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MARCH 2018 TO MAY 2017

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Editor-in-chief's note



A glimpse into the digital world of last year is indicative of how technology has given a whole new meaning to education. The education industry saw so many notable changes last year – from an increased focus on augmented reality and other visual technologies to make learning come alive. The increasing influence of technology in education is showing us a quick look into a gradually evolving world of unrestrained learning. We've reached the point where education technology is now the norm, not a luxury. Today, if we are able to deliver despite an outmoded education system, imagine what wonders the next generation will accomplish, once it has been trained with advanced educational methods.

Doesn't it take all sorts of students to make up a class? While some students grasp the concepts in a jiffy, there are others who will need to go through repeated explanations. What if there was a solution to address this need? I am very proud to say we (Neverskip) have arrived.

Neverskip Class is our flagship product, smart classes that come as befitting learning options for your students.

A picture is worth a thousand words! In line with this famous maxim, it is through smart classes that students will be able to assimilate all the information that is presented via different instructional tools. Since the teacher is not writing on the board, students will be able to concentrate better in the class, assimilating audio-visual (AV) information easily. A lot can happen via visual effects of smart classes. They bring a dynamic perspective to education. Hence, smart classes come in as perfect learning territories for students to assimilate the nuances behind a subject; in a single go or after repeatedly accessing subject details for a clearer understanding.

Join hands with us as we march towards this "White Board Evolution" in education so every student is treated equally and is taught in a manner that he/she can comprehend.

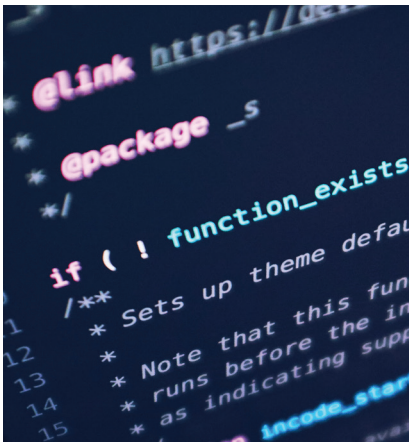
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Founder & CEO

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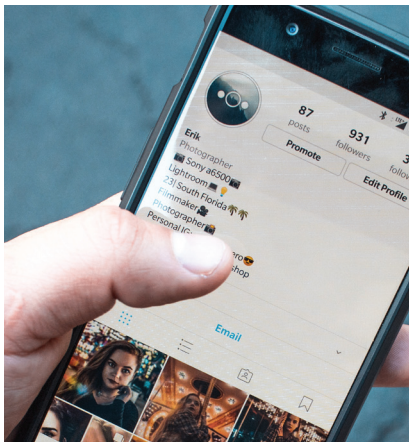
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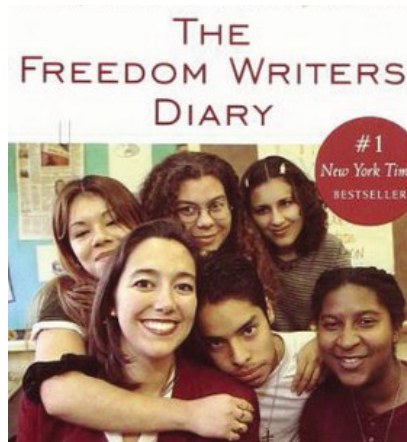


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EXCITING TRENDS

that will define the 2018 education industry

The increasing influence of technology in education is offering us a glimpse into a gradually evolving realm of unconstrained learning.

Blackboard, chalks, textbooks and ink pens are slowly becoming a thing of a past. It is time to embrace technology where digital facilities coupled with tech-savvy teachers are enriching students' learning experiences. Education with the help of technology has crossed borders and has opened up a world of opportunities for students. From easy sharing of information to collaboration with the help of email and cloud applications to instant access to learning programs anytime, anywhere – here is how technology will alter the education sector in 2018. As millennials come of age, the profile of the modern student will

be one that is adept with technology, using it in virtually all aspects of their personal lives. It stands to reason that these digital natives would come to expect the same tools they are familiar with to be available in the classroom. To achieve optimal learning outcomes, a change in teaching methods will be necessary, complemented by the vast range of educational technology available in the market.

