

In this edition

The TEACHER in

June 2019



You can scan the code by using any free-to-download QR reader available on the App Store, Play Store and Windows Store. Wifi/Mobile data will be required.

04

Cover Story



85 and Still Teaching!
Vimla Kaul

09

Blackboard to Skype
Shimmi Sharma

23

Quiz of the month

20

Experts Speak
Rama Ranganathan

07

Cover Story



Does the Classroom Topper Top in Life?
Mahendri Devi

12

Education News

14

Sustainability at 3500 metres Above Sea Level
Druk Padma Karmo School

18

We Recommend
Headspace App

Sustaining teachers!

RASHMI MARIAN FURTADO
Senior Editor, TheTeacher.in



Like trees and animals in our environment, teachers too have become an endangered species in our schools. So, how do we conserve our teachers? How do we create a sustainable environment for our teachers, so they can survive and continue to nurture the future of our nation and world?

World Environment Day is an important event in our schools. It imparts a sense of responsibility towards our environment and planet, in the children. Sustainability is one of the integral parts of conservation of our environment. UNESCO has prescribed certain mandates to countries of the world to achieve sustainability. Corporates across the world have taken up many CSR initiatives to take up these mandates and action change. Individuals and groups have also worked on many innovations that will contribute towards sustainability.

How can we apply sustainability to schools? In terms of environment, many schools have taken up initiatives like vegetable gardens, class-wise gardens, etc. But, when it comes to schools, the problem is way deeper.

I would like to share three thoughts that can be implemented to save and conserve this endangered species. A school creates a conducive environment for the children to learn. My first solution is to provide a conducive environment for the teachers along with the children. An environment of learning, where resources are provided for teachers to upgrade themselves in terms of knowledge and skills. No, I am not talking about the teacher training sessions. I am talking about reducing administrative duties of a teacher, so she or he finds enough time to do some reading, use school resources to take an online course or take part in a contest.

Provide leadership opportunities to teachers, where they can showcase their talent along with the students. What the school authorities need to understand is that they are not only responsible for the learning and growth of the children, they also must make sure their teachers grow and progress in their profession and as individuals. Many schools have already implemented the above suggestions and have tried positively motivating the teachers.

For female teachers, the biggest challenge is when they have children of their own and have to juggle between home and school. While it's a common challenge between a working woman and a teacher, what many of us don't realise is that in a world where there's a dearth of teachers, this becomes a huge challenge for the schools to solve or manage. The solution for this is to have a creche in schools, where children of staff will be taken care of. A school provides an ideal environment for a creche. This will reduce the number of leaves, distraction and increase focus, all of which increase productivity.

As educators, it's important that we provide for a sustainable environment for teachers. It's upto us educators that we protect this endangered species and save them from becoming extinct.

Yours Curiously!



Rashmi

If your school has implemented any such method, write to me about it at rashmi@greycaps.com

 @RashmiGreycaps

 @RashmiGreycaps

 Rashmi Furtado

A natural writer, teacher and a passionate content creator, Rashmi has authored the Cu and Rio series and created the Keystones program on Values Education from Greycaps. She is one of the founders of TheTeacher.in. She is a sought after speaker at educational conferences, facilitator programs and for motivational talks to students at schools across India. She holds a Master's Degree from the prestigious NIT Suratkal where she also taught before joining Greycaps. Rashmi is also a popular quiz host for schools, colleges and large corporate audiences. She has co-hosted the Tata Crucible quiz and Travel Quest by Thomas Cook.

PERSON OF
THE MONTH

85 AND STILL TEACHING! Vimla Kaul



Teaching is considered as the mother of all professions. We have schools and institutions that run on the regular structure of imparting knowledge to students. But, there are a few people who work for the development of the society through their invaluable contribution. They fight against all odds to share knowledge and see to it that students excel in their respective fields. The reward for them is to see students excelling and that is what makes them the 'person of the month' for us.

A living legend

At the age of 85, when most people retire, Vimla Kaul goes to school daily to teach underprivileged children at 'Guldasta', her school-cum learning centre. Her passion for teaching is a great inspiration for aspiring teachers. She retired from a government school

twenty odd years ago, but continues to teach underprivileged children till date.

