-spoken nature and down to earth attitude always made us feel warm and loved. She's the best principal any student could ever have! Thank you, ma'am, for being there for us and giving us the opportunity to grow and shine. Your presence will be missed.

Zoha Sabooni (TYBBA)

This institution and we students will miss you a lot and will continue to look up to you as we always have.

Thank you for everything you have done for us.

Riddhi Wadhvani (SYBBA)



I would like to thank you from the deepest of my heart for being such a perfect example and inspiration for us to follow. You have always been a firm foundation and strength for our institute and ma'am you shall not only be forever cherished but also appreciated for your incredible knowledge, imparting skills, contributions and constant selfless support. I would like to wish you lots of luck, love, good health, prosperity and the very best for all your future endeavours.

Zainnaab Kapadia (TYBBA)





# TO A DEDICATION DIFFICULT TO FIND

All these years at St. Mira's and in my wildest dreams I never imagined writing this. Every morning as I rushed through the office area to reach my class, one sight caught my attention always! The warm light, through the window graced with curtains, in the "Principal's Office". Weird as it may sound, that view made me wonder a thousand things - What is it that makes ma'am so influential? What is it that makes ma'am a successful leader and educator? How courageous is ma'am to shoulder the responsibility of an entire institution!

Today, as I speak with you through this piece of writing, ma'am, I'd like to thank you

for showing us that 'Leadership' is not about sitting on a chair; it's about what you do that makes your people proud of you. I thank you for leading us by example, not by authority. Yours is a dedication difficult to find; a rationale rare to the human mind and a kind of humility hard to define. This reminds me of when a bunch of girls were waiting outside the office and as you passed, you looked at them and said, "Why are you so worried? Just smile!" I will never forget how that made me feel! The pandemic gave us yet another example of your love, care and consideration for each and every one of us and beyond. Your message made it clear that we are all companions in this journey and that calmed our anxious hearts and confused minds. I have been fortunate enough to have bloomed under the light of your vision and I am proud to have been part of the institution that you led for more than 17 years.

I thank you, ma'am, for every second you invested in us, for every choice you made

for our progress, for encouraging us, for believing in our potential and for widening our horizons. But one thing I will never be able to thank you for is empowering generations of women learners to do more, to be more!



Rashida Jeewanjee  
MA

# HUMARI GIDWANI MA'AM

सुंदर सी मुस्कराहट, असीम विश्वास  
एक व्यक्तित्व जिसने किए हैं अथक प्रयास!  
बड़े होना होता है सबसे कठिन  
परिवार को दिशा दिखाना होता है,  
बिखरे टूटे अगर एक भी धागा परिवार का  
तो समेटकर जुटाना पड़ता है,  
फेमिनिज्म की लहर दौड़ी है  
उसे जारी रख  
मीराज़ क नाम आगे बढ़ाया है,  
दादाजी के विचारो को रखकर मन मे  
आपने अपना कर्तव्य निभाया हैं,

हैंड, हारडवक के मूलमंत्र को  
आपने सच कर दिखाया है,  
अपने प्रतिभाशाली व्यक्तित्व से आपने  
हर पहलू को बखूबी संजोया है,  
जिनके होने से रोशन हुआ है  
मीराज़ का परिवार,  
जिनके अधीन कई छात्राओं ने हासिल किए सपने हजार  
वो हस्ती हैं आप!  
जिसने अपने कार्य से शब्दों को सजीव कर दिखाया है  
ऐसी है हमारी गिडवानी मैम!



Priyanka Chaurasiya  
TYBA

# आमचा प्राध्यापिका

शाळेमधून जेव्हा महाविद्यालयात प्रवेश केला तेव्हा घरचे म्हणाले ' आता शाळेत होत्या तशा खूप काळजी घेणाऱ्या शिक्षिका नसतील बरं का...' पण कॉलेज मध्ये आले तेव्हा कळले की शाळे सारख्या काळजी घेणाऱ्या नाही तर त्या ही पेक्षा जास्त काळजी घेणाऱ्या शिक्षिका मला मिळाल्या आहेत. आणि ह्या सगळ्या शिक्षकांचा शिक्षिका म्हणजे सेंट मिराज कॉलेज फार गर्ल्स चा प्राध्यापिका डॉ. गुलशन गिडवाणी मॅम, ज्या स्वतःपेक्षा जास्त मुलिंचाच विचार करतात.

असं म्हणतात की शिशिका म्हणजे दुसरी आई आणि गिडवाणी मॅम बाबतीत हे तंतोतंत खरे आहे.म्हणजे कुठलीही छोटी- मोठी अडचण आम्ही मुली त्यांच्याकडे घेऊन गेलो तरी शांतपणे, समंजसपणे त्या चुटकी सरशी ती अडचण दूर करतात. ही अडचण फारच छोटी आहे ह्या मध्ये मला कशाला अडकवताय असा कसलाच विचार न करता आमचे मुद्दे त्या नेहमीच शांतपणे ऐकतात. त्यांच्याशी बोलल्यावर आपल्या माणसाकडे मन हलके केल्यासारखे वाटते.

प्राध्यापिका म्हणून जी शिस्त असायल हवी ती त्यांच्यामध्ये आहेच पण त्यांच्याकडे बघूनच खूप आपुलकी व जिद्दवाळा वाटतो.

त्यांचं वागणं बोलणं अगदी नेतकेसे आहे. दुसऱ्यांना शांतपणे समजावणे, आपले मत न लादता, त्याची योग्यता त्या आम्हा मुलींना खूप नीट सांगतात. २०२० हे वर्ष अवघड होते. विद्यार्थी म्हणून शिकणं जसे आम्हाला आव्हानात्मक होते;तसेच कॉलेज मध्ये कुणी उपस्थित नसताना ते सुरळीतपणे चालवणे तेवढेच अवघड होते. पण आम्हा मुलींचा खूप विचार करून त्यांनी ह्या वर्षाला देखील सुंदर आकार दिला.

गिडवाणी मॅम, तुम्ही आम्हाला प्राध्यापिका म्हणून लाभलात हे खरंच आमचे भाग्य आहे. फक्त म्हणायचे म्हणून नाही तर, या जगात कसं वावरायचं, लोकांना कसं समजून घ्यायचं आणि आपल्या सहकाऱ्यांना घेऊन कसं पुढे जायचे हे सगळे आम्हाला शिकवल्याबद्दल खरंच खूप खूप धन्यवाद.

