

SANSKAAR

SANSKRITI PTA MAGAZINE

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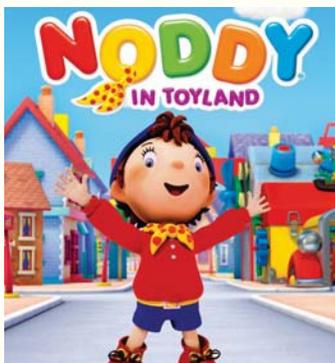
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PEOPLE BEHIND THE
SCENES

PARENTS WRITE IN
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PTA GIFTS

The PTA gifted the junior school with educational DVDs since children from Nursery to class 2 have AV time as part of their curriculum. These DVDs were of various genre such as educational, history, etc. These specifically meant for use in the AV room. Some of the titles included *Visit The Farmyard With the Teletubbies*, *Little Vinayak*, and *Make Way for Noddy*.



PTA Editorial

By Jyoti Pande Lavakare, President PTA

Once upon a time, when my older child used to go to a pre-school in New Delhi, her best friend's father told me something I never forgot. "I notice," he said, "in India, everything is about competition. And you start it early, in pre-school. In my country, we focus on collaboration. How to build teams, work together."

He was Danish. Our two little girls were carbon copies of each other, with their curly hair and mischievous eyes and when I saw their whispering heads bent together over colouring books, platinum curls mingling with dark ones, I realised yet again what a challenging job lay ahead of me.

I also remember defending the need for competition in my large, over-populated country, with so many vying for scarce resources and pointing out to him that Denmark's population is way smaller than Delhi.

Competition had virtues, I argued. I don't believe in giving prizes for merely participating. That encourages mediocrity. Prizes are for excelling. For extra effort made. But something in what he said that day remained with me.

So although I continued to teach my children to compete and encouraged their efforts to excel, I decided that their contest would only be with themselves. Competition with self, collaboration with others, became my mantra. Their aim should be, I explained to the two little creatures, to always do better than they did the last time. When I asked them how their tests and exam went, I was careful to say "Do you think this was your best effort? Were you happy with your performance? Was there something you didn't know, or were those careless mistakes that lost you marks?" I tried to quieten the part of me that itched to ask "Who came first? How did you rank?" Of course, it was hard to do, but Christian Kirk Muff, the Danish dad's words rang in my ears every time I found myself default into a typical Type-A Indian helicopter parent.

Today, as I work collectively with talented individuals and experts to fight against air pollution, or see my son struggle to build a team for a project that has become central to his life, I'm grateful to a great Dane in Copenhagen who I'm barely in touch with, for pointing out something hidden in plain sight for me. Competition helps us excel as individuals, but collaboration brings out the best in us as humans, making us great in much bigger ways. We learn to give as well as take, cooperate, join forces, unite, merge, ally, integrate, become more flexible, tolerant, pool resources, share, drop the petty stuff, become a collective.

Collaboration, tolerance and adjustment are the most useful skills we will need to face life's biggest human challenge - navigating relationships - whether it is in building and maintaining strong family bonds at home or connections with colleagues at work.

And this is exactly the kind of collaboration and cooperation we, my current PTA team, have practised consistently in the past four years since we were first elected in 2014. I have also learnt so much in my own journey as a parent and team leader (though not nearly enough in so many other relationships!)

As the outgoing President, this is my final editorial for Sanskaar, and so, I want to thank each Executive Council (EC) and General Council member for all the hours they have volunteered in what is the most thankless job of all. But most of all, I want to thank my co-office bearers, each of whom has brought her unique skill and talent to benefit others. Haripriya's intelligence, sharp mind and never-say-die attitude, Gayatri's empathy, soft skills, generosity and sheer goodness, Rinki's managerial, commercial and organisational skills, and her willing attitude - I've been blessed to have the best team on this planet for this job. Together with the EC and many others, we have created protocols (always tag-team, always document official interactions, be transparent, communicate openly and respectfully), processes (we have sub-committees for everything from transport, security, uniform, canteen, sports, events...the list is too long to go on) goals and timelines. We have learnt to prioritise the big stuff, choose our battles, fix the problem, not the blame and always listen to everyone, parents and teachers. And we've tried hard to maintain the common ethics and values of our group as a whole.