Inspiration

Vimla has dedicated her life to educate and nurture young minds. In 1993, Vimla Kaul and her husband Prof. Hari Mohan Kaul, retired from their professions and wanted to create an impact in the society with charitable work. As part of a Rotary Club drive, they visited Madanpur Khadar village with biscuits for the kids there. A local woman praised their effort of feeding the kids, but remarked that instead of feeding



them, the couple should teach the children to earn their livelihood. This comment stayed with the couple and motivated them to start a school.

Guldasta

The visit to Madanpur Khadar gave feathers to their charitable work. Mr. and Mrs. Kaul decided to start a school for the village children.

In 1995, 'Guldasta' was started with five students under a banyan tree at the village Chaupal, in Madanpur Khandar. Due to lack of teachers, they split the work and managed to teach English, Mathematics, Social Studies and Environmental Science. The aim of the couple was to give proper education which would help the children earn a living in the long run.

Challenges

The journey of the school had its own challenges and hurdles due to lack of finance, teaching staff and space. But, the determination of Mr. and Mrs. Kaul helped overcome those challenges. Since Guldasta was not a regular school with big banners, regular fee structure and teaching

staff, it had to move from one place to another. The couple shifted it to their housing complex, where around 150 students enrolled to study.

In the complex, the neighbours complained about the noisy kids and forced them out. This compelled the Kauls to close the school in the housing complex and look for an alternative. After an endless hunt for an appropriate place for the school, Guldasta was shifted to an MCD Park in the Dairy Farm near Sarita Vihar.

When Prof. Kaul passed away in 2009, Vimla Kaul took over the management and began running all the school affairs on her own, and continues to do so. She has also formed an NGO called 'Vasundhari Society for Social Action' to care for Guldasta.

The NGO runs tailoring classes, beautician course, henna application course, basic computer course and dance classes for children and women of





Picture credits - Freepressjournal

Madanpur Khadar. The girls trained here donate a part of their earnings to the NGO, which they earn at the eve of Karwa Chauth.

New beginnings

Guldasta continued to function in the MCD Park for a few years, until the school finally managed to get its own space after it was adopted by a NGO called Mahamana Malaviya Mission in 2011.

With the help of the NGO, Guldasta has managed to rent a three-room building with all the basic amenities.

Curriculum

At Guldasta, classes are run in two shifts, morning and evening, on a

daily basis. Morning shift is for the young children of KG, first, second and third standard, the other for coaching classes in Mathematics and English for middle school and high school level students.

Vimla Kaul is also assisted by two of the alumni of Guldasta, one of them has a Computer Science degree and the other works as a mechanic.

Recognition

Vimla Kaul's selfless service has earned her many awards and recognition. Among the several awards, Vimla Kaul was given the CNN IBN Real Heroes Award 2010 and Jijabai Women Achiever's Award 2014.



Picture credits - Freepressjournal

With the unending support in the field of education, Vimla Kaul has set an example that age is just a number for those who believe in change and enlighten the lives of others through their invaluable contributions. ■

Does the classroom topper top in life?

MAHENDRI DEVI | Principal, Vishwa Bharti Public School, Greater Noida.

Mahendri Devi is a seasoned, passionate and resourceful educational professional with 25 years of experience. She is currently the Principal at Vishwa Bharti Public School, Greater Noida. She has taught all age groups from K-12 in her more than two decades of teaching. She has worked in some of the premiere institutions of the country. She was an Asst. Headmistress in St. Xavier's Sr. Sec School, Delhi, handling a team of 2000 students and 55 teachers, and was the Vice Principal in Somerville International School, Noida. When she is not teaching, she is blogging, reading or researching for the next best way to make teaching-learning a memorable and productive experience.



More than two decades of teaching and this paradoxical outcome has always baffled me. There is a world of difference between performing under guided, protected, familiar parameters in the classroom and executing and sustaining in unprotected, unfamiliar, unexpected situations in life.

