From The Editors' Desk

The last 3 months have just whizzed by and here we are again with the latest issue of our Newsletter, "#@SEL, Synergising the SHRI Perspective".

It's been a hectic quarter indeed, to say the least, with every single one of us Shri Educators burning the midnight oil in our endeavour to ensure that lockdown or not, learning at a Shri School never stops.

This issue is a tribute to all in the Shri Family who not only worked unceasingly, but also reinvented themselves to adapt to the "New Normal". In here, we share some experiences and best practices that worked to help and support all our stakeholders – Students, Schools and Parents.

When our students and school teams look back at the year that was 2020, we hope that what they will remember is not the fear, anxiety and uncertainty of these times, but the magnificent and tireless efforts of the people who enabled and optimized their learning without compromising the essence of SHRI! They will reminiscence with love, respect and gratitude, and will be stronger in both mind and body, because their caregivers were with and for them all the way.

We hope this issue reinstates our faith and belief that

"This Too Shall Pass!"

Happy Reading, Everyone, Stay Healthy and Stay Safe!

WHEN ACTIONS SPOKE LOUDER THAN WORDS!

When the lockdown was declared and people started hoarding stuff to stay indoors, there were many others who lost their jobs and were left with no money to buy food to feed their families. These people thought of going back to their hometown so that they can at least feed their families and themselves. Decision to go back was risky and they were left with no choice but wait for government to help them.

In this hour of need, there were many messiahs who were helping the people by providing cooked food and ration for the month. Mr. Rishi Ram an employee of Shri Educare Limited is one of those unsung heroes. He has been working selflessly and diligently to support forty families every day by providing them food and dry ration. His friends and colleagues from SEL have also supported him in this noble cause.

Mr. Rishi Ram also works closely with the local police to ensure that social distancing and other precautions are taken in the locality. He started this noble endeavor by distributing ten packets per day but eventually with the support of his friends and colleagues, he was able to support forty families each day. His noble deed is worth appreciating and encouraging. We are overwhelmed by Rishi's compassion and would like to commend him for being a messiah to the poor and needy at this hour of need.

Way to go, Vishnuji, SEL is proud of you!

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR EDUCATORS

5 Free Tools to Create Info Graphics:

1. Google Chart Tools
   https://developers.google.com/chart/
2. Piktochart https://piktochart.com/
3. Canva https://www.canva.com/
4. Adobe Spark https://spark.adobe.com/
5. Fotor https://www.fotor.com/

5 Free Digital Storytelling Tools

1. Cartoonists
   https://www.creaza.com/this-is-creaza/Cartoonist
2. MakeBeliefsComix https://www.makebeliefscomix.com/

3. MapSkip http://www.mapskip.com/
4. Storybird https://storybird.com/
5. Puppet Pals https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/puppet pals-hd/id342076546?mt=8

5 Free Survey, Polls and Quizzes Tools

1. Google Forms https://www.google.com/forms/
2. Forms on the Fly http://www.formsonthefly.co.uk/ For Educational and Information Purpose Only.
3. Formsite https://www.formsite.com/
4. SurveyMonkey https://www.surveymonkey.com/
5. Wufoo https://www.wufoo.com/

5 Free Testing and Quizzing Tool

1. ClassMarker's https://www.classmarker.com/
2. ClassTools http://www.classtools.net/
3. EasyTestMaker
   https://www.easytestmaker.com/
4. Quiz Revolution http://www.mystudiyo.com/
5. QuizSlides https://quizslides.com/

SEL SUPPORT DURING THE LOCK DOWN

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going!"

The year 2020 began like any other new year. Things seemed as normal as any other new year, with all of us, both at SEL and SEL Schools, gearing up for the last quarter of the year, preparing for final assessments, examinations and getting report cards ready.

When right out of almost nowhere one tiny unknown virus created panic like never seen before, at least not in the lifetime of most people alive on earth today!

Novel Corona Virus – or COVID-19 as it is also known as caught all of us on the blind side. From being something unknown it grew to become a pandemic that had the world gripped in fear and uncertainty.

However, even when the country went into lock down, SEL and our Shri Educators did not! They toiled unceasingly to ensure that LEARNING does not stop.

The first and toughest task was to equip our teachers in the various schools, in both metros and two/three tier cities, with the technical skills required to navigate through the various online tools and platforms that were available for use. Forced out of their comfort zones, teachers faced innumerable difficulties, especially with network and bandwidth, but the IT Team at SEL forged on, working round the clock to make the transition as easy and seamless as possible for our Shri Educators.