When our team assumed office, the going was tough. We sensed a lot of opposition and mistrust. But we persevered until our intentions were recognised. Our work spoke for itself. Today, I feel proud to say that the Sanskriti Parent Teacher Association truly works in harmony and mutual respect, with a genuine spirit of collaboration, cooperation and camaraderie. Thank you all for being part of this often frustrating but also deeply satisfying journey.

And till we meet again, goodbye.

Other PTA position holders—PTA Vice President: Rinki Dhingra; PTA Secretary: Haripriya Padmanabhan; Joint Secretary: Gurudutt Tanwar; PTA Treasurer: Gayatri Luthra

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PTA EVENTS

What we did on the School's 20th Birthday

By Gayatri Luthra

Sanskriti's birthday was celebrated along with Independence Day on the 13 August. The PTA members put up decorations and charts made by the children. Two delicious cakes, presented by the PTA, were cut by the management committee along with the principal and teacher representatives of classes. The head boy and head girl were present too. Cupcakes with the school's logo were baked by Mandira, a PTA executive council member and school parent. Sanskriti's first principal, Gowri Ishwaran was also present on the occasion to bless the school on its 20th birthday. There were a lot of reminiscences on how the school was started out.



Meet the Sir: Sports

By Jaya Singh

Keshav D Duklan has been with Sanskriti School since 1999 and has seen the sports department grow both in the number of sports activities taught and the number of students participating. Along with his team, he says his department is working hard to build strong sports stars.

How as sports evolved over the years?

Sports taught in Sanskriti School cover indoor and outdoor activities. There is cricket, football, basketball, swimming, table tennis, chess, athletics and more. Basketball is played indoors while the rest are played outdoors. There are strong teams of both girls and boys for all sporting activities.

How can parents assist in supporting the development of sports?

There are times that many teams are going to participate for matches and tournaments outside school. If parents volunteer to help supervise these outings along with the sports department staff, it will of great help. Of course, parents can also cooperate in late pick up or early drop for matches and practice sessions.

How have sports facilities improved in the school?

There is a sports calendar in the diary and practice sessions. We have to increase locker facilities as more children are now participating in sporting activities. The ground is regularly used, so the maintenance is must and regular watering of the sports field is done. The gym is used for various sports activities and need to be maintained by frequent housekeeping.

Are there any challenges that students face?

As the academic pressure increases especially with boards, students in class X have to skip sessions. In the recent years, air pollution-related issues have hampered regular practice and outdoor activities especially in December and January. We cannot ask students to participate in outdoor sports due to health hazards posed by pollution.

How can the interest of students in sports be strengthened?

We can start weekend practice, have more tournaments and encourage more training time. Students who miss academics should be supported to make up for missed work both at school and home.



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Meet the Ma'am: Dance

By Seema Chowdhry

Sukanya Sen has been teaching dance at Sanskriti School since 2000. She is a part of a three member team that teaches dance to both junior and middle school regularly. In fact children in nursery to class 2 take two dance classes a week while those in classes 3 to 5 take one dance class a week. "Dance is a great way to help children to learn to coordinate and also understand rhythm. We teach them deer dance, butterfly dance, etc, so that they understand a little more about nature too," she says. By class 4, some steps from classical dances are also introduced.

Sen remembers the initial days in Sanskriti School when there was no dance room. "The principal at the time told us to design the dance room as I wanted. I asked for mirrors to be put and have wooden flooring. In fact children are not allowed to wear their shoes inside the room," she says.

As far as the genders go, she finds that girls are more inclined to dancing and boys tend to resist if they find the steps too 'feminine'. "But when we introduce tribal dance forms or athletic steps, boys get encouraged to participate too," she explains. In the earlier days, the only way to find out about more dance forms was to attend functions where troupes from different countries and states performed. "Now, there is so much information on the internet," says Sen.

The dance department plays an important role all the annual day functions in the school. "Our primary aim is 100% participation. We don't select children solely on the basis of who is a good dancer and who is not. We also maintain a high standard as far as the programme goes. This is challenge the dance department takes up every year, and we have done well so far," says Sen.

On an average, Sen says it take them three to four weeks to prepare for every annual day function. "While children like western dances, we find that the boys also get encouraged if there is some tribal or folk dances. As a rule we keep some pieces linked to classical dances too in these programmes," she adds.