Smarter class rooms

Smart classes are conducted by a teacher using a viewing screen that is attached to the projector. Students will assimilate the audio-visual

information that is projected on the screen and learn about the topic.

The smart board or the white board is accompanied by an exhaustive repository of up-to-date digital lessons (detailing of concepts through 2D and 3D animations, images, audio and video) on every subject in the K12 range. Teachers can easily access and project these in their classrooms and use it as a tool to explain concepts for much deeper understanding. Because it has both audio and visual mediums, assimilation of even difficult concepts become very easy for students.



Storage on the Cloud

Improved IT capabilities and enterprise infrastructure at schools are needed to create a successful digital learning experience. While the technology exists in some forms, the real challenge comes in terms of scalability. The biggest advantage of cloud technologies is that they create a centralised repository of knowledge

for students and teachers to access. This is taking the student-teacher collaboration beyond traditional classroom interaction. Cloud storage can make learning a lot easier for students. Students no longer need to worry about their files and documents getting deleted or buying a couple of USB flash drives or CDs to save their projects and assignments. All the content related to projects, schedules

or assignments can be shared and securely stored on the cloud. Teachers too can sort their files on a class-by-class basis and easily log on to view folders for each class and each student. This can be done without any geographical constraints and the security measures involved in cloud storage enable teachers and students to also keep their work safe.

Big Data

From students' assignments, weekly tests, projects and attendance, there is scope for a lot of data generation in schools and colleges. All this information including the academic performance of students needs to be monitored in a timely fashion to understand which student is performing better and which student needs improvement. Big data helps

to analyze such large data sets and reveals important patterns and trends. Big data can save a lot of time and help teachers make use of the data efficiently. Big data is expected to rule the roost and emerge as a frontrunner in the education sphere in 2018.

Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence

Every student has a different learning

style. They each learn at a different pace, at a different progress rates. With Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, slow learning will gain prominence. Students will be able to pick up lessons at their own pace with the right mix of technology and devices. With the help of AI and machine learning, customised learning is sure to gain prominence and help transform training as per the strong and weak areas of a student.



Gamification in Learning

Do you know that passive teaching methods lead to a concept retention rate of less than 30 percent?

On the other hand, participatory techniques generate retention rates of up to 90 percent. Where our traditional education system fails is that we remain largely focussed on outworn practices that keep student

engagement passive and retention at the bare minimum. Instead of traditional education methods like step-by-step or rote learning, using games and incorporating other game elements in education can motivate students to understand better and do well in their exams. Compared to the traditional classroom learning set up, gamification cuts down boredom and increases the overall productivity.

Here, students are made to work in teams, collaborate and get connected to many learners in the same virtual space.

Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality

Augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) have the ability to engage students like never before. While VR

is an artificial, computer-generated simulation that immerses the user by making them feel like they are experiencing the simulated reality firsthand, AR is an indirect view of a physical, real-world environment whose elements are augmented with graphics and other sensory inputs. AR and VR can create amazing learning experiences, and result in endless possibilities. These solutions can make learning fun and