Education should educate an individual with life-skills along with formulae and fundamentals, territories and terminologies, legends and literature. Why do we not teach our students to research, compare, analyse, question and dare to be different? As a student, I always wondered where I would use logarithm in life. When I learned speed and distance and their co-relation,

I solved the sum for the sake of solving. As long as I remembered the steps, and my answer matched the digits at the back of that dreadfully thick maths book, I was satisfied. I realised much later what it all meant when I started driving, and I had to adjust my speed before trying to overtake, estimating the speed of the vehicle coming towards me. Then I said to myself that my early years were robbed of half the joy of learning.

The booming economy, super-busy parents and overburdened teachers have given birth to a lop-sided, self-obsessed and instant gratification-seeking generation. Today, teenagers feel awkward in a

social gathering or in their own families. To avoid the unfamiliar faces and to stave off those solicitous smiles, their quick and unflinching resort is the screen in the palm. Pretending to be busy and isolating themselves shows lack of people skills. They need to be educated on patience, communication, knowing how and when to show empathy, active listening and genuine interest in others. Not only that, people are interesting, which you realise only when you get close to them. It wouldn't be surprising if the arrogant, seeming-to-be all-knowing school pass-outs would not even know how to apply, arrange documents, foresee problems, understand deadlines or face an interview for something as simple as a passport or visa. They must have the experience and knowledge to deal with the potential difficulties or dangers of life. Smart moves make smart people or vice-versa.

Let us allow our children to err. Children need to get stuck. Education must break inhibitions. Education must teach one to adapt. Education must make children world-ready. Books and virtual world, closed classrooms and CCTV premises only leave us half-baked and ill-equipped for life's challenges. It is high time we amended our ways and created a system that makes learning functional and lasting.



Arrange for students to visit important offices on a not-so-busy time, to understand the functioning of departments, be it a bank, a court in session or a hospital. Give them target questions and let them find out for themselves and prepare a report or presentation. Instead of giving them readymade solutions, let them explore. Teachers must encourage innovation. Take their homework from CUT COPY PASTE to making apps and using Artificial Intelligence to resolve life issues. Take them on a picnic or nature walk and let their imagination stretch to compose and paint the unthinkable. Take them to a vegetable market with a set budget. Let them learn to bargain, look for quality and also save. Do they have to wait till 11th grade to learn to make a balance sheet? The syllabus should be so planned that it gives room for hands-on learning. Teachers must integrate the activities with topics done in various subjects. One field trip could be a learning base for various subjects. This makes teaching-learning not only interesting, but meaningful and productive.

Marks don't determine one's destiny is a cliché and it is a cliché because it is true. It is not the bookworms but the street smarts that will strive, survive and sustain. ■

Blackboard to Skype



SHIMMI SHARMA | Teacher, Sunbeam School Lahartara, Varanasi.

Shimmi Sharma is an English teacher at Sunbeam School, Lahartara. She is an MA in English, Education and Psychology and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education. She is a passionate learner and aims to inspire young minds to love learning and wants to help them become free thinkers.

Skype and Learning

'Skype in the Classroom' is a community of educators across the globe that allows educators, policy makers, administrators, teachers and students to collaborate on various interactive projects, taking up various eminent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and catering to the 21st century skills. Educators can use this powerful tool of learning to bring out the far off learning centres together under one roof. This tool of learning makes concepts and the lessons interesting and innovative. It is found that when the learners are involved in any activity wholeheartedly, they retain them for a longer time.

Skype sessions allow the educators and the learners to interact and experience new cultures, traditions, language and idea without leaving their classrooms. Skype allows students to interact with their co-learners who are living in different countries.

Skype and Projects

When the educators make their profiles in Microsoft Educators Community, they can check out different projects which are available on the site. After looking into the various objectives, specialties and goals of the projects, the educator can book the scheduled session with their fellow



town; and social interaction allows the learner to reflect and reconsider, get help and support, and participate in authentic problem solving. It also provides a great opportunity for the learners who live in far-off places. They can see the Taj Mahal, the Yellowstone Park, the Ancient Museum of Egypt and many more renowned destinations without leaving their places, bringing the field trip into the classrooms. The students can get connected to far off places through the spectrum of internet. These Skype activities provide a wide range of learning strategies to the learners as well as to the teachers. There is dynamic sharing of pedagogical styles and techniques between the educators from two different educational backgrounds. This also builds up authentic learning environment and engages the learners into a fruitful activity.