PTA EVENTS

What we did on Teacher's Day

By Liz Mathew

Teacher's Day is always a very special occasion for the PTA—an opportunity to showcase our love, appreciation and gratitude for our wonderful teachers. In spite of the pouring rain, parent volunteers arrived as early as 6am to prepare the staff rooms and welcome the teachers. Meaningful posters made by our parents Aruna, Asha and Divya were put up at the different staff rooms along with flower bouquets. The teachers were warmly greeted at the school gates by parents with a *raksha sutra*, *tikas* and a chocolate. The *didis*, *bhaiyas* and all the support staff were also warmly welcomed and thanked for all their precious work. It was the day for us parents to tell all the teachers what one of our posters said: "You have made a difference, You shaped our minds, You changed the world, One day at a time."



Navigate the **career** conundrum

By Seemeen Khan



For senior school parents, doesn't it seem just the other day when our child had wobbled into nursery, donning that new Sanskriti uniform? And yet here they are, ready to take their first confident stride into the real world waiting outside. And as we look outside, we look with relief that there are so many alternative career options that can be considered today. It's no longer the world of a few respectable, lucrative careers. Just a quick net search shows how the world is opening up. Here are some interesting career options I came across:

Art Therapist: This is an apt profession for those with an interest in psychology, and the seemingly unrelated field of art. Art therapy is an expressive form of therapy that works to improve a person's overall well-being through artistic expression. Art can help to reduce stress and anxiety, and prove self-esteem.

Fragrance Chemist: These are scientists who deal with the study of odour molecules and work to create new perfumes, soaps, lotions, and other toiletries.

Online Reviewer: The amount of information available on the internet has thrown up the need for people who can review offerings online such as restaurants, hotels, or products. A reviewer offers an expert opinion or dispassionate information. The main requirement is a flair for writing and a willingness to spend a lot of time surveying the internet.

Social Media Manager: For those passionate about social media and interested in engaging with people, this is an apt career.

Podcast Producer: A person in this role is in charge of managing, recording, editing and transmitting a podcast. What's more, the producer generally hosts the podcast too.

If your child wants millions to tune into her voice every day, this may be just the job. This is just the tip of the iceberg. There are many more options available today other than the few that I have listed out. There is an easy to remember formula to help your child find his or her way through this wonderful buffet of choices.

The ISP formula is a mix of understanding likes, dislikes, skills and personal qualities.

I-Interest areas: What does your child enjoy doing at school or in his or her spare time? Music? Sports? Writing? Looking after pets? Playing computer games? Socializing with friends?

S- Skill sets: What kind of things is she or he good at in school or her free time? Science? Maths? Talking? Using computers? Creative work? Practical tasks?

P-Personal qualities: What is she or he like as a person? Good at managing his time and meeting deadlines? Working well with other people? Planning ahead?

With the ISP of the child noted down, explore careers. You can also check out websites like Bright Knowledge.org and Total Professions.com

Go ahead and do this easy exercise with your child, and let your mind open out to many more unusual career paths. Happy scouting!



SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

By Liz Mathew

Dr Subi Chaturvedi, was the guest speaker for the middle school who spoke on the topic "Being and Becoming in the Age of Social Media".

She is a distinguished public policy professional and is presently the president of Yes Global Institute, Yes Bank. She has also been a member of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum.

The talk was like an open discussion where Dr. Chaturvedi enlightened the children on the functions, uses and disadvantages of the internet. She also explained how social media impacts lives, and those around us, fake news, working of commercial websites. It was an informative session where the mantra was "Stop, Think and the Connect". on social media. The idea was to educate children to become web-smart and take care while using the internet for their social interactions in the future.



Your attitude determines your altitude

By Pritha Pandey



Attitude in real sense could be called as a settled method of thinking or feeling concerning something. It may also be outlined as viewpoint, outlook, perspective or approach towards various situations, events or things in life. Having known what attitude is in reality let us also ponder over how and why it determines the altitude.

Parents attitude is everything in life. Life leaves you with various options to choose from whenever you get stuck and we have to make a selection. We are able to opt for associate degree inner dialogue of self-encouragement and self-motivation, or opt for self-defeat and sorrow. Everyone encounters misfortune, hurt feelings, heartache, physical and emotional pain. The secret lies in appreciating it's not what happens to you that matters; it's however how you respond that matters.

The option of self-encouragement and self-motivation is what leads to right attitude building and becomes our lifelong driver for success. It is important for us to build the right attitude in our children as early as possible since once their attitude is set, they position themselves to give full effort in a positive direction. Therefore the attitude become a measure of their altitude.