Aadya Ghalsasi  
TYBA

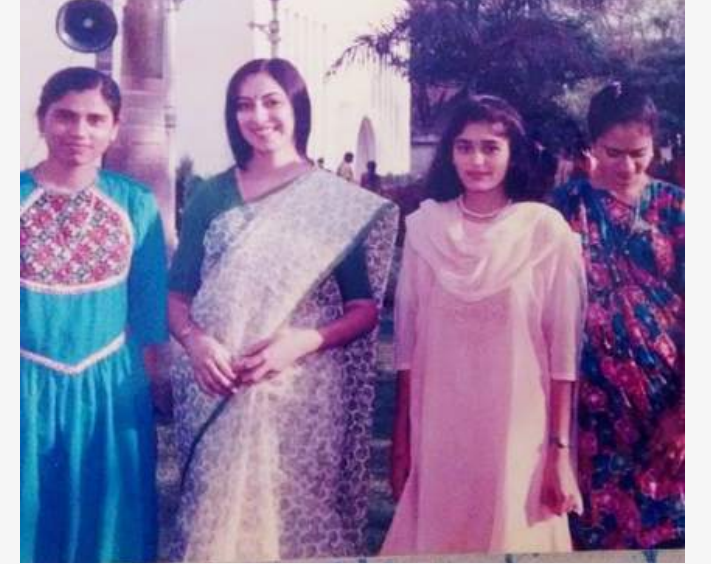




# आदरणीय मॅम,

तुम्ही सेवानिवृत्त होत असताना आम्ही तुम्हाला काय शुभेच्छा द्यायच्या असा विचार मनात आला. आणि मग सहज उमगले की आमच्या मनात तुमच्यासाठी असलेले प्रेम तुमच्याकडे पत्राद्वारे पोहचवणे ह्या सुद्धा उत्तम शुभेच्छा आहेत. सूर्य जसा पृथ्वी पासून खूप खूप दूर असूनही त्याच्या किरणांनी पृथ्वीला उबदार ठेवतो अगदी तसेच तुम्ही तुमच्या 'ज्ञानाच्या किरणांनी' आमचे महाविद्यालयीन जीवन उबदार केले आहे.

आणि या ज्ञानाचा उपयोग करून आम्ही पुढे सुद्धा उत्तम आयुष्य जगू असे आम्ही आश्वासन देतो. मॅम तुम्ही आमच्यातल्या कित्येक जणांना वैयक्तिकरीत्या एखादा विषय शिकवला नसेलही पण अगदी नकळत तुम्ही महाविद्यालयात वावरताना आम्हाला उत्तम वागणुकीचे धडे दिले. महाविद्यालयात इकडे तिकडे धावताना आम्हाला कितीही गडबड असली तरी समोरून तुम्हाला शांतपणे प्रत्येकाकडे आवर्जून पाहून स्मितहास्य करीत येताना पाहिले की पाऊले जागच्या जागी थांबायची आणि तुम्ही दिलेल्या स्मितहास्याने मन अगदी आनंदी व्हायचे. तुम्हाला कामाचा इतका व्याप असूनही तुम्ही कधीच तुमचे ते तेजस्वी स्मितहास्य कधीच ढळू दिले नाहीत. सेवानिवृत्त होत असताना तुम्ही हाच आनंद असाच इतरांना देत राहा आणि स्वतःही मनमुराद आनंद घ्यावा हीच आमची सदिच्छा. कोणी तरी खरेच म्हटले आहे, " शिक्षक कधीच सेवानिवृत्त होत नसतो." आणि आम्हाला खात्री आहे की सेवानिवृत्ती तुम्हाला ज्ञान दानासारखे महान कार्य करण्यापासून थांबवू शकत नाही. तुम्ही तुमच्या विनम्र आचरणातून इतरांना प्रेरित केले आहे आणि असेच करत राहणार आणि त्यासाठी तुम्हाला खूप खूप शुभेच्छा!



Abhirami Misal  
TYBA



# THE DOORS TO OUR HEARTS

Dr. Gulshan Gidwani has been the backbone of our college since forever. If one wants to witness true women empowerment, she is the person one should look at. No matter what society says or believes, if we practice what we preach, nothing can stop us from being what we want to be.

Every Sanctuary would be incomplete without her. Her stories and facts that she used to talk about so effortlessly gave inspiration to us every day and one can never intend to forget these moments and instead always wants to cherish them. Her achievements speak a lot about her and how our college has prospered over the years with each passing day.

She has not only contributed as a principal to the college but has also been engaged in other social activities and has represented our college on various platforms. Under her, our college became the first autonomous college in the city and to be accredited by "NAAC". This is the essence of the presence that she created.

She has been a friend to the girls of our college more than being the principal and has made people around her comfortable always. She is ready to give every kind of help that is possible of her and has had an unbiased opinion towards students every time.

These words are nothing in comparison to the feathers she has added to the cap of our college. But we can surely say that every student who has been or is a part of St. Mira's has never been disappointed by her work and have rather, valued her contributions. Most of us even consider her to be our role model. It gives us the motivation to work so hard, knowing at the back of our minds that come what may, the world can stop guiding us for once, but our principal never will.

It's never a goodbye and you will always be looked upon by us and we would always love to have you around in any capacity. The doors of St. Mira's will always remain open for you forever,  
just like our hearts.

Vasudha Ramani  
FYBA





# MAY OUR PATHS CROSS AGAIN

A vibrant smile that brightened our days,  
A voice that bolstered us in a million ways.  
The leader who taught us to always be humble,  
The hand that held us whenever we'd stumble.  
From you, we learnt the lessons of life,  
Our earnest blessing was your wise advice.

To the one who made our college home,  
And this home has given us love unknown.  
Without you, this home will be lifeless,  
Its rooms would look pale & the walls colourless.  
Your warmth & affection will truly be missed.  
Your palpable purity will forever be cherished.

But goodbyes are not synonymous with dead  
ends,  
Our love for you here-on grows & extends.  
We are gushed with the spirit that you kindled,  
With your affection, our hearts are bundled.  
We wish you success on every journey you  
embark,  
We wish that someday again there is a criss-  
cross in our path.



Simran Bhatia  
TYBCA





# THANK YOU, DEAR MENTOR

My perception of Principals and Deans of colleges had been influenced heavily by Bollywood characters like Viru Sahastrabudde from 3 Idiots and Dr. Asthana from Munna Bhai. When I stepped into St. Mira's, I was expecting a similar head of the institution to walk in and greet us. Things actually were vastly different the first time I interacted with Dr. Gulshan Gidwani: from her warm smiles to her serene gait, everything about her had an aura of erudition and kindness.

The Principal of the college is the face of the institution, the head who guides the faculty as well as the pillar of strength that supports its student body. Over the course of my years at Mira's, I have come to see her as a reflection of everything the Mira Movement stands for: wisdom, love, service and empowerment of women through education. As a Principal, she always pushed for the integration of education with enjoyment. She has always been encouraging of any and all ideas which would benefit the students—be it the formation of a new club, an intra-collegiate competition or a new department fest altogether! She thus made it possible for the campus life at Mira's to have scholarship as well as vivacity.

One of my fondest memories of our beloved Principal is from when she came to see a play put up by my friends and I. It was a parody of some of Shakespeare's famous works and I hadn't expected Dr. Gidwani to be present right in the front seats, watching us so attentively. It wasn't a competition, nor were we representing the college in any way other than just being from the same department at St. Mira's. But she took the effort to come watch the play and lauded us on our performance later. What's more—she remembered the play very fondly and recognised me when we were performing another play almost a year later.



I think such small occurrences really go a long way to show how well she cares for her students by giving careful attention to their interests and activities. She takes pride in their achievements, which in turn motivates us to be a student and alumni she can be proud of.

Dear ma'am, I would like to thank you for being patient with us and for making our college environment a space of independent thought and moral learning. I feel grateful that as students and alumna of the Institute we had the opportunity to learn from you and pray that this knowledge and skills help us to expand the community of joy and amity you had built for us. I pray for your health and happiness and hope you carry the time and memories with us at St. Mira's as your fond souvenirs as you step into your retirement.