The most important benefit of using Skype in the classroom is the global connect and exchange of languages. Through this powerful tool of technology, the educators are building up a community where

educators. When the educators and learners are involved in these projects, they make their connection with the classrooms across the globe. It also provides a wider range of opportunities to interact with famous personalities, great writers, scientists and different professionals. This way the learning will take place in a comfortable manner. There are different projects available on the Microsoft Educators Community for Skype Collaboration, where the educators can register their classroom for a project. It is a great way to cater 21st century skills and build up an impeccable learning style which is imbued with Sustainable Development Goals.

Impact Factor

The Skype2learn Campaign provides a vast spectrum of opportunities for students for social interaction with classrooms outside of their country or



everyone relates to a broad spectrum of internet, learning and universality of global citizenship. It also allows to observe the cultural differences, differences in their food, weather conditions, physical features and so on. Classroom teachers can leverage or promote the potential of technologies like Skype and other technology immersion initiatives to increase motivation of learners to communicate with authentic audiences and share their expertise, spend time in fruitful tasks, and develop essential literacy and basic skills needed for a successful and progressive life in the twenty first century.

There are so many opportunities provided for making the learning experience memorable. Teachers across the world are engaged in enlightening and versatile exchange of thoughts and presenting an exemplary potential or capability in using Skype as a learning tool in the classroom. Skype enables students to connect, collaborate and communicate with other students across the globe. It creates a global platform for students to learn from each other, to have interactive co-learners for their work and collaborative projects, and to meet other co-learners who can scaffold their learning process. There are many educators who are working together with the aim of promoting peace and global understanding.

In my classroom teaching, I have noticed that ever since I have started using Skype as a learning tool, students look forward to my class. I can feel the



enthusiastic approach towards learning through Skype. The most memorable trip was the 'trip to a volcano site in El Salvador' with Selvin Rivas. The students virtually visited the volcanic site and they were totally involved and learnt amazing facts, which couldn't be learnt by flipping the pages of the geography book. It has not only enhanced the retention capacity but also the involvement of learners in the classroom. They know about different cultures, different languages, different lifestyle and most importantly, the embedding of SDGs in their lives. Learners hone their communication skills when there is a connect between the two classrooms, especially when the learners get a chance to interact with native speakers. It also helps to build their conversational skills with correct intonations and pronunciations.

When the students are involved in various global projects through Skype collaboration, we move towards a better world with better citizens. As educators, it is our responsibility to build a strong foundation of global citizenship by incorporating 21st century skills, that is to build up communication, creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. Let us get connected to this world of e-learning. ■

EDUCATION NEWS

IGNOU launches special programme on GST

To give an opportunity for small businesses to learn about Goods and Service Tax (GST), the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) will launch an awareness programme on GST in collaboration with Bombay Stock Exchange Institute Limited from its July 2019 session.

The programme will be launched by the School of Management of the IGNOU. It aims to impart basic knowledge and skills required to fulfil various requirements under the GST Act.

The candidates or entrepreneurs engaged in small-scale business ventures can also benefit from this programme, which will guide and give an overview of the procedures and formalities that comes under the GST Act.



There are seven modules in the GST Awareness Programme which includes-

- Understanding GST concept
- Incidence of Taxation
- Registration
- Calculation of Tax Liability
- Maintenance of Books
- Payments under GST
- 22nd and 23rd GST Council Meeting for Modification of GST

Candidates interested to apply for the programme must have completed their 10+2 education in any stream from a recognised institution or board.

The programme will span from a minimum of two months to a maximum of six months, which will be offered in both January and July cycle of admissions.

The study material for the course is divided into seven small modules which will be available for the candidates online.

Camlin launches innovative crayons to improve children's grip

Kokuyo Camlin, one of the prominent stationary brands in India, has launched 'Camel Child Grip Crayons'. This unique product is

specially designed to improve children's fine motor skills and enhance their grip development.

The product was launched at a grand function held in Kidzania in Ghatkopar, which was attended by parents, teachers, psychologists, special educators, and several other stakeholders.