The core of right attitude building lies in working on important aspects such as positivity, self confidence and respect for others. We as parents can help our children embrace positivity by being a role model and by believing in the power of positive words. Watch your words or WOW is a concept which tells us what you say and speak becomes what you achieve. Replace "What did you do at school?" with "What were two positive things that happened today?" and watch the transformation in your child.

The biggest contributor of one's success is self-confidence and this is also a foundation stone for right attitude. People like Dipa Karmakar could achieve and reach the high altitude in spite of many challenges like having a flat foot, no sponsors and lack of basic training facility. Karmakar could do this because of self-confidence and 'I CAN' attitude. You can help your child to take up challenges with high degree of self-confidence. Make them believe that nothing is impossible if they decide to make it possible. Teach them the power of 'I CAN'. Respect for everyone and behaving respectfully adds flavour to your child's right attitude building. Every parent can gift the child with right attitude by adhering to these basics:

- * Be a role model. Choose to have a positive attitude. Put it on display.
- * Say "I appreciate your good attitude" instead of just "good job."
- * Recognize and build upon strengths.
- * Have your child repeat positive affirmations in the mirror with you every day. Phrases like "I am creative, I am strong, I am a good friend, and I make a difference in the world" plant the seeds of positivity in their hearts, and impacts their lives in a tremendous way.
- * Use names like "scholar," "student," and "learner" as you talk with your child
- * Motivate them to find the good in everyone they meet.
- * Make them experience the power of visualization.
- * Feel blessed, not stressed.

PTA EVENTS

Planting in the school

By Gayatri Luthra

On the eve of Independence day, a whopping 225 plants were planted by the children of class V. The occasion was a Plantation Drive organised by the PTA. Children learnt how to plant saplings in a pot, using broken pieces of clay and understood the importance of preventing the soil from flowing out. The day started out with many children showing an aversion to getting their hands dirty.

However, this soon gave way to children enjoying the discovery of hidden gems in the soil- namely worms and snails! Some showed off by carrying worms on their palms and soon the air was filled with excitement and mirth! At the end of it all, we had many children asking to plant more than one tree. Hope we can carry forth this excitement and commitment to make our world a greener place.



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GROUP WORK

CANTEEN REDUX

By Shabana Khan

The day finally dawned 3 October 2018 when our newly set up School canteen became fully operational. A canteen is an integral part of any school and hence it's refurbishment was an achievement for the PTA. The canteen committee comprises of teachers and parent members. The main endeavor behind the canteen was to create an environment which provides healthy, hygienic and tasty food to the children. For the inauguration of the renovated canteen, the management committee members, the principal, the three headmistresses, a few teachers and some PTA members along with some school children were present. The children welcomed everyone by showering flowers and doing tika. It was a very heartwarming gesture. The principal was invited to cut the ribbon of the new canteen but she graciously offered the role to young children saying that the canteen is their facility. The members of the PTA Canteen Committee had eagerly awaited this day. A new vendor is in place, the canteen kitchen has been refurbished and better food is now being served which the PTA hopes will be a treat to everyone. Happy eating.



PTA EVENTS

Guru Poornima

All the revered gurus were felicitated according to the cultural tradition with a prayer and with halwa served as prasad.



AIR POLLUTION TALK

By Divya Ramachandran

On 3 July, PTA organised a comprehensive talk on air pollution for the entire Sanskriti faculty jointly conducted by Care for Air and Lung Care Foundation. PHFI's Dr Preet Dhillon, Barun Agarwal and Dr Bilal, a lung surgeon from Sir Gangaram Hospital walked the faculty through the main causes of air pollution, its impact on human health and how to monitor and control it. Dr Bilal gave shocking statistics on how during his surgeries he now finds younger, non-smokers men and even more women than before suffering from lung diseases including cancers.

The team also bust some common myths around pollution like:

Pollution makes your lung stronger and builds immunity (wrong); Pollution is a Delhi-only problem (wrong, it affects the entire country); You get used to it with time (wrong, you never get used to PM2.5); If you don't feel sick it's not causing any harm (wrong, it is a silent and invisible killer); Only your lungs are affected (wrong, all organs are affected); If you wear a mask and use air purifiers at home you are protected (wrong).

The team concluded that air pollution needs to be tackled at nationwide level, that all of us are affected and responsible for it, and must do our bit. Teachers had lots of questions and were very responsive.



