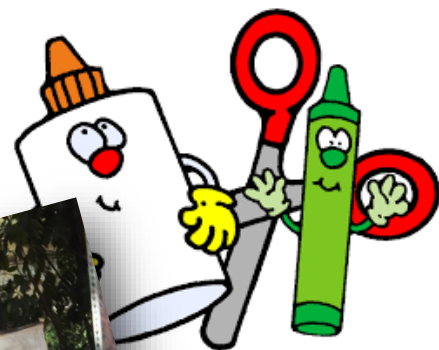


THE SOMAIYA SCHOOL RAYS



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FOREWORD



Dear Parents,

Welcome to another edition of RAYS - the newsletter of TSS.

“If you want your children to listen, try talking softly to someone else.”– Ann Landers

I find this to be a very deceptively simple statement but incredibly powerful. This brings to the fore the argument about hearing and listening. Do we hear or do we listen? What do our children do? Hear or listen? What do we want them to do?

Hearing is an act and listening is an art.....

Listening is a skill that needs training. The basic principles of education insist on developing this skill, and yet we find that more often than not, what we see among our children is that this skill is under developed.

Listening requires that we train our minds to

focus on things said and unsaid. As a part of my training in Non Violent Communication, the need to listen and not be in a hurry to talk was reinforced very strongly.

Today, we find that everyone is in a tearing hurry to make their presence known through their words. Hence everyone wants to talk. So we hear, but do we listen?

Our children are also picking up the same habits. And hence they acquire the ability to hear, not the skill of listening. In this fast paced, complex world, it is all the more important for us as adults to listen to our children because sometimes their silence speaks more than their words or actions.

“The word 'listen' contains the same letters as the word 'silent'.” – Alfred Brendel

The power of listening brings forth strong qualities in us. Empathy, understanding, patience....these are the qualities of survival. Hence the emotional toolkit of our children must have these essential tools.

Let us teach our children the difference between hearing and listening!

Do share your ideas with me for a great school year at principal.tss@somaiya.edu.

Warm regards,

Ms. Parveen Shaikh

Principal – TSS

Spot Light Of The Month

Yamini Pathak is a young mother of a year old, adorable girl. Since joining the school, Yamini has always been an enthusiastic teacher, be it in the ICT lab or the classroom or the sports ground. Fun races, report cards, exam schedules are all a part of the day's work for Yamini. A keen participant in the cricket team, Yamini is always game for new challenges.

1. What led you to pursue teaching as a career?

My brother was a real inspiration to me, and he is one of the major reasons I pursued a teaching career. His ability to guide me during my studies, his fairness, and his techniques to make me understand a concept in a simple manner, made me aspire to bring these things to my own teaching. I love small children a lot and feel happy when they are around. At an early age I started teaching (grade 7), I had the opportunity to take tuitions of Jr.kg, Sr, Kg and 1st standard. That's where my journey started off as being a teacher. The journey continues with all support of my husband. Like it is said that behind every successful man is a woman, I rightly say that behind my success are my husband and brother.



Ms. Yamini Pathak

2. Why ICT as a subject?

ICT as a subject was taken since I believe that technology has the power to change the world. With emerging new technologies in today's world, children need to be hands on in doing their work. They need to be having effective knowledge about the things they are learning which is possible through research, scholarly communication and learning by doing. I got inspired with the animations in cartoons and 3D movies which is possible only through computers. Computers play a catalytic role in enhancing learning in the classroom.

3. How would you describe the importance of ICT in the school curriculum?

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is important in education because it enables kids to search for the information they need and to organize what they have found. As children progress through the school system, they become increasingly responsible for their own learning. I believe that ICT needs to be integrated into the curriculum so that kids from an early age are well versed with technology, its advantages and disadvantages, since today's generation is crazy about mobiles and computers. The use of ICT in education adds value to teaching and learning, by enhancing the effectiveness of learning. It adds a dimension to learning that was not previously available. After the inception of ICT in schools, students find learning in a technology enhanced environment more stimulating and engaging than in a traditional classroom environment.