VIRTUAL TRAINING DONE BY IT

Online trainings were conducted for MS TEAMS, ZOOM, ZOHO Webinars, Padlet, Wakelet, Quizlet, Canva, Edpuzzle, Kahoot, Socrative, Wizer.me, Rocketbooks, Quizziz and Flipgrid. Assignments could be sent home because our Educators quickly grasped the advantages of using Microsoft/Google forms as both home assignments and for assessments. Optimising the use of PPTs by converting them into videos for self-learning and online teaching was another thing that they were given training on. Trainings were done to familiarise them with other online resources such as Interactive Worksheets, VideoScribe, Inshot and so on.

Sessions by the ICT Domain experts at SEL were conducted where other aspects of Online Teaching-Learning were further strengthened. Some of the sessions conducted are – MS TEAMS – Class NoteBook, Gamify Your Classroom, Amplify Student Voice with FlipGrid and De-mystifying AI.

While, technology was the need of the hour, strengthening teacher capability and competency for online teaching was an area that the Subject Domain experts at SEL worked on along with their subject teachers across schools.

The OPS TEAM redesigned their workshop modules and customised them to help teachers gain the most out of an online workshop or teaching session. A common group was formed on TEAMS and WhatsApp which worked like a Help Desk and also a platform for teachers to share ideas with each other.

This fostered collaboration across school teams at all levels. It also ensured that quick and speedy responses were given to queries or issues that were raised, thereby helping in a small way to reduce their stress and anxiety.

HAMAARA AASMAAN - THE ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM FOR THE NEW NORMAL

A sudden change to our everyday lives, tough times and a unique set of challenges presented us with the need to stay connected. A need, that could not be fulfilled in a physical space. Rightly said, "Necessity is the mother of invention", - Plato

And we certainly found a way!

An online platform, we call "Hamaara Aasmaan" came into being to engage with learners in a joyful, nurturing and progressive environment, with a twist! The launch of this platform was a step towards putting together fun based, yet meaningful, activities that can be done by parents along with their child at home.

Keeping the attention span of our pre-schoolers in mind and also to maintain the essence of our philosophy, was an uphill task but we surely have overcome that obstacle.

Short sessions every day allowed us to connect with our little ones, which was what thoroughly missed. Although on a virtual platform, our Shri Educators were able to interact and transact learning, to help our children strengthen certain domains of development and guide the parents through the planned activities. Tailor made modules have been specially created in house keeping in mind the needs and capabilities of our little children.

A healthy mixture of live sessions, pre-recorded co-curricular activities, social interaction time and one-on-one attention meetings have been planned for the term. Tale Times, E-Yoga, Smiling Minds, Art Box, Busy Fingers, Krazy Kitchens, Brain Gym are just a few of the activities planned for the online module.

BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF THE SHRI RAM SCHOOLS

The Shri Ram Early Years
play, grow & learn together

Age group
1.5 years to
4 years

HAMAARA AASMAAN
Online Pre School Program
By The Shri Ram Early Years
Rs.4900/- Per Month
-: Flexible Timings :-
Morning, Evening
+91 8882676553

The beautiful thing about learning is,
nobody can take it away from you
~ B.B. King

SHRI KATHAYEIN WITH HAPPY HIPPO

The Lock Down also triggered another interesting and engaging initiative at SEL. "Shri Kathayein – Story Telling Sessions with Happy Hippo" became a "must watch" Sunday evening event for our children and parents alike. While it began with teachers from TSEY Gurugram being the vibrant story tellers, our Shri Educators from partner schools also stepped in to keep our children and parents enthralled. Airing at 5.30 p.m. every Sunday, this series will continue to roll out so that all SEL schools collaborate and connect to sustain the programme.

A new experience for all of us, it gave us the opportunity to explore all available options and discover what we are truly capable of.

Team SEL pitched in, going the extra mile and working round the clock to ensure that Learning Never Stops – for All!

PRESENTS
KATHAYEIN
With Happy Hippo

A series of story telling sessions by
Shri Educators

Join us for our eighth session on
June 28th 2020 | 5.30 p.m.

The
Gingerbread Man

By Shri Educator Ms. Sudipta Mukherji
www.facebook.com/shrieducare
LIVE

SEL's Marketing Team worked along with the school teams to further strengthen the three-way handshake by increasing schools' visibility through several digital media campaigns. The virtual classes conducted by TSEY was made available to all our Consultancy Preschools, as was the 4-week Virtual Summer Camp.

Facebook Live Sessions were conducted for schools to enable them to reach out to parents who were as concerned and stressed out as a result of the sudden and unprecedented turn of events.