SHADED POOLSIDE FOR RELIEF IN SUMMER

A shed at the swimming pool seating area was put up by the PTA in 2018. In the summer months heat is unbearable for the children who have to wait around. This shed is a great boon for these children who wait for their turn to get into the pool. The shed is also great for visiting contestants who come to the school for aquatic meets. The staff that handles the swimming area is thrilled with this addition.

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Meet the Ma'am: Music

By Jaya Singh

Divya Jain joined Sanskriti School 18 years ago as part of music faculty. Jain leads the music department and is passionate about playing an active role in nurturing children in both vocal music and instruments. She has been using innovative approaches to make learning music interesting and to use music as a tool to destress.

How is the current generation responding to the growing popularity of music?

The way music is growing these days has a huge impact on growing children. Performing arts is getting recognition on various shows and concerts. This helps children to get visibility and make their place in the music world. They become more enthusiastic with exposure to these shows. Students today are fond of filmy songs but there is a keenness to learn classical music too.

How is Sanskriti building on the musical talent?

The curriculum at Sanskriti school provides for students to learn classical music and at least one instrument in the performing arts period. I teach harmonium to the children to give them a glimpse of Indian music and its heritage. The school provides opportunities to perform during assemblies. Playing any instrument is encouraged too in assemblies and in the music club. Music can be a fifth subject from class IX. There are opportunities to participate in inter-school competitions, to perform at events like carnival, and the annual day. The "Sarang" event will hopefully resume as soon as we are able to make arrangements for better sound facilities. We participate in competitions outside school such as those organised by Ithahas. Some students also performed at Rashtrapati Bhavan few years ago. With the help of Flipgrid, a video tool, students of classes VI to VIII, participated in global folk music exchange with a teacher from Indian Hill School, New Jersey, US.

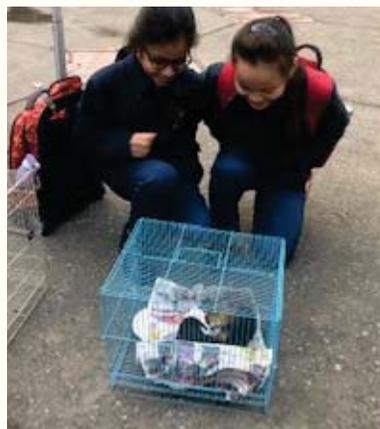
What role can parents play in keeping the interest for music alive?

Take your children to different concerts in order to listen and to get exposure to all kinds of music. Sometimes a child might be interested but doesn't have the flair. Then it is best that they learn any non voice instrument like table, guitar and harmonium. Music needs discipline and makes good habits a routine.

PTA EVENTS

What we did on Children's Day

By Gayatri Luthra



It was an unusual sight on Children's Day. Dhruv the ram, Sweetie the sheep, Avi and Idha the goats, Tinku and Minku the rabbits and Ena and Meena the guinea pigs paid a visit to Sanskriti School. Children were thrilled to have the farm animals welcome them at school on their special day. The children fed the animals leaves and cuddled the animals. Every child got a toffee. A special mention to Dad Saket who volunteered to help celebrate Children's Day.

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PTA EVENTS

When we celebrated an inclusive Dusshera and Diwali

By Mahima Shukla and Gayatri Luthra

Dussehra was celebrated by PTA for the children on 16 October. The volunteers dressed in the nine colours of the devis to celebrate the ongoing festival of navratri. All volunteers also wore slogans sashes which said varied things like "Save the earth", "Bullying is bad", "Respect women", "All religions are equal" and "Be kind". There were two Ravana effigies, one in the junior school and the other outside the middle school gates. There were 40 different handwritten post-it messages pasted on the effigies as Thought for the Day. The messages include ideas like Be Kind, Spread Joy, Respect Others, Unite People, Be Forgiving, etc. Each child, teacher, and *didi*, entering the school, pasted one of these messages on the Ravana effigy.

For the middle school children, there were 40 different teachings from the Ramayana, printed in both English and Hindi. These teachings had lessons like controlling anger, keeping good company, respecting parents, etc. Each child received a saying to carry home as a life-teaching. The nursery children, who came in with their parents or grandparents, were excited to paste post-its on the Ravana, as well as pose with it to get their pictures clicked.