4. Your journey with TSS so far?

While studying for B.Ed, once my sister in law asked why don't you apply in The Somaiya School. That's when I came to know about TSS. . I applied and along with my B.Ed I cleared my interview here and that's when I finally joined The Somaiya School in the year 2015. Since then, I've been handling mostly ICT and math. I have enjoyed every opportunity I'm given to connect with educators I admire and I actively participate in teaching groups - it's my way of contributing to this wonderful global exchange of ideas. I also feel that it is only through acknowledging our students' individual voices and talents that we develop as teachers.

So far it has been an amazing journey. I have learned many new things and also the way to handle different students and cater to different needs of each child. Each year I encounter new students and become a part of their lives. I watch children as they learn, grow and mature, as well as when they do make mistakes and fail. I have developed a lot during my time here and continuously grow because of the challenges and opportunities that come my way.

5. An inspirational quote you go by.....

Tell me and I forget, Teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn.

I remember the teachers who changed my life, because they believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. (I want to be like my teacher to change the life of my students.)

Spot Light Of The Month

Kiran Sawant is one of the most sought after people in school. Be it making a worksheet with a lot of pictures or struggling with a PDF, teachers breathe a sigh of relief when they spot Kiran in school. An ever smiling person, Kiran always extends himself beyond his role, helping out teachers during major school events. He is one person who knows every teacher in school, be it pre-primary, primary or secondary. A keen sense of humour and a calm demeanour, Kiran goes about his work at his own pace, unfazed and unrattled.



Mr. Kiran Sawant

1. As a graphic designer, what does your work entail?

Working in a school environment, the work of a graphic designer is diverse. Teachers approach me to help them formulate worksheets for students. Then banners and posters are required for an upcoming event such as the Art Mela, BEAMs etc. I can never anticipate as to what will fall in my lap. The work profile is very diverse and very much exciting as there is always something new to try and create!

2. You have been with TSS from its inception, what are the major changes that you have seen?

Initially we started with around 100 students and today we have crossed over a 1000 students!! It is like seeing a baby grow, from its initial years to a full-fledged adult. Watching it grow every step of the way and to be a part of that growth has been really rewarding and fulfilling. With each year we are achieving more and more in every aspect, be it academics or extra-curricular activities.

3. How would you describe your working environment?

“Friendly” is the word that comes to mind when I think of my working environment. The teachers and the admin staff have always been very friendly and supportive of each other. It is like one big family that we belong to. Freedom to create and explore given by our Principal has always been a plus point.

4. What are the difficulties/challenges that you face in your line of work?

Being a graphic designer requires a lot of creativity. But at times it so happens that understanding what the other person wants from you becomes very difficult. Everyone’s imagination and perception differs, and trying to understand and capture the same becomes a task. Funnily, our teachers from the pre-primary section always choose the animated versions of the object they want to depict, out of a habit of teaching tiny tots!

5. A quote that motivates you...

Life is beautiful, make it more beautiful.....

World Read Aloud Day:

First of February is observed as World Read Aloud Day around the world and The Somaiya School was also a part of this literary movement. Why is reading aloud so important? Reading aloud to children regularly from birth not only fosters language development, literary and informational text knowledge, and social emotional learning, but is also crucial for children's happiness and development as joyful readers. Every year, on World Read Aloud Day, people all around the globe read aloud together and share stories to advocate for literacy as a human right that belongs to all people. All around the school, students, teachers as well as the admin department could be seen reading aloud to different groups in various languages, from nursery to the support staff of the school. The delight and joy in each of their faces remained the same, age did not matter. The expressions, actions and intonations brought the stories and the characters alive.



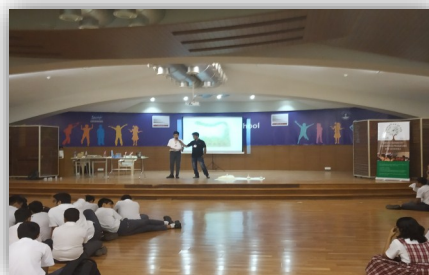
Sexual awareness session for Primary section:

It is important to recognize that child sexual abuse is widespread across all sections of society. Hence, it is crucial for us to impart education and teach our children the difference between normal and abusive behaviours by others. In the light of the same, sexual awareness sessions were held in the primary grades to help students in recognizing the difference between “good/bad touch” and other telltale signs of sexual abuse. One of the important objectives of the session was also making the children feel safe and encourage them to come forward and express their views and share with the adults if they are being assaulted/abused.



