

12 th April 2019

PTA WORKSHOP Changemakers Day

On April 12, 2019, Sanskriti School hosted Ashoka Changemaker Day co-created by the Sanskriti School PTA and Ashoka Innovators for the Public, an international organisation that works towards enabling the world's citizens to think and act as change makers and promote social impact entrepreneurship. Ashoka was founded in 1981 and is headquartered in Washington DC with its India office in Bangalore. It has the largest network of leading social entrepreneurs, with over 3,500 Fellows in 92 countries. Sanskriti is the first school in Delhi to host the Ashoka Changemaker Day. Some of the Ashoka Fellows in South Asia include people like Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi (Bachpan Bachao Andolan), and Magsaysay awardees Anshu Gupta (Goonj) and Sonam Wangchuk (SECMOL).

Inspired by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Maria Montessori, the organisation works on the principle of identifying and supporting entrepreneurial individuals who are solving the world's most pertinent social and environmental problems.

Through **the Ashoka Changemaker Day on Friday**, Sanskriti students met and interacted with a Forbes under 30 and a National Child Award winner. The workshop was aimed at making students realize that they have the power to make a change even at their young ages. The workshop was divided into two sessions; a morning session for senior school children and an afternoon session for middle school children.

The inaugural session began with the Sanskriti PTA President, Jyoti Pande Lavakare inviting Sanskriti Principal, Mrs Richa Agnihotri, to open the session. Mrs Agnihotri graciously welcomed all the speakers and said Sanskriti School's vision is to create thinking and feeling Sanskritians who are changemakers.

"Ashoka Changemaker days are organised to encourage empathy-driven change by the youth. Sanskriti children with their bright minds and big hearts are the perfect fertile ground for this. I hope to see you come up on the stage in coming years," Mrs Agnihotri told the children.

Mr Yashveer Singh, Global Director of Ashoka Young Changemakers thanked the school for hosting Changemaker Day and said that he was sure Sanskriti children would find the workshop useful and relevant.

The second session of Ashoka Changemaker Day with children from classes 6,7,8 was similar to the morning session. The only difference was that another young Changemaker, Prithish Bhavnani from Delhi, spoke about his organisation called Cry For Help which handles mental health issues of young students. He spoke of his brush with bullying which made him start the organisation and illustrated how Ashoka helped him realise his dream on a much larger scale. This was followed by an inspiring talk by three youngsters - Madhav Lavakare, Anju Rani and Prithish who spoke about their contributions and challenges faced by them in achieving their goal towards becoming Changemakers. It was followed by an interactive session by Ms. Anjali Gopalan who

spoke about her effort to change the lives of stray animals ,Mrs Gopalan spoke to the children on her love for animals and how she set up her organisation that looks after animals and birds.

Mrs Gopalan went on to sensitize the children about the damage that plastic waste brings to the animals that we live with. She urged the children to eliminate the use of plastic in their own lives. The students had many questions on stray dogs, circuses and illegal dog fighting. The session ended with a talk by a team from Pravah who encouraged students to be empathetic, wear their curiosity hats and be the future changemakers.

Besides talks, there were videos, rapid fire sessions and interactive games that kept the audience engaged.

The workshop was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by our students and staff.