Camlin Child Grip Crayons is said to help 'set free' the toddlers' creative side of the brain with easy-to-hold design and attractive bright colours. The product is also said to help children in their brain development by stimulating hand and eye co-ordination, and also help them improve their handwriting skills in the future. The crayons are made of non-toxic material and conform to the EN 71-3 standards. The crayons are also washable in nature.

The company is believed to have put-in more than two years of extensive research into the design and its constituents.

The product received overwhelming responses from teachers, special educators and psychologists, and was praised for its design and grip development ability which experts claim could help in the cognitive development of children with special needs.



Handbook on career options after class 12 released by CBSE

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released a handbook for students on guiding them on courses available after class 12. The handbook lists close to 113 courses, including new-age courses, covering topics such as travel and tourism, sports management, logistics, nutrition, library science, art restoration and so on. The handbook also guides students about the various colleges and

universities in the country offering the courses.



The main aim of the handbook, according to the officials, is to bring awareness about the career options available to them and, to get students to explore options and different avenues. This is also the first time that CBSE has compiled all the courses and information about career options in one place. ■

GREEN SCHOOL

Sustainability at 3500 metres above sea level

Druk Padma Karpo School



Druk Padma Karpo School is located at an altitude of 3500 metres above sea level in Ladakh, India. It was started by the locals in order to preserve the Tibetan Buddhism culture while educating their children to face the challenges of the modern world.

What's in a name?

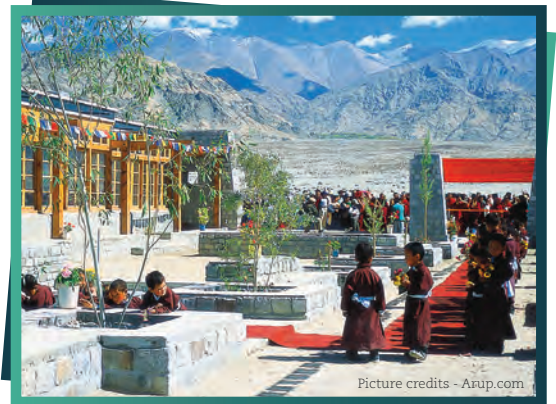
The school derives its name from the Bodhi language where 'Karpo' means 'white' and 'Padma' means 'lotus'. The school was named after Mipham Pema Karpo, a revered scholar who had contributed greatly to Tibetan Buddhist literature.

The school is greatly inspired by the teachings of His Holiness, the 12th Gyalwang Drukpa. He is a spiritual leader of Ladakh who also heads the school in its activities.

Sustainability

Ladakh being an area of very few resources and extreme temperatures, the design and the utilisation of resources has helped the school sustain the harsh conditions. The construction has caused

least impact to the environment as the materials used are eco-friendly and locally sourced. The school has judiciously used the natural resources available like sunlight, wind and air, to provide ventilation and solar heating. Even the usage of energy and water is minimal due to the appropriate usage of the resources available.



Picture credits - Arup.com

The School

A major landslide struck the school in the year 2010, wherein mud swept through the campus, half-filling classrooms. Interestingly, after the landslide, the school rejuvenated well beyond the



Classrooms with mud roof



Construction of VIP latrine

renovation of its buildings to create a state-of-the-art campus that was not only sustainable, but also green. Some of the innovations that Duk Padma Karpo School adopted in its campus are -

■ Great Wall of Shey

Locally termed as the 'Great Wall of Shey', the school designed a flood protection barrier which helped protect the school against floods and landslides.

■ Earthquake Resistant Material

The school was built in stages using building materials and techniques that can withstand extreme climate and earthquakes. The classrooms are also built in a circular 'mandala' format which represent the ideal working model for an organisation.

■ 'Ventilation Improved Pit' Latrines

The school upgraded its traditional dry latrines to 'Ventilation Improved Pit' (VIP) latrines whose double

chamber systems enable the composting of human waste to humus, which is later used as a fertiliser. These toilets also prevent the spread of flies and odour problems. They do not require water, which is an advantage especially in the desert environment.

■ Passive Solar Heating

Since Ladakh gets very cold during winters, the school uses solar panels



Photovoltaic panels to generate electricity from sunlight



Nursery and Infant courtyard -
World Architecture Award for
Best Green Building, 2002

to heat the teaching spaces and to also retain it with the use of high thermal mass walls.