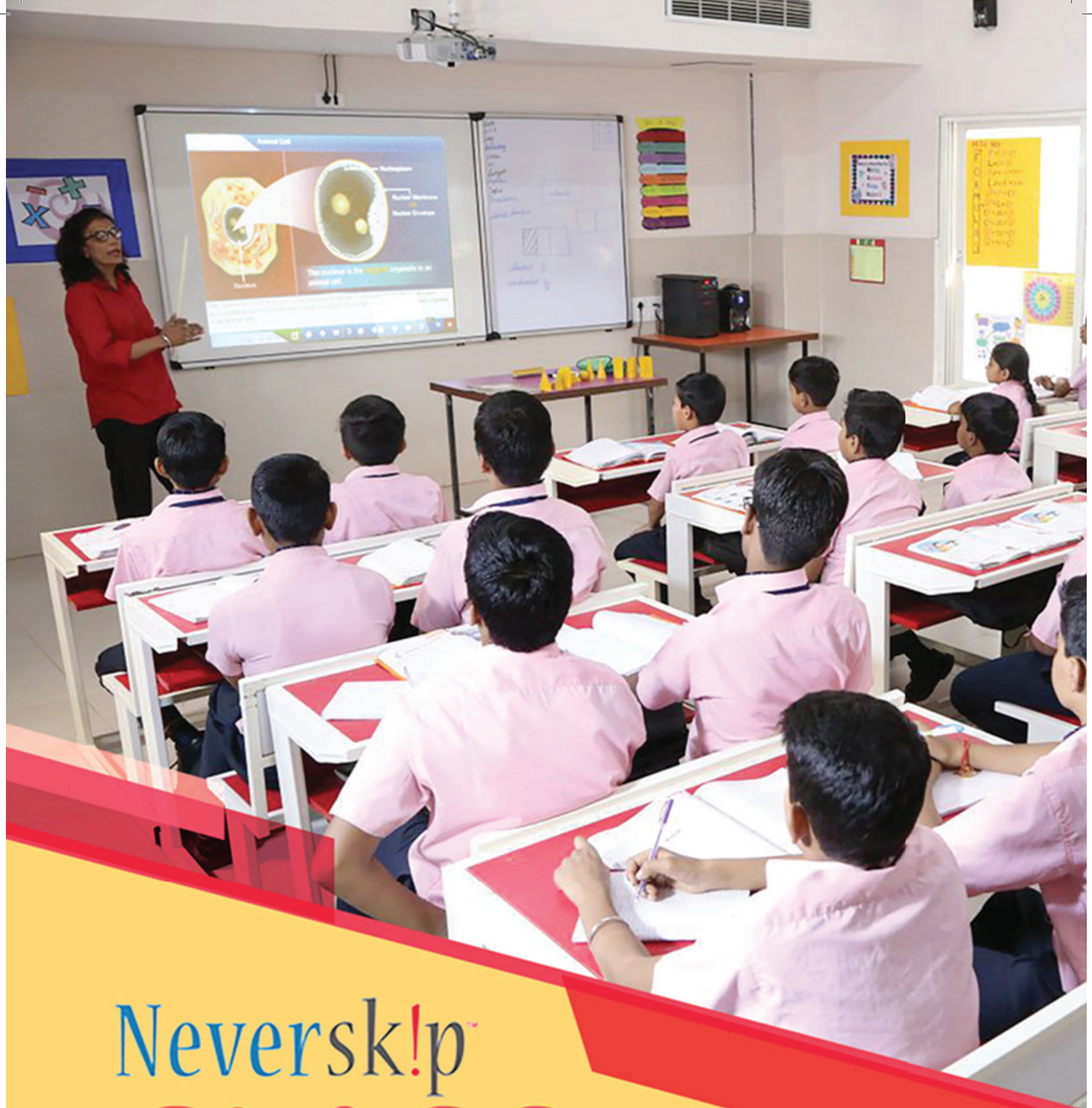
result in improved interaction and engagement during classes.

Way forward

It is not an exaggeration to quote that a lot can happen in smart classes. Smart classes are conspicuous with a bunch of active students glued to various digital gadgets in their pursuit of holistic education. The class will be a buzz with the inquisitive chatter and interactions between student groups.

This inquisitive chatter is what makes learning fun for students. Sparing you of the monotonous traditional classroom environment, smarter class is evident with enhanced student-teacher interaction; prompted by technological tools. There can never be a dull moment when you will be thrilled to step into your class to learn about various topics; the smart and entertaining way.