For Diwali, diyas were distributed to all children who then assembled them to make one big diya in main courtyard and another one in the middle school courtyard. All children were given *gur* or jaggery, an air pollution combatant, as take away as a sweet treat. There was a very festive atmosphere in the school to celebrate Diwali. The diyas were later given to the support staff to take back home for their home puja. PTA representatives gifted a copper and steel utensils set and sweets to the Sanskriti support staff on 9 November with the clear message "Please don't burst firecrackers as it's now illegal."



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Bring on the the ALT changemakers

By Jyoti Pande Lavakare

When my son was six, he really wanted to bake his favourite chocolate-chip cookies all by himself. I was still getting used to living in a new country away from home and family and forbade him unsupervised use of the kitchen oven. So he downloaded instructions from the internet and built himself an aluminium foil and cardboard “kid-safe” solar-powered version. Even today, he says those under-cooked cookies baked by the sun in our backyard in that tinfoil contraption are the sweetest he ever tasted. I’m pretty sure that’s roughly when he decided he wanted to become an “Imagineer,” a problem-solving engineer with imagination.

Where we lived at the time, there were plenty of affordable builder and maker camps, carpentry classes and robotic workshops, plus a well-stocked local hardware store with strange and unusual objects that he seemed to need for his next project. Very quickly I learnt that it was cheaper to invest in these weird toolkits than paying a babysitter an arm and a leg to watch him while I did my own homework and chores.

Some years later, we moved back to India and overnight, he lost easy access to his tinkerer’s world, accelerating his descent into sulky tween and teenhood. Even as he struggled to find materials or mentors to encourage his making and building skills, he discovered the meaning of jugaad, learning to cannibalise old appliances and electronics and working alone. One of the first things he built was an annoyingly loud burglar alarm meant to “keep out adults who nagged him to clean his room.”

His next innovation was a sensor-and-voice controlled home automation system, to save him from being nagged about switching off lights and fans in his room. This one was more useful (and many parent-friends offered to buy this). Recently, he’s built his own version of Google glass to help the hearing-impaired and actually won national recognition for this. Children are curious, intrinsic problem-solvers, and if we let them experiment in a safe space-without imposing external goals on them-they can invent, innovate and create endlessly.

And that’s where the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) comes in. One of the best things that Sanskriti won this past year is a grant to set up an Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL), a part of the ambitious AIM. According to AIM website (aim.gov.in), ATLs are “where students (Class 6 to Class 12) will learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India”. These are different from the regular science labs, envisaged as dedicated, and safe work spaces for 11- to 18-year-olds to nurture creativity and innovation. The ATL labs are expected to be powered with state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, robotics and electronics development tools, IoT and sensors etc. Lab activities are designed to spur the spark of creativity, and go beyond regular textbook learning. The labs will let students explore skills of future such as design and computational thinking, adaptive learning and artificial intelligence.

For those of you who have a curious child who loves asking “Why?” and “What if?” this is the place that will not just grow her curiosity and foster her intelligence, but also make learning fun. I wish my son had had this sort of a space to tinker and potter around in! However, just setting up a lab in the school isn’t going to be enough. Two more things are needed to make this a success. Firstly, the school will need STEM teachers who really love working with children and can mentor them without confining their thought processes. And secondly, they will need the validation of external organisations like the Ashoka: Innovators for the Public, a global organization, which, under its Changemakers programme works to build a global movement that supports social entrepreneurs, innovators, business leaders, policy makers and activists. Cross-pollination with such organizations will help young innovators from Sanskriti ATL to build instant global networks to take their projects out into the real world and transform them into actual products and services. I hope that the foundation for our school’s ATL is laid with care and thought, because between the physical lab, the mentoring of excellent teachers and the actual practice with changemakers, Sanskriti School truly has the chance to become a game changer and create many innovators by nurturing bright minds in thriving environments. My personal dream? That Sanskriti will encourage its girls in STEM and ATL projects even more. Amen to that.



Nothing in a caterpillar says it'll be a butterfly

By Sonia Lourembam and Rajesh Khwairakpam

Every child is special and beautiful in their own little ways. The innocence and sweetness of a child is unfathomable. From a mischievous imp at home to a shy child outdoor, a child can be surprising in many ways. Their nature of turning every corner of the house into a play station and their way of creating a game out of nothing, the more insight we seek into who they are, the more mysterious they are. Nobody can predict what a personality a child will develop into.