Shreya Humnabadkar





# THE SPORTS GROUP:

आदरणीय प्रधानाचार्या जी,

- \* जब से आपने प्रधानाचार्या का पदभार सक्षम तरीके से संभाला, सेंट मिराज कॉलेज को नई ऊंचाइयों पर पहुँचाया। अध्यापकों तथा अन्य कर्मचारियों से हमेशा सौहार्दपूर्ण व्यवहार किया, आपकी स्नेहपूर्ण स्मृति हमें हमेशा तब तक विद्यार्थिजीवों का दिल जीत लिया।
- \* सबको कॉलेज के अनुशासन से अवगत कराया और कॉलेज को NAAC की तरफ से 'A' ग्रेड गौरवान्वित किया। कला, वाणिज्य, विज्ञान शाखाओं की ओर विशेष ध्यान दिया, उनकी प्रगति के लिए अनेक उपक्रमों का आयोजन किया।
- \* मीरा बाजार, क्रिकेट दिवस, विज्ञान दिवस, खेल दिवस, गेस्ट लेक्चर्स, सेमिनारस ने तो कॉलेज में धूम मचा दी। आपकी विशेष उपस्थिति से इन कार्यक्रमों को और भी रोचक बनाया।
- \* स्पोर्ट्स ग्रुप को तो आपने खूब प्रोत्साहित किया, हररोज बढ़िया खुराक दिलाकर जिम तक का भी इंतजाम किया। स्पोर्ट्स टिचर्स से हमेशा विचार-विनिमय किया तथा हमारा विजयश्री प्राप्त करने के लिए हौसला बढ़ाया आपके साथ बिताए हुए इन सुंदर पलों को आज दोबारा हमें याद किया और आपको अलविदा कहते हुए आँखें नम हुईं और मन भर आया।



*Daisaku Ikeda (A Japanese Philosopher) says & quote -*  
*The path of mentor and disciple is the supreme path of human life. It is a path of justice and a path of hope. It is a path of happiness and victory... Outstanding mentors raise outstanding disciples. Outstanding disciples later go on to become outstanding mentors to others. The path of mentor and disciple continues forever.*  
*(I unquote)*

*Today on behalf of each and every girl of the sports group, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our Dearest Principal Ma'am for all the love, support and encouragement she has given us. I remember all the good times and cherishing all the special moments of victory and your sweet words of wisdom.*  
*Ma'am you have done everything so that we could get a proper nutritious diet including milk, dry-fruits, seeds and nuts and seasonal fruits. Whatever things a student required irrespective of their financial condition you've always reached out and helped them by providing with the best of track-suits, sweatshirts, shoes etc. Even our gym had a makeover and you provided us with the latest gym equipments. Every meeting with you ended on a sweet note by giving us goodies and boosting our morale and confidence.*  
*You're always there for us like a strong pillar. You have filled every role with so much of grace. Like a caring mother, an understanding friend, a motivational powerhouse, adored by work force, scrupulously fair, always right, benevolent, kind and generous.*

*Your contribution to this institution is immense and commendable! I thank-you once again from the bottom of my heart.*

WE LOVE YOU MA'AM!



# OUR VERY OWN SEROTONIN BOOST

"The students are our first priority and their issues will be addressed in the next meeting." Not a lot of colleges have this approach. Not a lot of students get this kind of reply from their Principal. But luckily at St. Mira's College for Girls, this is followed to the T.

The charm of St. Mira's Senior College is that it creates a sense of community among the students and teachers. A big part of what makes our college feel like such a home is our Principal Ma'am, Dr. Gulshan Gidwani. She emits this warm and welcoming aura like the first rays of the sun on a winter morning. Just being around her and in her presence makes a person feel so happy and so warm. She is a motherly presence and all of us strive to make her as proud as possible. She has supported all the endeavours that the Theatre Club for one has put up in the last year relentlessly. She has helped us grow from the seed that we were to the strong tree that we have managed to create. Everything that went to her- every mail correspondence that I had with her has been so positive and empowering, propelling me to do better and be better. Her appreciation and involvement in our activities makes it feel like she is one of us and not a commanding authority figure. We respect her out of love and adoration and not out of fear.

Isha Karandikar  
TYBA

# THE TEACHERS SPEAK

Dear Gulshan Ma'am,

No matter what my rational mind tells me about how change is an inevitable process, my emotional side finds it difficult to even imagine the idea of your retirement. Such is the impact that you have had on my life!!!

To me, you signify a leader who has the ability to get extraordinary achievement from ordinary people; who always leads from the front and gives away all credit generously to her team for any success but weathers all the backlash for any setbacks; a leader who cares deeply and authentically for every member of her team and a leader who is so grounded and rooted in spirituality, that the beauty of your being shines through.

You have always stood by me like a rock, not only in your words but also in action for the toughest phases in my life. You have given me the courage and contained my anxiety to take a leap of faith in many unconventional work decisions, always showing me the reason as to why we need to do it. Your words "Do what is right, do not do what is easy" will always be my guiding force.

Maya Angelou said,

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

And what you have made me feel in every interaction over these years are treasures for a lifetime. Life is beautiful not because of the things we see or do. Life is beautiful because of the people we meet!

Wishing you the very best in everything your heart desires to do and be,

Jaya Rajagopalan



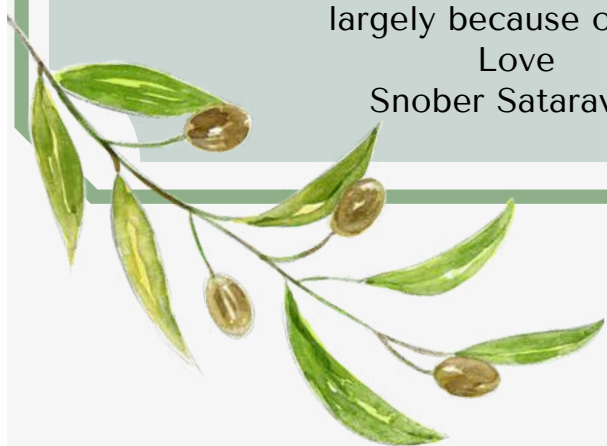


Dear Ma'am,  
You inspire me! Why? This has probably been the most challenging year for any leader and you faced it with strength and clarity. You always put the students first and that is what education is about. You walk the talk and autograph everything with excellence- including your signature. You are always always there for us.

What is so endearing about you? Your grace! You always speak to us with gentle respect. You are lovely. Having said that, you have a sense of humour which is so sweet. Your patience. You accept us even though we are such a diverse group of people. Your dignity which gives us dignity.

Thank you so much for being part of my life. For your support during my darkest hours, for celebrating with me when life has been wonderful. Joining Mira's has been the best thing that happened to me and it is largely because of you.

Love  
Snober Sataravala



Respected Madam,  
Joining Mira's is one of the best decisions of my life. The working atmosphere is very cordial and peaceful. The first time I met you I was struck by your beauty and simplicity. I was awestruck by the way you carried yourself with poise and dignity. I was pleasantly surprised when you called me to congratulate me on my daughter's success in the board exams. You explained to me why I was given the role of an exam officer and you trusted me for this job in a very simplified manner. My in-laws were fully in praise of you when I showed them the condolence message you had sent when my mother-in-law passed away. You have pampered us like a mother and been strict with us like a father. At the same time, you have been friendly like a sister and protective like a brother. So you are an all in one family for us. I pray to God to bless you with happiness and good health. Thank you for showing us how a woman of substance should be!

