

# #@SEL

Synergising the 'SHRI' Perspective



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# FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Goodbye 2020.....Welcome 2021!!

What a year 2020 has been!

Caught on the blind side by a virus so tiny that it is invisible to the naked eye, the world nearly came to a shocked stand still.....confused, frightened, helpless and most of all ..... vulnerable!

However, like many other such terrifying moments in History, we all came through, adapting to changes and innovating and improvising along the way. Our resilience and determination to ensure that precious learning time was not lost, enabled us to get into action quickly and equip ourselves with the new skills essential for teaching and learning on a virtual platform.

Looking back at this tumultuous year, each one of us can, and must, take pride in the fact that we did not give up. The Adversity Quotient in each of us hit an all time high and it is this that enabled us to forge through the dark days, firm in the belief that the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel exists, and that patience, hope and collaboration will take us to brighter and happier days.

In this issue, we bring you a few glimpses of recent events which were held in the last quarter to bring the year to a close, leaving behind it some very happy and successful memories, that will override the ones which were filled with anxiety and uncertainty.

Let us all continue to work together, sharing our strengths, best practices and “ahaa” moments, like we did during the Pandemic Year, and build skills and strengths in ourselves and our children to enable us to be ready for any such “googly” that the future may fling at us.

Here's thanking all our readers for their contributions to the SEL Newsletter in 2020 and looking forward to more interesting such reads in the issues to come.

Best wishes to each one of you for a healthy, safe, happy and successful year ahead. May the year 2021 make up for all that we lost in 2020.

Good Luck and God Bless!!

## **EQUBE – A LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME WITH A DIFFERENCE**

EQUBE, which stands for Enabling Evolutionary Excellence, is a Life Education Programme for Grades III to X, a programme designed by EFIL - Education for Integrating Life. EQUBE facilitates development of enquiring minds that would take conscious informed choices through reflection and continuous experiential learning. It aims to develop individuals as entrepreneurs with deep social consciousness and with alignment of their vision and values. Students also understand their careers as means to their life and the power of purpose driven life.

In the EQUBE program, students from Grade III to X go through sessions on life education to identify the possibility of making a difference to someplace or someone in their life, including themselves, with empathy and meaningful action. This year nearly 550 projects by students of Grade X were evaluated based on authenticity, uniqueness, innovativeness, clarity and depth, passion, and courage while doing and presenting the project. This experience from EQUBE yet again paved a pathway to show how, when education opens the students to lessons from life and nature, students blossom and go beyond proving their enormous capacity to make a difference to this world.

EQUBE has age-appropriate themes for each class. These range from Responsibilities to Understanding Emotions, Values & Beliefs, Learning to Learn, Power of Vision and one's Life's Orientations. The EQUBE curriculum is imparted through 24 sessions each year per class. The EQUBE program has been running successfully and consistently since 2005 starting with research and pilot programs. It was rolled out in schools in the North in 2015.

At SEL schools, EQUBE has been running since 2016 and reaches out to over 2000 students annually. It presently runs from Grades III through VIII in 5 of SEL's schools. Teachers identified for EQUBE by the school, undergo an immersive and experiential training program with EFIL faculty. As teachers revisit their own journey through Life thus far with fresh eyes and new perspectives, they become more open to their students and can, thus, forge stronger bonds built on greater trust and willingness to explore Life together.

TSUS Hyderabad will be doing SEL's first Social Action Project program in the year 2022-23, when its senior most class reaches Grade X, and at TSUS Palava the same will be rolled out in 2023-24.



## ONLINE PRINCIPALS' CONNECT @ SEL

Online Principals' Connect is a monthly feature organised by SEL, where heads of SEL schools and members of SEL come together to share best practices for K12 schools & new initiatives launched this year.

From discussions on NEP to Adaptive Assessments, exploring Coding and Augmented Reality, we have witnessed sharing of thoughts and ideas on a diverse range of topics.