Children are shaped into identifiable individuals in school. It is at this safe cocoon called "school" that the metamorphosis takes place by transforming children into a responsible and seasoned social being. Starting from the first day at school when uncertainty lurks around their face, to facing a challenging phenomenon as they enter an entirely new environment, they have come to embrace each moment at school and explore all the possibilities in front of them. At this temple of learning, their potential and talents bloom out into many facets which are further polished and rejuvenated.

The main pillars of a school are the teachers whom the children trust, listen to and idolize. Teachers provide them with the right dose of inspiration and motivation along with a sense of discipline and order.

It is through the school that children try to create an identity of their own in their early stage of development. The environment and the opportunities availed at the school shapes them to grow in their desired direction. From the warm comfort of parent's laps, they enter into an interactive world where many of them compete to become fit for leadership.

It may take many days and years for the aura that has been embedded within the child, to completely manifest but these phenomenal changes are already taking place little by little in our child at this early stage.

Truly, who would have guessed that a hairy caterpillar would one day go inside a cocoon only to come out as a beautiful and colorful butterfly.



PTA EVENTS

Participating in a drive

By Mahima Shukla

Delhi's air is worsening each year and posing a health hazard to its citizens, especially the children.

The Delhi government campaigned for a tree plantation drive on in September to include participation of citizens as well as school children, at 600 different locations in the city. About 5 lakh saplings were to be planted, with a mission to survive post-plantation, by geo-tagging and monitoring.

Sanskriti School also actively participated in the drive at Nehru Park. The school and parent partnership was given a boost as parents also took part in planting along with their children. The

environmental club teachers, Ms Molina and Ms Meenakshi, were at the park to receive the students of the school, and help them in the drive.

Students from different classes came in their uniforms and enthusiastically planted tree saplings as well as small plants at the given places, with the help of the drive officials and gardeners of the Park. The children were overjoyed when they were allowed to plant more than one sapling and happily helped each other in planting.

The drive was a bonding exercise between the schools, children, parents and the environment. It brought home the point, that everyone is responsible for a clean, green city, and citizens, young or old can work with the government towards a better environment. It is one step towards a cleaner future.



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Behind-the-Scenes: Meet the gardeners

By Seema Chowdhry



Om Prakash and Ram Sagar have worked on making Sanskriti School green since 2000 while Jagdish Prasad joined the gardeners team in 2003. "There was nothing much here when we came in. The school used to operate in the annex. The principal at the time (Gowri Ishwaran) told us she wanted to make this area as green as possible," remembers Om Prakash. The area at the time had no trees. All the trees now seen in the school were planted between 2001 -2003. "There was budget constraint then. The school had to be green quickly. The children used to feel very hot otherwise. Also the architect has designed the school in such a way that a lot of place was meant for gardening," explains Ram Sagar. Among the trees, the gardener's team started planting were areca palm trees, champa trees, etc. On the whole, the gardener's team feels that children in the school can be taught to plants and often the teachers take the onus. Sometimes, a few children from the junior school come looking for flowers to pluck but they can be convinced not to. "We tell them to take the flowers that have fallen in the garden or near flower pots. Most of the time, they listen to us. Once in a while we need to ask the teachers to intervene and they explain to the child why plucking flowers is not a good idea," says Jagdish Prasad. At present the Sanskriti gardener's team consists of six members. Two decades ago, when the school was barren land, the team was much larger. Most of those workers were on contract. The six gardeners look after all the green areas in the school, including the field. They are also responsible for all the flower pots that are arranged around the school during any function which is organised on the premises. Among the most touching moments they have spent in the school is when parents whose children have passed away and who have a tree dedicated to them in the school lawns come to see these plants grow. "We feel very touched for their sake and assure them that we are taking care of the tree planted on the memory of their child. We think they feel a little happier then," says Om Prakash. They say sometimes parents also come and give them plants and manure for the gardens and that is a nice gesture. However, at present the one thing they really need is an electric saw which costs around Rs12,000. This, they say, will help them to trim the trees faster and with ease.