With regards,  
Anitha Menon





Dear ma'am,

I have always been in awe of you. Everything about you is awe-inspiring to me: your grace, your beauty, your strength and perseverance, your kindness and your dedication, your spirituality. It is inspiring to be around you because you always prioritize work and your commitment as well as affection towards students is something we all learn from every day. You have always encouraged us, listened to us and supported us through everything and that is what makes you a great leader. It is comforting to know that we can always count on you.

We will miss the enthusiasm you bring to our service towards education and we hope to carry forward your hopes and dreams for the college. I am grateful to have met you, known you, learned from you and grown under your guidance. I hope you can now find more time to be with your pets, to paint and embroider, to travel and relax and do all those things you pushed for later because you prioritized your students, your work and us. Wishing you all the best for your future.

Love,  
Komal Tujare

To,  
The Wind Beneath our Wings!

Our Dearest Principal Ma'am,  
"Being a good leader isn't about having power over others but about Empowering others." This statement is so true about you ma'am. I have always been in awe about how you recognize the hidden skills and potentials in us and help us to enhance them. Your actions inspire us to learn more, do more, dream more and become more. You are one of the most inspiring individuals I have ever met. We all are so grateful for impacting our lives with your honesty, integrity and simplicity. You are a leader, an idol, a role model and a person we are truly proud of. You know how to bring about the best in all of us.

Thanks for being Be-YOU-tiful!!

Love,  
Sharmin Palsetia



Dear Principal Ma'am,

I started my career with you being my principal. Nothing has been more gratifying in my profession than having you as my boss. You've not only played the role of just a Principal but also a mentor.

I have learned a lot from you.

On a professional front, over your tenure, you really inspired me with your work ethic, hard work, perfection and determination to excel. We witnessed so many progressive years under your guidance and support.

You have touched me on a personal note as well. There were times when I really needed someone to show me guiding light, resolve dilemmas and motivate me. And yes, you have been that torch of light for me. I am grateful for those spiritual pearls of wisdom that you bestowed on me. I appreciate all your words of encouragement and everything I have learned from you. Wish you a smooth sailing ahead and a path full of joy.

Regards,  
Rajni Singh



# Dear Dr. Gidwani,

I have had the privilege to know you and work with you, through your academic journey as Teacher, as HoD, Commerce, as Vice Principal and then as Principal. Your journey in the field of Education has spanned a period of more than 43 years, of which I can proudly say that I have been a small part- for 33 years of my life-a period which I cherish.

I have worked with three Principals of the College. Each of them had their own style of functioning. I felt comfortable with Mrs R.A. Vaswani- as Principal, she was the motherly figure , one could go to when one needed help-both personal and professional. Mrs Jethwani especially, helped me in her capacity as my HOD and then you- Ma'am took over, as the youngest Principal to steer this College. I think Ma'am, the Management had a vision when they placed you as our leader. You were young, dynamic, exhibited leadership qualities and had the ability to take everyone along as the College progressed. I have observed that you have steered all faculty to exercise academic freedoms as long as the interests of the College were met.

I want to share glimpses of your personality which others may not know. On a personal note, when I had just learnt to drive a car and was fumbling to reverse and park the same, you offered to help and did. Thank you, Ma'am.

On the academic front, you deputed Ms. Padma Senji (then, HoD, Economics) and I, to attend an Economics Fest organized by a well-known Mumbai College, to get exposure to host events. On the institutional front, you knew that I spoke only in my Economics lectures with passion and then convinced me to speak in Sanctuary, since the time you became Principal. I am grateful to you for that because it helped me to grow as an individual.



If ever, we had differences of opinion on any issue, they were not settled with harsh words but always on an amicable note. One of your noblest qualities is that if you have to reprimand or reproach anyone - it is in private; but when appreciation is to be shown, it is always in the public domain.

Throughout your academic journey, you have been armed with a dream in your mind, a faith in your heart and a willingness to 'Give'. With abundant blessings from our Founder, Sadhu T.L. Vaswani and spiritual Mentor, Dada J.P. Vaswani, you have strived to equip every student of the College, with the triple training of the Head (Academics and Value Education), the Hand (Sports, Self-defense) and the Heart (Community Outreach and Mental Well Being). Thank you Ma'am, for instilling in our students', an education focusing on character building.

We have only you to thank Ma'am, for carving the path towards academic autonomy (2007), for the College and for successfully steering the institution through 3 cycles of NAAC with an 'A' grade accreditation.

I would like to quote Gen Douglas MacArthur, an American five star General and Field Marshal of the Philippines Army, which I feel, encapsulates some of the qualities I admire in you.

*"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions & the integrity of his intent."*

Shalini Iyer





# Dear Gulshan Ma'am,

*“Work is love made visible.*

*For if you bake bread with indifference, you bake a bitter bread that feeds but half man’s hunger.*

*And what is it to work with love?*

*It is to weave the cloth with threads drawn from your heart, even as if your beloved were to wear that cloth.”*

This is one of my favourite quotes by Khalil Gibran. And the only person living up to this quote is you Gulshan ma'am. You are one of those rare people who consider work as worship and sacred. The integrity, love, caring, and wisdom with which you lead the institution is something I admire the most. Your skill of turning the ordinary workspace into a wonderful workspace is very well appreciated. Your calmness and patience in every difficult and testing moment are astounding. Your tenderness and kindness are the signs of your strength and resolution.

You have an extraordinary gift to discover the potential of people and entrust in them the work they will enjoy. You are an amazing and very approachable boss, a very loving and compassionate friend, a very creative person, a very empathetic leader...and the list is unending. You never stop surprising us. Your blessings, advice, love, and care are always needed for me and for all of us. I know you are always a phone call away and yes, still I am gonna miss you terribly. Thank you for being a great source of inspiration for me. Thank you for being always there for me.

Wish you all the best in all your future plans, great health, and peaceful years ahead.

Lots of love and hugs,

Vaishali Diwakar



# Dear Ma'am,

It's been a wonderful journey of my service in these years with Mira and under your guidance, inspiration and leadership. I remember only a few times in these 17-18 years when I felt that I did not want to come to college but otherwise it's always been a new day, a new beginning and enthusiasm to come in. That's the kind of atmosphere we are blessed to have under your leadership. It was through your perseverance and endurance to teach people what they ought to know, that we will always look up to you. Your boldness and selflessness will always guide us. Thank you for the support, guidance and encouragement you have provided for me. You are a person who accepts us as a flower and nurtures us to grow until we are fully bloomed and spread our fragrances through her knowledge. We are grateful to you for making us ready to have our journey in society.

Wish you all the best and happy, healthy, and peaceful years ahead!

Swatee Sarwate

# With best wishes,

Respected Ma'am, you have been a force to reckon with in this college. Your dignity and grace in carrying yourself and in facing everyday ordeals are phenomenal.

I wish you nothing but peace, love, and happiness. I hope you have all those wonderful things life has to offer. Wishing you good health today and forever.