On 26th November 2020, we were joined by Ms. Manika Sharma, Director - The Shri Ram Schools, Delhi and Gurugram, for an immersive session on her journey as a Leader. She addressed a variety of questions posed by the heads of SEL schools, which ranged from investment in teacher training and dealing with attrition to managing transformation in the field of education.

Manika Ma'am's responses were spontaneous with real examples from her own experience as a school leader.

She summed up the session by sharing her 'Mantras on Leadership' that are listed below:

- 1. CREATING A CULTURE OF TRUST**
- 2. TAKING RISKS**
- 3. MUTUAL RESPECT FOR STAFF MEMBERS**
- 4. BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS**
- 5. EMPOWERING ALL STAFF MEMBERS**
- 6. CONSISTENCY AND COMPASSION**
- 7. IMPACT THROUGH RESULTS**

Manika Ma'am's in depth understanding of managing people and situations sets her apart as a dynamic leader, this came to the fore lucidly during the session.

Online Principal's Connect, SEL's new initiative during the Pandemic has not only been well received, but it has also enabled stronger collaboration and sharing across SEL's K-12 Schools. Its success as a platform to bring the SEL Family of schools together is largely thanks to the Directors and principals of the schools who have opened up their schools for virtual visits to classrooms, events and celebrations over the virtual platform that we have been functioning on this academic session.



## ONLINE SEN CONNECT - STRENGTHENING INCLUSIVITY @ SEL SCHOOLS

Another new initiative by SEL is the monthly online connect for Special Education Needs. Each one-hour session looks at empowering Special Educators across SEL Schools through interactive sessions by eminent experts in the field of Special Education Needs.

K.B. Rudraaksh, an ex-student, was one of the first guest speakers for this online session. He shared his experiences and how with support from his parents and educators at school, he forged on, never giving up on his endeavour to overcome each obstacle with courage and resilience. The other guests were Ms. Aradhana Lal, VP - Sustainable Initiatives at Lemon Tree Hotels, Ms. Nivedita Sengupta, teacher and parent at The Shri Ram Schools, Ms. Shivani, Occupational Therapist at The Shri Ram Universal School, Hyderabad and Ms. Hamida, The Shriram Millennium School, Faridabad. All these sessions were greatly appreciated and motivated the attending special educators whose queries were meaningfully addressed by the Guest Speakers.

In the months ahead, SEL aims to bring in more such speakers who will help strengthen the Special Education Needs Departments at SEL Schools in their own endeavour to provide the best experience to children in their care.

# SHRI EXPRESSIONS 2020

## SEL's First Online Inter School English Event

*Every child is a different kind of flower with a special fragrance, and all together they make a beautiful garden.*

It is only when we see children as innately wise, capable beings filled with creative potential, can we play along in their world. And we, at Shri Educare believe that each child is an ocean of talent, creativity, skill, ability and is inherently wise. One just must have eyes to see, ears to hear, sensitivity and love for children to feel it.

Shri Expressions 2020 was a celebration of that wonderful uniqueness, richness of talent, wealth of knowledge and a free spirit that defines each child. It was a small endeavour on SEL's part to provide multiple opportunities to children to give expression to the abundance of talent within each one.

Nelson Mandela encapsulates the diversity of the English language in his quote which says that without language one cannot talk to people, understand them, share their hopes and aspirations, grasp their history, appreciate their poetry and savour their songs or write about them. And the English language is that cohesive, binding force that facilitates global communication enabling understanding of cultures worldwide. The three- day long fiesta aimed at building a love for the language and giving children a platform to use it creatively.

Over 280 children across Grades II to XII from SEL 16 K-12 Schools, in India and Maldives participated enthusiastically in a host of events. The ease with which the children took to the online platform spoke volumes about their self-confidence which shone through brightly.

Students of Grades II and III participated in the non- competitive events of '**Characters Come Alive**' and '**Recitation.**' Students of Grades IV to VIII competed in '**Just A Minute**' and '**Take A Stand**', and the students of IX and X participated in, '**What's The Good Word?**' and '**Turncoat.**' The highlight was the Book and Literary Quiz held in two groups across Grades II to VIII.