Where work-life balance was a concern earlier, a third aspect loomed up – their children's learning. To support and guide them in this area, sessions such as Cyber Security, Shri Samvaad, Parenting During the Pandemic, Understanding the ABCs of the Lockdown (and its impact on children), Understanding the Needs of Children, etc. were conducted for parents.
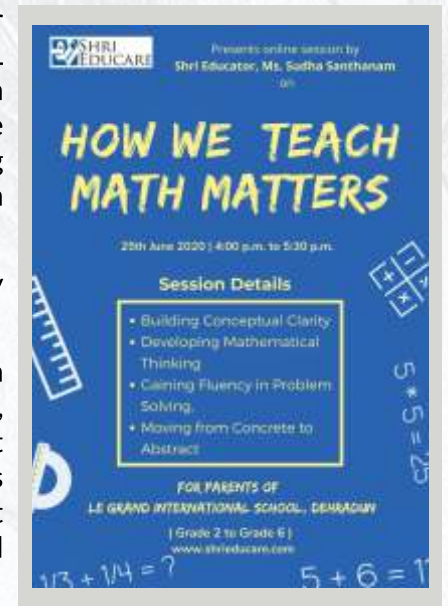
SEL experts also conducted workshops for parents to help them understand the Shri Way of Learning so that they can guide their children during this forced home schooling period. Sessions such as Sounds Make Sense, How We Learn Math Matters, Stepping into the New Normal, Akshar Gyan, Kahani Lekhan, Kavi Sammelan, Vartani Evam Vyakran, Mathematics – The Vedic Way, gave parents insights into how learning happens in a SHRI Classroom. Needless to say, these were a great success, with parents asking for more sessions of this nature.

Another new initiative by SEL were the collaborative trainings done to encourage peer learning amongst teachers. Domain experts from SEL along with the Teachers from SEL schools conducted workshops on a common platform. Some of the sessions conducted were Mathematics – The Vedic Way; Akshar Gyan; Dealing With Abstract Concepts; Building Online Research Skills; Understanding the Needs of Children.

The parent session done for the Student Advisory Programme was much appreciated.

On the cards are more of these sessions, for both teachers and parents, will be rolled out periodically, to ensure that teachers, students and parents benefit from them. Video Recordings based on concepts across subjects and grade levels are being created at SEL by the Domain experts and these will be shared with the school as and when they get ready.
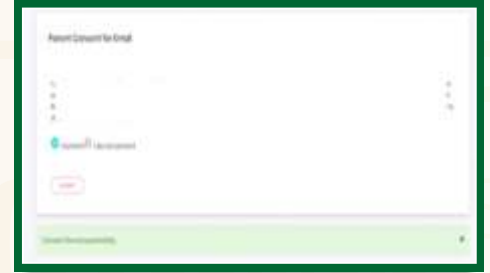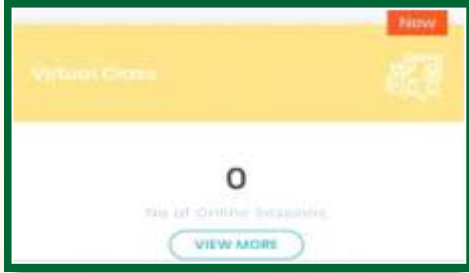
During these unprecedented times, we at SEL have been working diligently to help school teams maintain school operations seamlessly, as they adapt to the new demands during the pandemic and adopt new skills and tools to enable their work.

We realized school operations must go on, therefore, we compiled all the support and resources available to enable digital transformation through ShriConnect.

This quarter we released the following updates on ShriConnect:

☑ **Virtual Class Module:** Teachers can now record the lessons or create the lesson schedule on Zoom/Team classes and upload the link onto ShriConnect. Parent receive a notification on their mobile app and web portal. There is also a provision/option wherein the school can get parent consent also digitally.

☑ **ShriConnect FMS 2.0.0:** Via this option, Parents can pay single quarter's or entire year's fee. This option was provided to give parents a discount if payment is made for the whole year. Cashfree PG service for Card and Cradles EMI option was also created and provided to schools. There is also an option for part payment of the regular and admission fees.

☑ **Mark trends and analysis:** Various Mark analysis of students is another new feature available on the Parent Portal and SMT Portal.

On the Cards:

☑ **Shri Help Desk on ShriConnect:** To organize schools' communication regarding support for issues related to ShriConnect, and to be able to respond to our clients quickly and effectively, this new module will be launched soon. Using helpdesk allows our support team to offer the best possible experience to all you.

☑ **Online Payment in Parent Mobile App:** Now parent can make fees payment through mobile app.

☑ Board exam marks upload and data analysis

☑ Multimedia and Video Upload option in ShriConnect and streaming facility

☑ Online Assessment

☑ Online assignment and homework submission.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

During these unprecedented times, we at SEL have been working diligently to help school teams maintain school operations seamlessly, as they adapt to the new demands during the pandemic and adopt new skills and tools to enable their work.