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NEWS CORNER

Centre places smart class proposal

Union human resource development minister Prakash Javadekar broached the proposal to setup smart classrooms at the education ministers' conference in Delhi. A senior education department official who was part of the delegation to Delhi said: "At the conference the Union minister talked about promoting digital technology and in this connection he talked about digital classrooms. All states have consented to smart classrooms."

The minister said the states should ask local municipal bodies, corporates under their social responsibility, to provide financial assistance to set up smart classrooms in government schools.

CBSE Scraps Permanent Affiliation Policy

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has scrapped the practice of giving schools permanent affiliations. The 92 schools with permanent affiliations will now be considered provisionally affiliated and will have to apply afresh for the academic session that will begin next year. An official involved with the decision said the move was meant to bring in greater accountability since all school administrations will now face regular scrutiny that is part of the affiliation renewal process.

NCERT syllabus will be cut by half from 2019 session

In what could come as a relief to school students and free up their time for activities other than academics, HRD minister Prakash Javadekar said that the current NCERT school syllabus will be halved from the 2019 session.



NEWS CORNER

France to ban mobile phones in schools

The French government is to ban students from using mobile phones in the country's primary, junior and middle schools. Children will be allowed to bring their phones to school, but not allowed to get them out at any time until they leave, even during breaks. A proposed ban was included in Emmanuel Macron's successful presidential election campaign this year.

A quick-acting Indian-American maths teacher is being hailed for saving the lives of her students during the shooting rampage at a Florida high school that left 17 dead.

When an alarm sounded for the second time on Wednesday afternoon, Shanthi Viswanathan shut the doors to her algebra classroom, made the students crouch on the floor and covered the windows, keeping them out of the reach and sight of the gunman, the Sun-Sentinel reported

2 MIT Students ran a NO cell-phone experiment for class

The students' assessments from the project are mind blowing and depict how technology has impacted us at an emotional level. Many students noted that the unplugged day seemed longer than a typical day.



Montessori Schooling

Fostering love for learning among children

Popular research states that 30% of preschools in India use Montessori as one of their teaching methods. It is one of the most known terms attached to pre-schooling in India. But beyond the jargons, this is as much a teaching philosophy as it is a parenting philosophy.


What is Montessori?

Montessori is a structured approach to imparting education that stretches from birth to 12 years. At its core, it is also a parenting philosophy. Since it is meant to

be a guide, different practitioners of the Montessori Method over the years have interpreted the approach to suit their principles.

Key characteristics that is essential to Montessori schooling:

MULTI AGE CLASSROOMS: In Montessori led preschools, children from 0-6 years old study together in the same physical environment. Multi-age classrooms enable younger children to learn from older children and experience new challenges



“Education should no longer be mostly imparting of knowledge, but must take a new path, seeking the release of human potentialities.”

—Dr. Maria Montessori

through observation. On the other hand older children reinforce their learning by teaching what they have already learnt, as a result of which they develop leadership skills.

Special learning resources:

A hallmark of Montessori education is its hands-on approach to learning and the use of scientifically designed educational materials. Montessori’s distinctive learning materials teach a single skill or concept at a time. Each learning material includes built-in techniques that allow a student to assess his/her progress and correct mistakes, independent of the teacher.

Uninterrupted work period:

The uninterrupted work period recognizes and respects individual variations in the learning process. During the work period, children are given time to explore various tasks and responsibilities at their own pace without interruption. A child’s work cycle involves selecting an activity, performing the activity for as long as s/he is interested in it, cleaning up the activity and returning it to the shelf, then selecting another activity. During the work period, teachers support and monitor the students’ work and provide individual and small-group lessons.

Child-led learning:

There is a large focus on discovery of concepts through interaction with a carefully prepared physical environment. Rather than open ended questions, the child is presented with a set of alternatives to choose from. This environment naturally teaches children self-discipline, and it refines important skills like concentration, self-control and motivation.