■ Gravity Feed Water System

The school is also equipped with a gravity feed water system which pumps snow-melted water from a depth of 30 metres to reservoirs located near the campus. While one reservoir provides drinking water

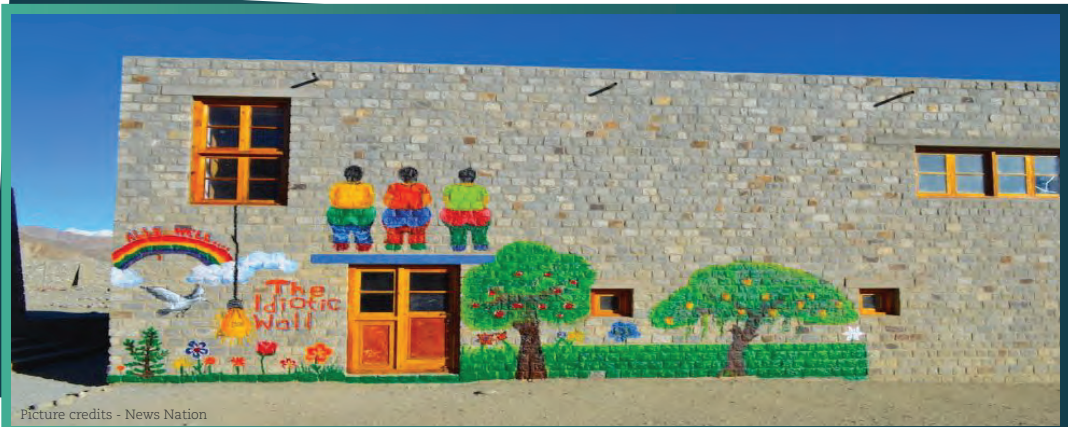
under gravity feed to the school, the other reservoir provides irrigation water.

Additionally, the landscape of Druk Padma Karpo School was built in the vision to support highly sustainable learning landscape with the core elements of food growing, including orchards and vegetable beds, along with timber production for repair and maintenance.

In Popular Culture

The school has won many awards and has been recognised world-wide. 'The International Architecture in Stone Award' in 2013, The Emirates Glass LEAF Awards 2012 are few of the many awards won by the school. Interestingly, the school was featured in Aamir Khan's movie '3 idiots' and was showcased in CISCO's human chain advertisement. ■

The information was sourced from the official website of the school (dwls.org) and (ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do/druk-white-lotus-school)
Images credit - (dwls.org)



Picture credits - News Nation

STEER YOUR CAREER

with Career Insight



- 50 informative career cards
- Engaging illustrations on every card
- Step-by-step guidance for each profession

₹ 224.10/-

BUY NOW



knowledge
gifts

www.knowledgeregifts.in

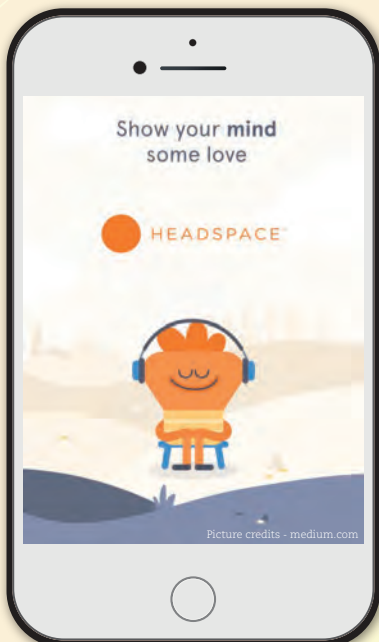
we RECOMMEND

Apps

Headspace- A meditation app

We hear people recommending meditation for all problems these days, as stress, pressure to perform well and restlessness are some of the major issues that adults and children face. For children, the stress and pressure are more towards doing well in exams, getting good grades in class tests, managing peers and so on, while it is doing well at work, better business outcomes, etc. for adults.

To help people with these problems and to enable them to 'relax' and destress, teachers can recommend the 'Headspace' app to children and their colleagues.