We realized school operations must go on, therefore, we compiled all the support and resources available to enable digital transformation through ShriConnect.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success!" -Henry Ford

The pandemic and the lockdown though hard, has in fact come as a blessing in disguise. It has opened us up to new avenues and methods of learning like never before. With social distancing, we are connecting & collaborating more and more through online mediums.

In light of the situation, Shri Educare Limited and Ghiyasuddin International School have jointly launched a Community Outreach Program at GIS, Maldives.

This program has two main phases: a teacher outreach and a parent outreach. 'A Window into the Classroom' is a virtual lesson walkthrough for teachers of all SEL partner schools hosted by the teachers of the Ghiyasuddin International School, Maldives.

They opened up their classes to their colleagues and it has been a rich learning experience for everyone involved. Till now there have been 10 virtual lesson walkthroughs with 193 attendees in total.

The parent outreach program started on 25th June 2020 and would host 9 webinars till 6th of August. With presenters from India, Maldives and USA, the webinars are being conducted through Zoom and are also going live on Facebook. In the sessions till now, we had a total of 67 attendees for the first session, 70 for the second and 102 for the third session.

The sessions conducted and planned are:

- ☑ Financial planning for your child's education
- ☑ Inclusive education needs: The power of words
- ☑ Social emotional learning in Mathematics
- ☑ Getting over techno-panic mindset
- ☑ Famification: The treasures of our past
- ☑ Rising strong with resilience
- ☑ Learning at home in the time of pandemic
- ☑ Deeper learning

ONLINE PRINCIPALS' CONNECT

In an endeavor to bring together the key decision makers of schools and to provide them with a platform to collaborate and learn from each other, SEL organized the first Online Principals' Connect on 29th June,2020. Principals and Directors from across the length and breadth of the country joined in virtually to share their experiences and challenges faced due to the global pandemic.

We hope that in an ever changing educational landscape new ideas will emerge from the visions and views exchanged between school leaders.

ONLINE SEN CONNECT

Virtual classrooms have brought in a new challenge for Special Needs Educators as engaging children with different needs through an online platform is not an easy task.

A monthly connect between the Special Educators of SEL schools along with school leaders and SEL mentor has paved the way for sharing of best practices and thereby learning from each other.

TRAININGS AND SESSION DURING THE LOCKDOWN (FOR STAFF AND PARENTS)

1 Time Management

2 Sounds Make Sense

3 Fine Motor Skills

4 How and Why Project Based Learning

5 Understanding Video Scribe

6 Understanding the Needs of Children

7 Using Online Tools to Energise Preschool Teaching

8 Shri Samvaad

9 Shri Kathayein Series

10 Bringing Your Skills to Teaching

11 The Art of Craft

12 Building Online Research Skills

13 Using ZOOM, Microsoft TEAMS and other Online Platforms

14 Gamify Your Online Classrooms Using KAHOOT

15 Effective Online Teaching to Foster Student Learning

16 Designing Quizzes on KAHOOT

17 De-Mystifying AI

18 Using PADLET as an E-Learning Tool

19 Cyber Security

20 Data Analytics ad Its Role in Education

21 Spell Well

22 Creative Expressions

23 Listening and Speaking Skills

24 Akshar Gyan

25 Lekhan Kaushal Vikas

26 Vartani Evam Vyakran

27 Bhasha Kaushal Vikas

28 Kahani Lekhan

29 Mathematics – The Vedic Way

30 How We Teach Math Matters

31 Dealing with Abstract Concepts

32 Parent Orientation for Student Advisory Programme (SAP)

33 Teaching in a Pandemic – How We Teach

34 Teaching in a Pandemic – How We Learn

35 Being a Resilient Learner

36 MS TEAMS – Class NoteBook

37 Graphic Organisers and Visible Thinking Routines

38 Flipped Classrooms for Online Teaching

39 Exploring Scratch

40 Managing Student Engagement Online

41 Creating Interactive Videos Using EdPuzzle

42 Amplify Student Voice with FlipGrid

43 The Art of Cross Curricular Integration

44 Worksheets That Work

45 Conducting Virtual Labs

46 Misconceptions in Mechanics

47 The Science of Teaching Science

48 Safety Measures Post Lockdown

49 Lockdown Parenting – Know the ABC's

50 Parenting During the Pandemic

ON THE CARDS:

1 Financial Literacy

2 Writing Skills in English

3 Idiomatic Expressions

4 Common English Errors

5 Effective Skills for Effective Study

6 Note Taking VS Note Making

7 The Art of Appreciation

8 Types of Poetry