PTA EVENTS

Planting a vertical garden

By Radhika Raikhy

On 3 October, students of Class V enthusiastically engaged in creating a vertical garden under the able guidance of junior school headmistress, Suruchi Lal and the PTA. The vertical gardens help in neutralising pollution caused by dust and vehicular emissions and hence the PTA decided to get help from the school set it up before the air quality dropped in Delhi. The PTA requested Rohit Mehra, IRS, who has been receiving great acclaim in Punjab for installing vertical gardens in public places to help. We used discarded 2 litre plastic pet bottles as containers to plant the air purifying plants. The bottles were fastened to the wall one on top of the other and with the help of drip irrigation system, a vertical garden has been created using 75% less water. The children recycled waste bottles that would have otherwise been added to the landfill and ended up polluting our environment further. Members of the PTA were present to facilitate the activity and worked with the team that had come in especially from Punjab to create the green space. Mr Jha, of the Punjab income tax department graced the occasion and along with his team gave a motivating talk to our students of the environment club. A plaque will be put up at the side of the wall, highlighting the fantastic work done by this batch. Children were seen marking their plants so that they can look after them in their free time. The concept has been extremely well received and there are plans to have more of such vertical gardens in the Sanskriti School campus.



Sanskaar

Sanskriti PTA Magazine

PTA EVENTS

A new kind of Bandhan

By Gayatri Luthra

On the 27 August, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, students from Nursery to Class V celebrated Vriksh Bandhan. They pledged to protect the trees and the environment just as they pledge to protect their siblings on this pious day. The children hugged the trees and tied *moulis*, pledging to be Earth Saviours. The pledge taking was led by Suruchi Lal, the headmistress of the junior school. The junior school teachers participated whole-heartedly by speaking to the children about the critical need to save the environment, especially in the context of the issues facing us today. This PTA initiative was celebrated over two days so that all students could comfortably participate and espouse the cause.



THE PLEDGE

**We are the Sanskriti Tree Tribe,
We are the Earth Saviours,
This Raksha bandhan,
I will start a new movement,
Vriksh Raksha Bandhan
I pledge to be a Tree-Saviour,
I will sow more seeds, plant saplings, and do my best to prevent unauthorized cutting of trees,
I shall sow hope this monsoon,
We are the Sanskriti Tree Tribe,
We are the Earth Saviours**

By Seema Chowdhry

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

By Jaya Singh



The times ahead are challenging and whatever we say or do, it will always be a little too less to equip our children. Growing up, you and I, had much less to grapple with: at best looming board exams, parents who discarded our dreams, ever changing friendships, a few tough teachers and some bullies. Our children deal with all this and much more.

Technology changes daily, they have so much information to process, living and breathing in Delhi means their life span is getting shorter, in the future they may be a part of a redundant work force, and of course, they will have to deal with a fast eroding planet.

As a parent, I have come to believe the best I can do for my child is to help her to explore her set of beliefs that in turn will motivate her to make this planet a better living place for not just herself but those around her. I am teaching her to stand up for herself, and for those who don't have the ability to do the same. I am explaining what privileges she lives with so that she can see what others miss out on. My role in her life, as I see it, is to prepare her with an alternate view of the world she will live in, work in and fight for.

I know mostly it is not a pretty picture, but I am hoping that she will one of those who will eventually make her world's reality very beautiful.

Dear reader
Namaste,
Welcome to our online PTA newsletter Carnival Issue. It's the age to conserve all resources and redirect them to generate better value and benefit for the good of humanity. Hence we moved to online version as our commitment to save trees and the environment.

The newsletter brings to you all latest updates of the events that have taken place in school in the last few months. These activities have brought parents and teachers together to plan and perform creative shows to convey topical and relevant messages in happy and colorful ways to our children. The various committees have been contributing through initiatives in various areas like sanitation, canteen, events, etc while collaborating with the school in charges to improve the experience of our children.

As always my message is to encourage more parents to participate in doing their part as children are growing up between school and at home. Our children today are extremely sensitive to the developments around the world in all spheres. While the internet and social media keeps them often distracted, it has also made them better informed and often sensitized at a much younger age to the challenges that exist in different part of the world--be that of hunger, pollution, global warming, water scarcity etc and these open up a huge opportunity for creative thinking and innovative solutions.



We are seeing many young achievers making a difference by excelling not only in academics but also going a step ahead and making a difference to the society by their innovative ideas and projects. Kudos once again to the newsletter team to bring together this issue. This has been done with tremendous support from many of the committee members.

We look forward to continued strengthening of the students teachers and parents bonding and interactions as we are all striving for one common goal which is to have confident, happy and self sufficient children who have beautiful minds and thoughts which when put into action can do Magic!

Stay in touch parents! Wish you all a great 2019!

Best wishes,
Jaya Singh