



Musings From a Teacher's Ink January 2020

PARENT INTERSECT WORKSHOP AT PRAMITI SCHOOL, KANAKPURA

Teacher Ink conducted a Parent Intersect workshop at the Marghazhi Fair organised by Pramiti School, Kanakpura, on 21 December 2019. About 50 parents participated in this dialogue-based, highly interactive session. The theme of the dialogue was "Parenting in the Digital Age".

The informal structure of the workshop allowed the parents to open up and share their concerns and solutions with each other. The session was moderated by Sandhya Gatti, Founder Director of Teacher Ink and a radical mother herself. The parents were given reading material that included an article written by Sandhya, and some profoundly moving excerpts from the book – Parents' Tao Te Ching. The session was very well received by the parents and they looked forward to more such events. Most of them felt that it was important for parents to come together on such platforms to share and learn from each other. The interaction helps parents to not feel isolated in the challenging task of parenting in the present world. This initiative has also helped parents become more aware of the challenges that they face with their children at each and every stage in their life.

To participate or to organize a Parent Intersect meet, please contact us at 9538570114.



TEACHERS ON 2020: LEARNING UNLIMITED

The turn of the year is always symbolic of fresh beginnings and renewed resolutions. Our teaching community too is all set with some inspiring goals both on the professional and personal fronts. Here is what they have on their minds as they step into 2020.....

Latha Pramod, Head of Primary section, Saandeevani Academy for Excellence, Sarjapura

"I am a constant learner. I have been planning to learn vocal music for quite some years now. This year I plan to start taking Hindustani Classical music lessons. At school, I want to support as many team members as possible to read more...be it general material or news articles or research papers on education. I am looking forward to all of us team members reading more and having discussions on what we read during the 'share and learn' time slot in school"



Anand Challa, Teacher for grades 6,7,8, Pramiti School, Kanakapura

"I have made a list of must-read books for this year. *The Social Animal* by Elliot Aronson and *Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience* by Mihaly Csikszentmihaly are two of them. On the personal front, as a family we have not been able to spend a vacation together for a long time now. Once my son's examinations are over, I am looking forward to a trek or a leisure trip with my family sometime in July or August this year"



Vijaysanthi Murakonda, Montessori teacher at The Foundation School, Gunjur

"I am keen to learn more about the Maria Montessori system of education, both through reading materials and hands-on work. As a person, playing the role of a teacher is teaching me well to control my anger and keep calm during challenging situations. I would like to keep maintaining that and even improve further on that front"

Savitha Ravi, Director and Co-Founder, Pramiti School, Kanakapura

"I started working on my resolution in the last week of December itself... I am writing my journal regularly now and plan to continue doing that throughout the year. I used to get distracted easily and I thought I didn't have enough time for it. Now, with a little time management, I have slotted away time for journal writing. I am also open to learning any new skill that would be both productive and satisfying"

Feature



Ms. Achy Cherian

**Nursery teacher, Kids
Wonderland, Electronic City**

Favorite food... *Oh...I am a foodie. I grew up in an estate near Kottayam in Kerala. Maybe that makes me quite open to trying out new dishes.*

Favorite pastime... *I used to read a lot, stitch and bake. But now I multi-task with music in the background. I add to my playlist the songs my sons love, or from a movie I watch. My sons are 12 and 15 and they like singers Charlie Puth and Shawn Mendes.*

My role models... *My parents, especially my mother. She grew up in Kolkata and Ranchi. Her experiences, choices and outlook towards life and people have inspired me a lot.*

My stress buster... *I devote an hour every evening to Zumba. It keeps me fit and I pick up peppy songs from there which I listen to later. My recent likes include "First Class" from the movie Kalank and another Prabhudeva dance number.*

Life Mantra... *I am not very philosophical. If I come across words with depth I try to apply them in life. Recently, a video of Sadhguru of Isha Foundation was quite inspiring.*

Parenting was a stepping stone to teaching for Achy Cherian, nursery teacher at Kids Wonderland, Electronic City. A brief stay in Australia gave this Commerce graduate a deep insight into pre-school years which in turn helped her transition from a stay-at-home mother of two to a hands-on teacher of children aged 3 to 4 1/2 years. Achy is taking one step at a time to add to her skill set and evolve more meaningfully in the field of pre-primary education. Achy shares with us her journey as an educator so far.

How did you foray into teaching?

I had never thought of being a teacher. It was when I was raising my first son in Australia that I was introduced to child-centric activities for pre-schoolers. The education system there is highly sensitive, hands-on and involves parents at every step. The system inculcates joyful yet disciplined learning amongst children as young as two years. So when I had my second son and moved back to India, I was well-versed with pre-primary education and since I liked interacting with children I took up teaching 3 years back with Kids Wonderland Electronic City.

How did you prepare yourself professionally?

I did Jolly Phonics training and I am pursuing my B.Ed now. The Internet has been very resourceful. When I started, I didn't even know how to frame a syllabus. I even visited friends to take notes what their kids were learning at school and tried adapting the concepts back in my class. I must credit the Kid Wonderland management for giving me a certain amount of freedom to be creative in my class presentations. I feel big schools restrict the creative aspect of teaching, add to the irrelevant administrative work they expect the teachers to do.