The judges, audience and the SEL faculty were spellbound and delighted to see the wealth of talent, knowledge, confidence and poise with which the children conducted themselves as they figured out the good word, took a stand, turned the coat and amazed all with their speaking skills and out of the box thinking.

There was extensive evidence of how much effort had been put in by teachers and parents to prepare the students to successfully exhibit their talents and skills.

Participants of JAM and Turn Coat showed presence of mind and a wide range of knowledge. Participants of Take a Stand dug in their heels and made the task of the judges a wee bit difficult.

Sometimes we are tested not to show our weaknesses, but to discover our strengths. This was amply proved by **Mr. Himanshu Jain, CEO, Shri Educare Limited**, who welcomed the students by saying that this event is not about winning, but about participating with zest and confidence. It is about learning from watching others and teaching by displaying confidence and values.

**The Guest of Honour - Ms. Kairavi Bharat Ram**, author of "Ramayana in Rhyme", "Krishna in Rhyme" and "C is for Cat...D is for Depression", spoke to the participants and faculty from Los Angeles, reading excerpts from her book and also sharing her own experiences during her journey as a young author. Intrigued by her decision to write in verse, the students had many questions which she answered with gentle patience and immense clarity. Listening to each question with a seriousness that gave the participants the feeling that they had a creative talent within them and only needed that little push to discover it, resulted in her inspiring many of them to attempt writing as well. Her ability to connect with the students was amazing and it is that which made the Author Connect the highlight of the event!

Shri Expressions was filled with enthusiasm, energy, new learnings and many delightful moments to savour. The curtains closed on Shri Expressions 2020 with each child emerging a winner.

**The Shriram Millennium School, Noida** was adjudged the winning school that scored the highest number of points in the competitive events and declared **Event Champions** for SHRI EXPRESSIONS 2020. Congratulations, Team TSMS Noida!

For the English Department at SEL, it has proved to be a trailblazer. It has given us direction. We have gained an insight into the new tracks we need to carve out in the wild country of online teaching to help our wonderful children to acquire, nay polish, their latent skills further. It has also ignited in us an urge to make this an Annual Event at SEL.





# FORGING THE FUTURE

## Career Fair Organised by Shri Educare Limited

The virtual career fair, **Forging the Future**, was organized by SEL's International Program Team under the Student Advisory Programme (SAP) on **28th November 2020, Saturday**. It was done in collaboration with all the SAP schools:

The total registrations received for the fair were 731 for middle school (Grades 6-8) & 115 for senior school (Grades 9-12). A total of approximately 300 participants attended the session for middle school (Grades 6-8) & approximately 62 participants for senior school (Grades 9-12).

The opening address was given by Mr. Pavan Allena, a young entrepreneur from Hyderabad. The session focused on developing 21st century leadership skills. He spoke about his career journey, inspirations, experiences & lessons along the way. He stressed upon developing human skills in the times of automation & creating a unique profile for yourself.

In the first career field, **Art & Design**, Mr. Abhijeet Dhondphale, a sculptor from Pune interacted with the middle school students and Ms. Jyoti Rohal from Texas, USA, a furniture designer was the speaker for the senior school students.

Mr. Abhijeet spoke mainly about worshipping work and finding solace in work as this ensures that everything falls in line. As a third-generation sculptor and an internationally celebrated artist, he spoke about how passion and humility have been the key to his success. He also displayed some of his recent sculptures. In the senior school session, Ms. Jyoti prioritised being fearless in following your passions and spoke about her journey showcasing her work on social media and the importance of creating a personal brand right from school years. She also emphasised the importance of being motivated through feedback, be it positive or negative.

The second career field, **Environmental & Health Sciences** had two inspiring professionals interacting with the students. For middle school, Mr. Chandrankant Redican, a molecular biologist and a poet spoke about his unique background, growing up in a village and how his earliest influences, his parents played a major role in his interdisciplinary success. He stressed on passion like all other speakers and spoke about how transferable skills beyond the field could be developed. He also left the audience mesmerized with a performance of one of his science-themed poems.