The app

Headspace is an app which makes meditation simple and accessible to everyone. It offers guided mindfulness and meditation training on the smart device in just few minutes a day. Termed as the 'personal meditation guide right in the pocket', this app acts as a personal guide to health and happiness, helping users acknowledge their own thoughts and emotions.

Headspace takes a step-by-step approach by starting with the basics. It has a guided beginners' course which helps build a solid foundation to practice later.

What does the app do?

Headspace helps let go of stress to get a better night's sleep. With sessions spanning for just few minutes a day, it brings calmness and

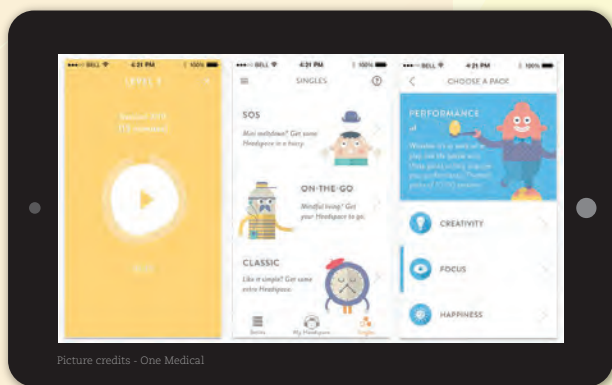
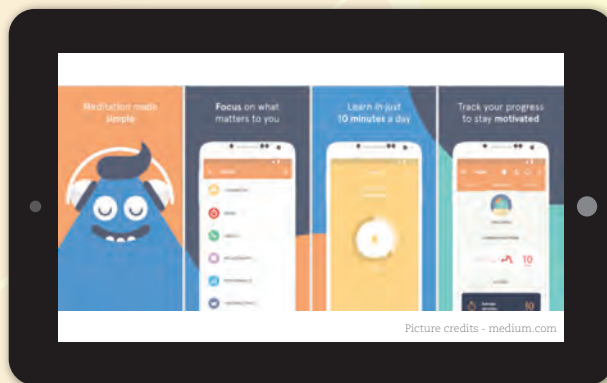
balance in life in an effective way. It helps children, especially the distractive and reactive ones, to focus on the right things.

The app has exercises on various topics ranging from managing anxiety, stress relief and breathing to happiness and focus. There is also a sleep

meditation and sleep sounds section for the restless sleepers. In these sections, to help the cause, the screen is usually darker and the buttons are easier to find. These exercises help those who face trouble falling asleep, especially during exams, competitions or interviews.

Themes

Under the meditation section for kids, the app offers 5 themes like calm, focus, kindness, sleep and wake up. There are other themes for users with various concerns, such as meditation for work, meditation on focus, meditation on stress and meditation on anxiety.



The app is very easy to use with a user-friendly interface. With colourful and interesting animations, the app is likable by users of all age groups.

Headspace is available on both Google Play and Apple Store, and is free to download. This self-help meditation app is a must-have for teachers and children alike. ■

EXPERTS SPEAK



Rama Ranganathan is the founder Principal of National Hill View Public School, Bangalore. She recently handed over the reins, after an enriching and fulfilling seventeen years, answering her calling to reach out and encourage creativity and nurture the quality of excellence among teachers and students alike, and prepare competent and able leaders and heads of institutions!



She has taught at all levels from pre-school to higher secondary classes. She is a teacher of English and History with over thirty years of valuable experience in education. She has been appointed by CBSE as a member of the Inspection Committee for Affiliation of new schools. She has been a mentor to schools across Bangalore for implementation of the CBSE Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation system. She has also held appointments as the Centre Superintendent for the conduct of the CBSE All India Secondary School Examinations and Head Examiner for evaluation.

Rama Ranganathan is also actively engaged in teacher training with a special focus on effective adherence to performance management for heads of schools and quality systems and creative teaching skills for teachers.

As an effective counsellor, she has been offering students, teachers, parents and others the opportunity to find the desired solutions to their problems through positive interaction, with a high degree of confidentiality!

“

I have just started working as a middle-school teacher and this is my first job. I wanted to be the type of teacher who is friendly with students, hence I did so. But slowly they started taking my approach for granted and now, it is difficult to discipline them. Any tips?