What is your daily work routine?

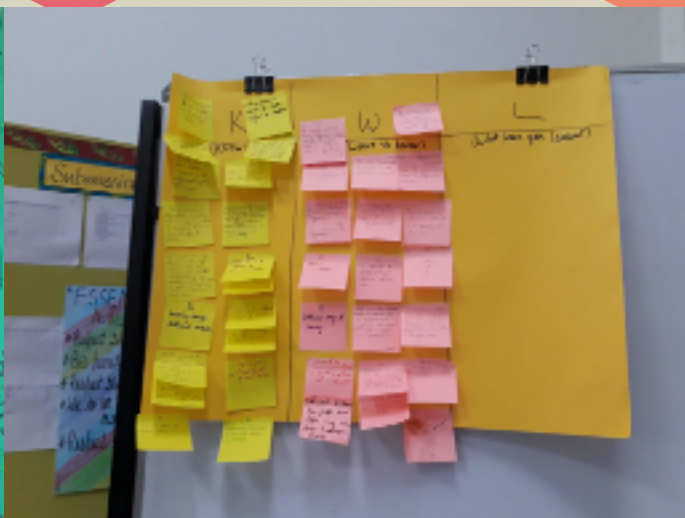
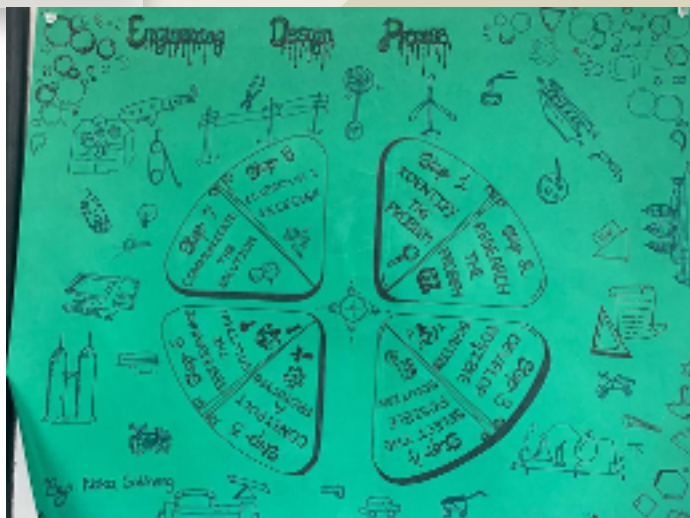
The younger the children the more variety they need, with constant revisions. I encourage speaking in public so I stress on stage time. I improvise constantly with lessons and concepts that children can relate to in their immediate surroundings. It's Yuletide season so Christmas related activities, stories, songs, crafts and colours are in focus. The emphasis is on all-round growth, including neuro-motor skills.

What are the present-day challenges for pre-school teachers?

All teachers face similar problems sometime or the other. The trend of parents being unreceptive and having very high expectations both from children and teachers is worrying. Sometimes they do not believe what we tell them about the child. Once I had to videograph a child finishing his tiffin and show it to convince his parents that it is indeed the child who is eating the food!

Any special moments in your teaching career so far?

Of course, there are many overwhelming moments. Recently, one parent came back to tell that the child has done very well in the primary level entrance interview at a reputed school. Many other parents come back to acknowledge that my grooming in the pre-primary years has helped. Such feedback keeps me motivated and energised to continue in the profession.



UPCOMING EVENTS @ TEACHER INK

Teacher Dialogue Series: Once a month event

A gathering of educators to voice their views and share best practices and just to hang out with like-minded people. We are here to have dialogue for change!

Teacher Travelogue III : Coming Soon in Summer 2020!

An absolutely unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit most progressive and alternative learning spaces in India and abroad. Keep watching this space for more!

The Personal Mentor: Throughout the year

Teachers who wish to master specific skills in classroom practice now have an opportunity to choose what they wish to learn through the Personal Mentor Program.

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teacherink2015@gmail.com

9538570114 (Ms. Susmita Shroff)

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WAYS TO BE FEATURED IN THE TI NEWSLETTER

Share best practices through your reflective articles:

Many of you do extraordinary things in the classroom. We would like the teaching community to hear your success stories in a reflective first person narrative. Write to us today.

Teacher Feature:

Teachers are unsung heroes. And there is a lot you have contributed in your own small or big ways to your own school community. We would love to feature you as the star teacher in this section. Call or write to us to be seen and

heard.

Advertise your school or product or service:

'Musings from a Teacher's Ink' is an endeavour to bring more and more teachers to the limelight – to be seen and heard. A lot of time and effort goes into bringing this newsletter to life.

You can advertise your school or an educational product or service for a reasonable cost. Your contribution will give you visibility and help us access quality resources for the teachers.

LAST WORD...



Inviting feedback

Dear Teachers..

Let us know what you would like featured in this newsletter.

We also seek and welcome your feedback on this endeavor. We will try and select a few compelling feedback in this section in our next feature.

You may send your feedback, insights, ideas, reflections through our Facebook page – Terrific Teachers' Turf or WhatsApp us on 9916038106

You may even send the same via email – teacherink2015@gmail.com