Green chemistry workshop:

With the motto “*Chemistry is everywhere!!*”, Green Chemistry workshop was conducted for grade 10. The topic for this workshop was “Challenges in chemistry” and the students engaged in discussions and debates regarding the same. Various activities were conducted such as creating fashion from waste, colours in crackers, food with and without preservatives and pesticides which had the students thrilled and engaged throughout the session. Such workshops really make learning interesting.



Mother tongue Assembly:

Mother tongue is the initial language one learns as a baby; the language one grows up knowing, which is also known as the native language. It is crucial in framing the thinking and emotions of people. A language plays an essential part in the life of human beings. It develops a personal and cultural identity. Personal identity emerges out of understanding of the self, their surroundings and their history. Nelson Mandela said, “*Talk to a person in their language, and it goes to their heart*”. Thus, it becomes the source of instant connection with family, society, culture and identity. Its strong foundation creates a strong acceptance of oneself through an understanding of social origin and character in the most basic and natural manner. In the light of this, The Somaiya School celebrated International Mother Language day on 20th February. An assembly was presented by the primary section highlighting the different languages spoken all over our country. The little ones all dressed up in their traditional attire, speaking their mother tongue captured everyone’s hearts. They presented various facts and poems in Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, Marathi, Kannada, Urdu, Tamil, etc. A speech in Kannada, also translated in English shows us the prowess of the children in learning new languages.



Anti Bullying Committee – Session

A culture of bullying is the acceptance, enabling, or ongoing occurrence of the toxic practice. Bullying culture is furthermore fuelled by the overall perception of bullying and various interactions. In the case of bullying, there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. More and more people are standing up, speaking out against bullying and encouraging other people to do the same. It is important to understand that silence, inaction, and indifference are some of the greatest enablers of bullying. Each time people stand up and denounce bullying, they are taking one more step towards ending bullying altogether. This anti-bullying culture will hopefully strengthen and permanently remain. There are too many instances and studies which prove how damaging, problematic, and fatal bullying can be, if left unchecked. We, at TSS, firmly enforce anti-bullying culture and to propagate the same, a session was held by the parent members of the Anti-Bullying committee. The session highlighted the ways to tackle bullying and also bring to light such behaviours by others.

Marathi Day:

Marathi is the official language of Maharashtra and is spoken by over 83 million people all over the world. The much awaited and rejoiced “Marathi Day” was celebrated in TSS on 15th March. The day started with an assembly presented for the primary section where students sang lovely Marathi songs, performed a drama and conducted a quiz. Parents of students from grade 3 and 4 were also called to attend the skit performed by the students in the classroom. The secondary section also presented an assembly where in Marathi quiz was conducted house wise, songs were sung, and eminent personalities like Shivaji Maharaj were portrayed by students too. Students also had Board Making activity which unleashed their creative side and added colour to the day. It was a complete success thanks to our very dedicated teachers; Ms. Amruta and Ms. Yogita, who single handedly organized and conducted Marathi Diwas.



Special Highlight

Kala Ghoda Exhibit:

For many people, art is meant to express something that we ourselves feel unable to express or convey. Through its visual medium it evokes feelings of joy, sadness, anger and pain. Our perspective brings the artwork to life as it changes for every person around it. The Somaiya School was still celebrating the huge success of the Little Picasso Art Mela, when one more reason was further added to the celebration. The famous Kala Ghoda Art festival had invited TSS to display its artwork. The model so displayed was called as ***Lost Heritage in Concrete Shower***, which presented 20 collages made by the students of grade 1-6 of different heritage sites across Mumbai. The feather in the cap was the Consolation prize awarded to us. It is indeed a proud moment for TSS that for the last three years, we have had the opportunity to present our art at this impressive cultural festival.