It is good to be a friendly teacher, approachable and warm. You don't have to change yourself. You need to change how you are perceived - friendly, but not as an equal, as a friend! It is time to reflect on your interpretation of being taken 'for granted'. List out what makes you feel so.

Middle school is the best level to strike a balanced relationship with your students. They are at a critical threshold between being young children and young adults. It is important to arrive at some golden rules.

Students at all levels like boundaries. They just don't like to say so! They feel secure when boundaries are well defined. They believe in your expectations, when you notice their non-compliance and remind them, without exception. Expectations well defined are safe boundaries! So, list out your expectations of the students, individually and as a class group and inform them the consequences, imminent and long term, of not meeting them.

You must spend some time to prepare this list very objectively because you must make them applicable for all students, even if they are specific to a select few. The list must clearly define your priorities.

So, you need to call the class to order and announce your need, to define your expectations, if you have not done so already, or re-define your expectations, which they don't seem to have understood the way you would have liked them to.

This endeavour must reinforce your stand as a facilitator and not an authoritative superior. Discipline is the unseen line one draws for oneself when one knows one's boundaries! This line makes way for mutual respect and a healthy understanding of propriety!

”

Where are the libraries?



Technology is ruling us. It is everywhere, surrounding us like a layer of oxygen, which is extremely essential for our survival. Can we think of a minute without our gadgets? Today, we hardly see people carrying books, as they are available in digital formats. With this growing trend, what is the status of the libraries? Are the books vanishing?

Schools are becoming 'eSchools' and are replacing blackboards and textbooks with electronic devices. Children are spending a lot of time on gadgets – for games and activities, learning, studying, connecting and socialising. They hardly visit libraries, as everything they want is available with the click of a mouse and now, touch of the screen. With technology invasion in a student's life, they are hardly visiting the libraries. So, will there be libraries in the future? Does this mean that libraries are soon going to become extinct? Will there only be 'Kindle Libraries'?

When I was in school, I remember clearly, waiting for the library period every week. That was the time in school I enjoyed the most. I would wait to explore the new shelves in the library and read the latest novels. The smell of the books, the silence, the sound of crisp pages of the books being turned, and the rows and columns of shelves that filled the library, were soothing and comforting. It was my happy place.

For children of this generation, reading has become reading for examinations. The concept of reading for pleasure and reading as a hobby is slowly losing importance. The race to ace examinations is the only concern today. It is our responsibility as educators to rekindle children's interest in libraries, encourage them to read books and learn something new, and to just enjoy reading. So, let's revive our libraries and the habit of reading, to help our children imagine, explore and learn better!

Do share your views on 'the status of libraries today' with me at varsha@greycaps.com

 Varsha Prasad

Varsha Prasad is leading THE TEACHER.IN initiative from Greycaps, exclusively for teachers, as its Editor. She is also the editor of TheTeacher.in magazine. It is created by Greycaps to celebrate the contributions of our teachers. She has played a vital role in creating many products, which ignite the curiosity of children, including the Global Awareness Program, also known as GAP in schools.

QUIZ OF THE MONTH

1. Which place surrounded by the Southern Ocean literally translates to 'opposite to the north' in Greek?

a. Antartica

b. Australia

2. Which country presented the United States with the status of Liberty on the 100th anniversary of United States Independence?

a. Germany

b. France

3. Which country gave the world the first democratically elected woman Prime Minister?

a. India

b. Sri Lanka

4. The constitution of Iceland was drafted in 2011 as they used Denmark's constitution before that. The Iceland government used which crowdsourcing platform to draft its constitution?

a. Facebook

b. Twitter

5. Which language spoken in south India is a palindrome?

a. Malayalam

b. Tulu



INDIA & WORLD

ASK FOR CLUES & LEARN!



Fact-O-Mania
Indian Monuments and
Personalities (2 Box COMBO)

17% off

₹498/- | ₹413.34/-

Buy Now



Fact-O-Mania
World Monuments and
Personalities (2 Box COMBO)

17% off

₹498/- | ₹413.34/-

Buy Now



Fact-O-Mania
India & World Monuments and
Personalities (4 Box COMBO)

25% off

₹996/- | ₹747/-

Buy Now

LOG IN TODAY

knowledgegifts.in

knowledge
gifts

FREE
SHIPPING