Sandhya Pandit





Respected Ma'am,  
A Great Motivator. A True  
Mentor.  
Compassionate. A Nurturer of  
Students.  
An Honest and Dedicated Leader.  
And a Quintessential Role Model.  
All the above qualities describe  
you aptly, ma'am.

We consider ourselves very  
fortunate to have you as our  
Principal under whose leadership  
we have developed and  
progressed.

This institution has seen new  
heights because of your persistent  
progressive ideas and their  
implementation.

Wishing you good health and  
happiness in the years ahead.

With regards,  
Nilima Patil



Dear Ma'am,  
This transition is not easy for any of us,  
but your leadership and positive attitude  
has helped pull us through.

In my experience, you not only guided  
but also equipped us to do so and  
trusted that we will do it.

Thank you so much for being such an  
impactful leader and motivating us to  
strive for success daily.

Your dedication towards Dada and the  
college cannot be described in the  
words.

Morning prayers were a wonderful  
practice initiated by you. You always  
thought about the overall development  
of your staff, which was reflected when  
you have organised 'Brahmakumaris'  
discourses and dance sessions for staff.  
Thank you for creating such a welcoming  
and positive tone on campus, and setting  
a wonderful example for other teachers  
and staff members.

We are very fortunate to have you as our  
Principal. Your impact has really made a  
difference. You are a principal whose  
legacy will be remembered fondly.

Yours,  
Kajal Jaisinghani



Dear Madam,  
I feel a little overwhelmed writing this  
note to you. You have always been a  
source of inspiration, from simple  
things like graceful draping of a saree  
and a sense of matching outfits to the  
most complex things like handling  
emergency situations and leading the  
staff in a calm and composed manner.

I have experienced your core  
spirituality and have myself gained  
strength from it in my most difficult  
times. I adore your smile. I wonder  
how easily you compose and write in  
devotion to Dada. I wonder how one  
individual can have so many qualities. I  
feel fortunate to have such a wonderful  
person as a Boss, who is a true role  
model. I wish you good health and  
happiness in future.

Loads of Love,  
Vaishali Joshi





# With love,

Give! Give! Give! Give without expectation or reward. Give the best in you.

– Dada J P Vaswani

The perfect quote that describes you. Your smile and radiance reflects with positivity every time I meet you and it brightens up the place. You have been a great source of inspiration and motivation. Working under your leadership was a great learning experience for me. You empowered me with the power of knowledge and always encouraged ideas that were unconventional and beneficial for the students. And I am really grateful to have experienced your guidance and mentorship. Thank you for being you. I wish you endless happiness and love.



Love Always,

## Abhradita Chatterjee Nahvi

I have always been a great fan of your pleasant, charming and graceful personality. I have observed you as a 'Principal with Principles'. You affect people in a positive way. You have an extraordinary way to approach people and help them. I thank you for all your support and guidance throughout. I wish you a very happy and healthy life ahead.

## Ashwini Khaire



A Principal like you is surely an asset to a college. You will be remembered for your guidance and leadership approach. Dear Madam on your farewell, I wish you all the best and we will miss you.

## Monika Rajguru

# To our Dear Principal,

What an amazing person you are, balancing both your personal and professional life so beautifully with strong divine and human connection. You are so creative and innovative. Your plans and actions are so perfect. Your love, warmth, compassion for all living creatures is truly commendable. You are the true portrait of our Masters. I truly admire your personality and your beautiful smile. The way you mingle with all of us make us feel at home, and you are so humble.

God has gifted you with amazing listening power. The little patient listening and words of appreciation truly motivate us. You treat our problems, difficulties as your own. Thank you for being an important part of my life. You are my source of inspiration when I face challenges. You are my motivation, my Guru. You are the architect of my teaching career. Wish you a blessed birthday filled with lots of joy, good health, peace, prosperity and strength to serve the Master. Pray that the Almighty always guards and leads you in each step of your life.

With lots of Love and Best Wishes,

Shanthi Fernandes

You are a truly inspirational counsellor who always tries to bring out the best from us. I can't thank you enough for your support, patience and your faith in me and for entrusting me with the responsibility of exam work. I remember the day when I broke down and panicked during the conduction of an exam; you made me realise and believe in God and that he is there to take care of our efforts. Your reassuring words were stress-busters! Working under your leadership is a privilege for me. I wish you good health and a happy life always.

With love and respect,

Ashwini Kulkarni





# Dearest Ma'am,

I join in with all to express my deep appreciation, love and gratitude. Once you had remarked that those who come to St. Mira's do so because they're meant to be here and that there is an underlying force in their presence here. I am eternally grateful that it brought me to Mira's. I'd like to add that there is an additional force, who as a beacon attracts us all to herself and that is you.

There are so many things about you that are so wonderful- your ability to be as young as your students and as wise as your Gurus; your softness and gentleness that senses suffering and offers succour; your sharp quickness of intellect that grasps issues instantly; your beauty, grace and humility that wears your loveliness so lightly; your smile- so full of joy, care, and happiness. Never have I come away from your office without a feeling of warmth and well-being in my heart.

We are privileged to have had you as our Principal. We know that you will always be there for us as we for you; and that we are eternally bound together as members of the Mira family. As such, there are no goodbyes...

*"Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with heart and soul there is no such thing as separation."*

*~ Rumi*

With much love,

**Suhaile Azavedo**



# The mind asked for the most beautiful flower of the garden,

My Mira journey began with an indelible memory of my meeting with Principal Ma'am. And I must add here that I was mesmerized by the aura of tranquillity that prevailed in Ma'am's office. Sadhu T.L.Vaswani's picture adorned the left wall of Ma'am's table and the sheer radiance of her persona filled up all the space.

Serving at Mira's under Principal Ma'am's headship is an honour for all of us. You have always been our mentor and rendered the best of guidance and advice for improvement. Students and teachers are always encouraged and appreciated by you, Ma'am. I will always cherish the kind words, support and souvenirs of happiness with which you have blessed me and the students!

For you work is 'Sadhana', (in fact, I have always found a certain remarkable resemblance between you and the erstwhile actor Sadhanaji!) and I hope to emulate the dedication you have for education and the love and concern for students.

Dear Teacher's Teacher, strength and guide, God bless you with contentment and grant you good health. A true karma yogini on the spiritual path following the blessed words of Shri Krishna: Karmanye Vadhikaraste Ma Phaleshu Kada Chana... kindly accepts our good wishes for the new beginnings!

Love,

The garden whispered gently and filled the heart with a bloom of a thousand flowers...

Neena Dutta





# Dear Ma'am,

Lessons Learnt from you : "There is always scope for improvement."

One word that describes you : Graceful

Words of Gratitude : Thank you for your blind faith and support.

Farewell message : You will always be remembered in thick and thin.

Heartfelt wish : " Be by me!"

From a well wisher,  
Sawani Antarkar

## With great thanks,

I am not able to express what is in my mind. I have lots of memories with you since 2008.

I never forgot that because of your reference my daughter got admission in St. Mira's school. I was worried about admission, but that time I met you personally for admission, you replied, "Don't worry, she will get admission."

I never forgot those NAAC Committee Visit days, when I have spent more than one month with you. Because of that, my colleagues teased me, saying that 'you are my best, real friend in college'. I thank you for your support, love and inspiration. On your retirement day, wishing you lots of luck and good luck for your future life. I will miss you a lot ma'am!