Ms. Sham'aa A Hameed, a doctor, a scuba-diver, a drummer and a marine scientist from Maldives, was truly an interesting person, not only due to her varied profile, but also due to her approach towards life. She expressed the importance of being mindful and completely present in whatever task one is currently engaged in. Only with a hundred percent dedication can one achieve true success. She stressed on the importance of taking risks and participating in a variety of co-curricular activities to broaden horizons right from school days. She also lay emphasis on working within the system as well as understanding when to stretch the boundaries.

The last career field, **Business & Management** had two professionals from very diverse backgrounds. Mr. Hassan Saeed, a resort manager in one of Maldives' island resorts, spoke about his journey from humble beginnings and the lessons he learned on the way. His focus on family, empathy and social skills was valuable to the students. His analogy of a Toshali, a Maldivian palm leaf craft and life was beautiful and gave students a deeper insight of the simplicity of one's thoughts and motivation to persevere. The guest for the senior school students, Ms. Sugandha Singhal, VP, Head Treasury at SRF, focused on career planning through self-awareness and following one's passion. Adaptability to change, curiosity and logical thinking came out as key points from her session. She also shared details about a career in finance and highlighted the qualities of loving numbers and having an eye for detail as field-specific skills.

All the sessions were conducted in an interview format wherein the advisors and one student from TSUS Hyderabad, facilitated the sessions with a list of pre-decided questions focusing on skill development and nature of work in the specific professions. The last ten minutes of each session were reserved for student questions which were picked up through the chat window.

Each session was very well received by the viewing and participating audience.

The platform used for hosting this virtual career fair was Zoom which was also viewed by a larger audience through live broadcasting on SEL's Facebook page.



# Welcome!

SEL welcomes two new additions to its family, The Shri Ram Wonder Years, Rohini and MRG School Rohini

The Shri Ram Wonder Years, the preschool, was launched on the 1st of November 2020, making it the 9th preschool under the SEL umbrella. An interactive session was held on the 1st of November, where members of the School and SEL Team apprised parents both existing and prospective about how the Shri ethos and philosophy will strengthen the academic journey for their children, making their early learning years an enriching and meaningful one.

A three-day orientation for parents of MRG School was held from the 18th to 20th of December to inform parents of the school's academic association with Shri Educare Limited. Orientations were held across these three days for both the National Curriculum (CBSE) and for the International Curriculum (Cambridge)

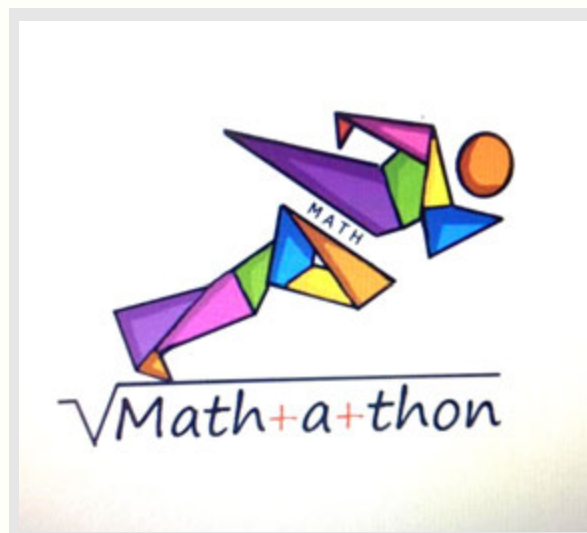


The Q & A session that followed the orientation by SEL Team members helped clarify various queries that parents had and explained how the school team would ensure a seamless transition, remaining cognizant of the fact that children and their learning is enriched by this association.

We wish both the schools the very best as they journey on with SEL's support, to provide children of North-West Delhi the opportunity and privilege of being part of the Shri ethos and philosophy.

## ON THE CARDS . . .

## ONLINE INTER SCHOOL MATH EVENT @ SEL



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