Swati Pulate



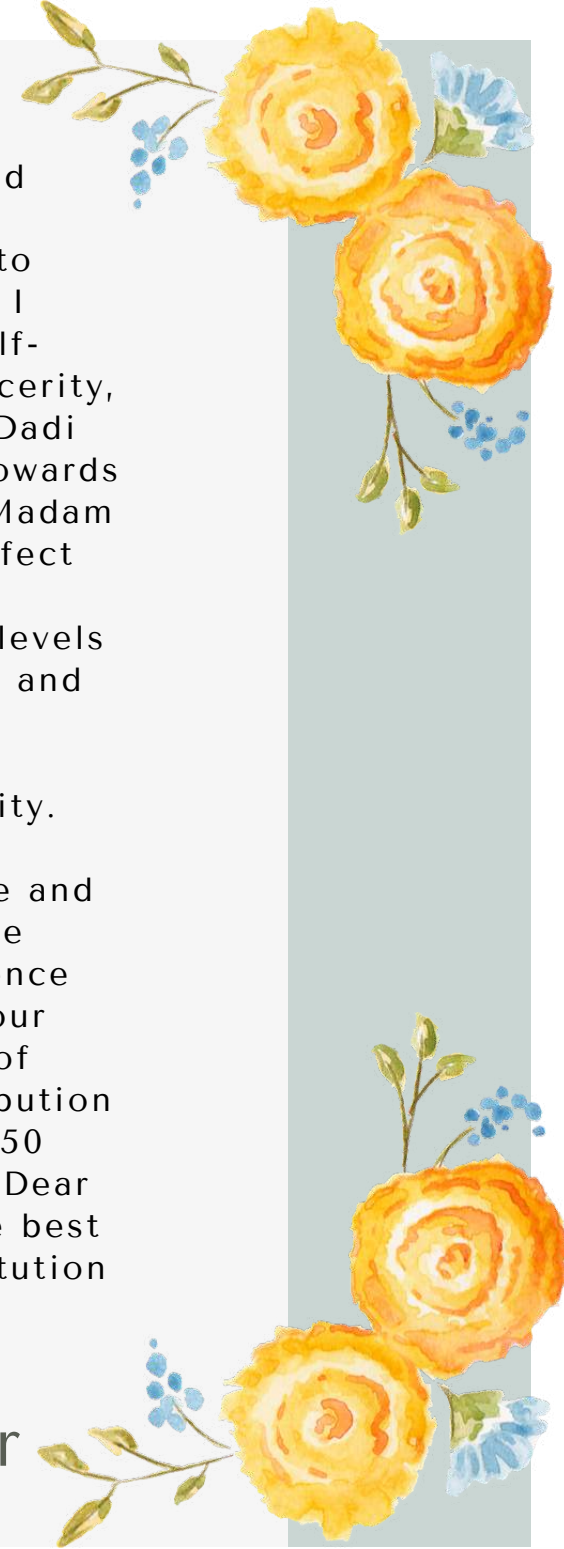
# Dear Madam Ji,

With all due respect, I take this opportunity along with the blessings of our beloved Dada J. P. Vaswani ji.

I had ventured into my college life from the year 1967 and was given the privilege to join the Mira family of St. Mira's College which ultimately took a better turn since I embraced the ideals of St. Mira's and its message of dignity, self assertion, and self-surrender. The ideals of our beloved Dada ji were simple mantras of hard work, sincerity, humility, dedication, and devotion towards sports. With the able guidance of dear Dadi Ratna Vaswani ji and you, who were always encouraging with a positive approach towards my performance in the field of Sports I could achieve the Best in my Sports Life. Madam ji; your active, sincere, moral guidance and encouragement has created a unique effect on our players. They could then achieve Remarkable, Outstanding performances in various games and athletic events at the state, national as well as at international levels and have brought glory to our college. You are the pillar of our Sports department, and therefore we wish to carry forward your hopes and dreams for the college.

We are so proud of our true leader, who is someone multi-talented, enthusiastic, creative, honest, adaptable, efficient, affectionate and who has a dynamic personality. The one having great patience, selflessness, kindness and endless dedication and devotion- is none other than our Dear Principal. You are a true woman of substance and I owe a big salute to you in life. My emotions cannot express the gratitude and the humility that I feel has been extended to me. I felt much obliged to see your presence at Mumbai for the prestigious "Jijamata State Sports Award" function in spite of your hectic schedule of College activities. I have no words to express my true feelings of when I was conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award in Appreciation for my Contribution for Sports by the students of St. Mira's College. I would like to give credit for my 50 Golden Years of Sports Achievement to late Babu Gaikwad sir ji and our Principal, Dear Gulshan Madam ji, who has always stood behind me in my endeavors to achieve the best in my life. I always pray to the Almighty to give me the strength to serve this institution with blessings of all my Guru's. I owe everything to our spiritual mentor Dada J. P. Vaswani ji, dear Dadi Ratna Vaswani ji, and Dr. Gidwani.

Gurbans Kaur





# A Tribute to a Kind Soul,

I have worked for 15 years under the guidance of Dr. Gulshan Gidwani, our dear Principal. The span of these years has been an enriching experience, both professionally and personally. Her crisp leadership qualities have chiselled me into an efficient, quality worker along with the ability to make a judicious usage of resources and to always strive to be proactive.

Her ability to pay attention to each and every aspect of the library, including the staff, continues to motivate us to create a strong team and to do our best.

Her love filled smile and trustful direction has the magic to encourage people to do their best.

Her emotional intelligence is par excellence. I will never forget the way she has supported me and the library staff during our difficult phases.

She has always taken care of the college as her own family.

I have even seen Ma'am working on her medical leave. We had gone to visit ma'am at her house because she had undergone a leg surgery and to our surprise, we saw her doing college work!

It is her devotion, dedication and her dynamic efforts that has made Dada Leela so powerful to leave everyone speechless and tearful after every show.

It is out of her caring nature that she arranged several developmental activities for the college for instance, dance sessions, Brahma Kumari's meditation sessions, advanced computer learning and many more.

Ma'am has always paid special attention to the library which gave impetus to increasing the sanctity of the library.

I wish ma'am a blessed, peaceful and healthy post retirement life. I will carry her inspiring work ethic with me for the rest of my days.

Thank you ma'am for these wonderful, awe inspiring years!

Devinder Kaur



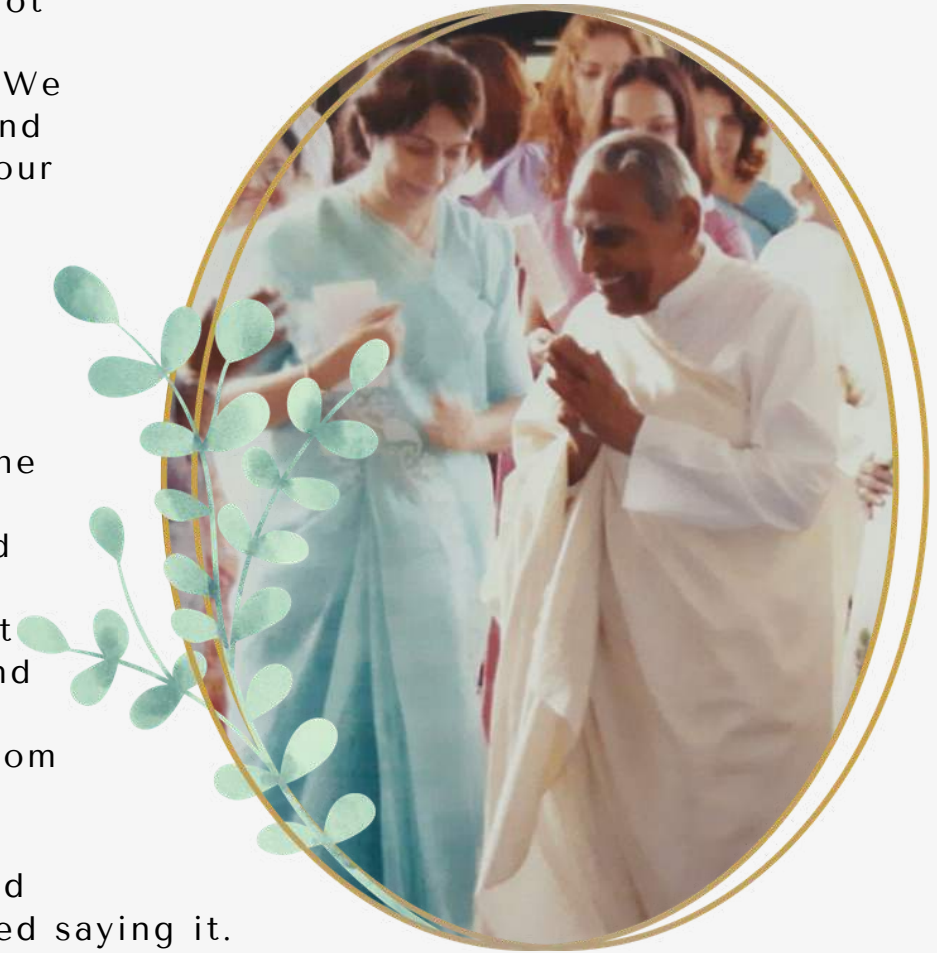
# Dear Ma'am,

I was privileged to be your student almost three decades ago. As a teacher, you were the most loved and admired teacher, not only by me but by the entire class. We just waited for your lectures and would be awestruck when you entered the class. We admired your personality, not to mention your lovely sarees and your long hair, nicely plaited. You truly inspired us through your teachings, wisdom and thoughts.

Then, after my graduation, I moved on for higher studies and into the career path. It was sixteen years after my graduation that I got a glimpse of you when I came to submit my job application to the college. I was so thrilled to see you from a distance, but by the time I could come to greet you, you had left. I felt sorry but said to myself never mind, now it's just the start of my career with Mira's and I was very happy at the thought of getting the opportunity to be with my teachers and join my alma-mater. I was totally amazed to note that you looked just the same, you dressed and carried yourself, in just the same way, as so many years ago. I was really overjoyed and couldn't wait further. Since then, there has been no looking back, I have only moved forward, grown and learnt so much from you. Every interaction offers me something to carry back and absorb from it.

You have been always there to hear us out, and you listen and comprehend our point of view, even before we have completed saying it. Thank you so much ma'am for always being there, listening and making us feel loved and precious. You have continuously guided us with your planning and foresight.

You have been a pillar of strength for me and shown your love and affection in my difficult times. I got great strength to bounce back when I was very ill, listening to your words and reading your messages, gave me great strength and made me feel really very peaceful. Words are not sufficient to express my feelings for you in this regard. Sincere gratitude goes out to you, ma'am.





Going beyond that, you not only care for us but you are also equally concerned about our families and their well-being. When my mother, father and son used to be sick and underwent medical procedures, you always prayed, sent your good wishes and enquired about them. It was the first thing you would ask me, whenever you saw me in college. That's the reason, I always felt that the college is like a second home to me.

I treasure the lovely gifts that you have given all of us on different occasions like Makar Sankranti, Diwali, Teachers day etc. It is so very thoughtful of you to bring wonderful handmade gifts for all of us. Not to mention the sweets and eats which are so very special and nicely made, as you perfect them with your art.

I wish you all the very best for your future plans and wish you a very happy retirement. I pray to Almighty God to always protect you and keep you in the best health and shower all his blessings on you.

Thank you so much ma'am for being so patient with us and for everything that you have done for us.

With lots and lots of love,

**Rekha Kankariya**





# Dearest Principal Ma'am,

The first time I saw you was when you interviewed me... I just cannot forget how much I was impressed by you! Joining St. Mira's was the most perfect thing that happened in my life and working continuously for the last 16 years under your guidance has become the most flawless time of my life! I feel lucky that my career started at St. Mira's and the reason was you, as you selected me! I remember on the 3rd day of my joining you had asked me, "Are you enjoying teaching here?" I felt like a mother asking her kid whether he or she enjoys school. I will tell you, ma'am, I have been enjoying my teaching in Mira's from day one. We are truly blessed with such a beautiful and peaceful environment here. You contradict various assumptions about being a boss! You have made our life at Mira's so much easier and comfortable! You are a true leader— with great compassion, vision and courage who motivates for everything and appreciates the work! I will miss the chocolates you offer to appreciate something. You always have been a great supporter and admirer in anything and everything. I cannot believe that you are retiring!

You always supported me through difficult times – whether personal or professional – you tried to help in the best possible manner. In mathematical language, you are an optimal solution to our problems, who taught us to work under given constraints and achieve the target.

Your grace, beauty, dedication, spirituality always fascinates me. There are so many dimensions of your personality that have helped this institute and all of us to grow further. I hope you get more time for your hobbies and pets and I wish you an incredibly happy, healthy, and peaceful life ahead!

With love and respect,

Gitanjali Phadnis



# FROM THE OFFICE:

प्राचार्या मॅडम खूप चांगल्या आहेत.  
त्या खूप शिस्तप्रिय आहेत. सर्वांशी मिळून-  
मिसळून राहतात. प्रत्येक नवीन कामासाठी  
आम्हाला त्यांच्याकडून प्रेरणा मिळते.

कार्यालयीन कामांचा अनुभव नसताना  
देखील त्यांनी मला सांगायला घेतल  
याबद्दल मी त्यांची आभारी आहे.

Smitei

आमच्या प्राचार्या डॉ. गुलशन गिडवानी खूपच सुंदर व सगळ्या क्षेत्रांमध्ये प्रविण आहेत. त्या आम्हाला कायम सगळ्या  
कामांमध्ये मार्गदर्शन करतात व नवीन शिकायला प्रोत्साहन देत असतात.

कामच आहे त्यांचा श्वास

“जैसे कर्म तैसे फळ ” यावरच त्यांचा विश्वास

Salad, कोशिंबीर असे त्यांचे सात्विक खाणे

देवाच्या कृपेने त्यांना काही नाही उणे

त्या सर्वांच्या पाठीशी कायम खंबीरपणे उभ्या राहतात. आमच्या सुख दुखा : मध्ये त्या आम्हाला आधार देतात. प्रत्येक  
कार्यक्रमाच्या वेळेस त्यांचे भाषण ऐकताना खूप गर्व वाटतो की त्या आमच्या प्राचार्या आहेत. बायकांनी कुठल्याच क्षेत्रात मागे  
राहू नये असे त्यांना नेहमीच वाटते. दरवर्षी दिवाळीमध्ये स्वतःच्या हाताने बनविलेल्या भेटवस्तु खूपच मनाला भावून जाते.

सौ. आरती अमोल कुलकर्णी

Miss was my favourite teacher who  
taught me the Human Resource  
Management subject and also in my  
daily life. She is an Excellent Boss  
helping me to develop and encouraging  
me to grow by passing on valuable  
lessons. Her leadership has inspired me  
from time to time and has been a true  
gift.

Gauri Mhalgi

Ma'am has got the power of positive  
energy. She is a wonderful woman and  
took care of us every time. Mam has  
given me a job after my retirement, I  
am really grateful to her. She always  
used to encourage me.

Anju Bajaj

It was a great experience to work with  
a Principal like you. We feel sad to  
know that you will leave us soon. I feel  
privileged to have been guided and  
supported by such a dynamic and  
versatile person like you. I will forever  
cherish the memories of having worked  
with you.

Like a rare gem

Found in the depth of earth

You are one of these jewels

Of whom there is a dearth

Like a prized possession

Always kept safe and secure

Your teachings and lessons will be in

our hearts for sure!

Vandana Kardile

She is a leader who led us to make the  
right decision. Her knowledge  
benefited us every time when we got  
stuck in any problem. She is a Principal  
with her own Principles.

Tripti Sawant

Behind every great college is an amazing Principal, so is our Principal madam, who is kind-hearted,  
inspiring, dedicated and motivating. I thank her for guiding me in all the paths of my life! Thank you,  
ma'am!

Gauri Ghumatkar

I learned from ma'am how to keep accounts properly and how to manage the accounts.

Shraddha Joshi

Every Plane needs a Pilot and I am grateful you are our Pilot. You are a dynamic person and Boss!

Seema Thakore

Principal Madam used to give us a perfect solution and a quick decision for every problem related to  
our office work. I would like to thank her for guiding me and appreciating my work.

Fariya Inamdar

# THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKS

Had it always been your goal to become an educator? Why/ What made you change?

I come from a background that had a value-scape that was richly rooted in ethics, character and spirituality. I grew up, convinced, somehow, that I was Saint Mira incarnate.

My natural instinct was towards bhajan, kirtan...and the Sadhu Vaswani mission was and is, my home. I had no ambition to pursue a career. My entire journey has been travelled on 2 wheels; The Grace of my now ascended Master, Rev. Dada J.P.Vaswani, and my surrender to His Will.

I was a very shy and timid girl...who would never have imagined that she could stand up and face a class of 120 odd college students and speak to them for an hour at a stretch...but I took up the job as a lecturer in St. Mira's College, in answer to his call. I loved my students, and they loved me in return! I was happy and felt fulfilled. Teaching became my passion.



What is your philosophy as an educator?

An educator, I believe, must firstly be a learner herself, and, more importantly, an educator must be a friend, a role model. An educator teaches not by what one speaks but by befriending someone and by walking the talk.





Has there been any specific point in your career when you wanted to give up?  
What made you continue?

Every day for the last 43 years, it is you who have kept me inspired, motivated, energised and kept me going and every day I have learned from you. And every day, I have loved my profession. There has not been a single day that I have not looked forward to coming to college with a spring in my steps, a smile on my face and a song in my heart! You are the reason why every single day I have looked my best when coming to work. And it has never gone unnoticed by you! Thank you for that!



How would you sum up your expansive journey in the field of education?

I came into St. Mira's wide-eyed, nervous, but more than anything else, enchanted. I came into St. Mira's as a student in the KG class. And now 12 plus 4 plus 43 years later, I am leaving as a student, still learning, still wide-eyed, still enchanted with what this place was, is, and can be. For an educational institution, isn't a physical place. It isn't just the name, it isn't just the value system it represents and upholds, it isn't just a place you go to for work or for earning your livelihood. It is a place you can continue to go to whenever you think of it. Even after you have retired from it. One hears this about all important institutions, that they become almost like an archetype. Hence the word Alma Mater, which simply means, 'Nourishing Mother'. What does one get from a nourishing mother? What is it that continues to be a part of us when we leave an institution like this? Cherished memories, unforgettable experiences, valuable friendships, lifelong bonding...and, above all, an ethos. A way of living, a way of looking at relationships, of looking at life itself!



So many Miraites over the years have vouched for your virtues through their own experiences. Why do you think it's important to make student connections? How have you done so?

Over 43 years, time and again, when I have been walking in some street, in Pune, or anywhere in India or even abroad, I suddenly see a smiling face. A face that is looking at me beaming with the kind of joy one only displays openly with someone they look up to and love in equal doses. I seldom recollect the names I may not even be able to immediately recognise them by face, but the spark of recognition and the gleam of sunshine in their eyes, puts a spring in my steps and a song in my heart! And I know they have been my students! They come up to me and remind me and I can immediately see the young college going student, in this now grown-up woman, mother, sister, working professional, sportswoman, politician, policewoman, army woman, air hostess, and so many other things. That expression, for that I would give another 43 years, many many more times, to this profession, to this institution.

Nothing I can put down on paper can equal that sense of pure bliss because it is a feeling, an intoxication above everything else, and encompasses all of the above, into something warm and worthwhile.



What is your vision for St. Mira's (and education for women) in the future?

My father used to love the idea of giving back more to this world than you take, and I hope with this institution I've been able to come close to that. And if there's anything I'd like to leave with successive teachers and principals and students most of all, it is this idea, that true love is about giving, over oneself.





## Were there any experiences in your tenure that **stood out** to you?

Actually there have been countless incidents that I recall where my small acts of kindness have made great impacts on students, which they have narrated to me, years later. I could, maybe, I should write a book, someday.

One incident that I recall is... we had a student who, according to our discipline committee, needed to be dealt with strictly. She used to write on benches, on walls, in the toilets, everywhere.

I felt, contrary to the collective wisdom of my faculty, that she needed to be handled differently. So I called her to my room and asked her to choose one area in the college which she could use to vent out her expressions. Of course, she apologised profusely and said she would refrain from doing so.

She was, however, back in my room a week later, saying, she would accept my offer. She wanted the canteen, 3 days and 1500 rupees.

I discussed with my staff who cautioned me against giving in. But, I had a gut feeling, and I said, I would give her the money from my purse, and if she wrote something objectionable, I would get the damage corrected at my expense.

So, I went ahead, gave her 3 days, the canteen and 1500/-.

You can see for yourselves the transformation in the canteen! For 15 years thereafter, I have not repainted the walls of the canteen!





## What is the next step forward for you?

Retirement for me is not the end of the road, it is the beginning of the open highway, I'm looking forward to pursuing all my hobbies!



## Do you have any plans that you haven't seen fulfilled for St. Mira's?

I have a dream...the dream is that of seeing a MIRA UNIVERSITY!



## Is there something you'd like to say to all our readers now?

You, My Mira family have taken up anything that I have dared to dream... It is you who showed me that change only happens when ordinary people get involved and they get engaged and they come together to achieve one common purpose and after 22 years as Principal, I still can vouch for that. The new generation of students and staff can set their sights higher because you have been a role model that has raised the bar for them.

I have truly enjoyed and cherished working with you. Thank you for that!





Curated and Compiled  
by

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and  
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The Mira Press Team  
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