Focuses on Key Developmental Stages

A Montessori curriculum focuses on key developmental milestones in children between the ages of three and five-years- old. Younger children focus on honing large muscle and language skills. Four- year-olds work on fine motor skills and completing everyday activities, such as cooking, arts and crafts. Older preschoolers broaden their learning experience to their communities, through trips and special events. Since children are allowed to choose their activities and work at them on their own terms, creativity in the classroom is encouraged. Children work at tasks for the joy of the work, rather than the end result, which allows them to focus more on process than result – a natural path to creativity.

Recommended Balance

While Montessori was developed to teach from 0 to 12 years, it is practically hard to find primary and secondary schools that follow the Montessori teaching method. Therefore, popular recommendation in India is to allow the child to pursue Montessori schooling until the age of 6 and after which transition to an instructor-led, single-age classroom. This way the child will find it easier to adapt to the new setting and it is a win-win situation. There are many potential benefits of a Montessori preschool for children just starting out in the education process. These important early years prepare a student for the learning experience that is to come, whether they continue with the Montessori Method or move to a classroom environment in the future.

IMAGE CREDITS: PEXELS

IMAGE CREDITS: PEXELS



Making schools safe

How do you teach your students and children about improper touch?

Have you ever noticed an outgoing child in your class become an introvert almost overnight, a top-notch student suddenly become complacent about school, or a passive child become aggressive in a short period of time? There are a number of factors that can contribute to changes in the behaviour of children, and sometimes those causes are minor; other times

there is a substantial issue going on in that child's life, abuse being a possible cause. As teachers, we often struggle with when and how to act on our instincts. Of course, we don't want to misjudge or assume; more importantly, we don't want to let something important go unattended.

We need to recognise that children are in danger, and the first response must come from those closest to

them – the family and the school.

We know, We know, We know. This is a really tough subject to talk about. But we have to. But we have to get past that discomfort and put aside our differences as parents, teachers, and community members and talk more about this terrible topic.



IMAGE CREDITS: PIXABAY

AS PARENTS

What to Say

Frame the discussion around safety rather than abuse as much as you would talk to them about crossing the street and not touching a hot stove. And take advantage of teachable moments, like if your child has overheard a related story in the news.

Give Them Ownership of their Body

Start by saying 'Your body is all yours and that no one has a right to touch them unless it's okay with you. Encourage this from as early as age 3, that their bodies belong to them and that they can reserve certain parts as 'private.' Even if it's something like holding hands with someone or having a friend hug or kiss them, they know they have the right to say no if they don't like it.

Use the Swim Suit Rule

Anything that your swim suit covers is a private area and no one should be seeing or touching that area. Most predators who have an on-going relationship with the child will not begin by touching the child in the sensitive areas, but will begin by rubbing their back or stroking the hair and children, because they are literal creatures, will think 'well, I don't like it, but it must be okay because it's not covered by my swimming suit.' And then by the time the predator moves to the private areas, it may be too late as the grooming process is fully underway. So, we recommend the line be ANY touch/space intrusion that makes the child uncomfortable.

Set body boundaries

Tell your child matter-of-factly that no one should touch their private

parts and that no one should ask them to touch somebody else's private parts.

Empower them to say no

Sometimes we unintentionally confuse kids by insisting they hug Grandma even when they don't want to, or by saying "Do whatever the babysitter tells you to do." Help your children practice setting healthy boundaries. When children tell us they don't want to hug and kiss everyone at a family gathering, support them by helping them find another way to show respect to family members (such as shaking hands, high fives, saying goodbye). Model saying "no" and assure your children that their "no" will be respected. If others disrespect or ignore your child's limits, it's your job to explain your family rules and insist on your child's rights to set boundaries.



IMAGE CREDITS:
INDIAN SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION WORDPRESS.COM



AT SCHOOL

Tell them that body secrets are not okay. Encourage them to talk to you or family.

Most perpetrators will tell the child to keep the abuse a secret. This can be done in a friendly way, such as, “I love playing with you, but if you tell anyone else what we played they won’t let me come over again.” Or it can be a threat: “This is our secret. If you tell anyone I will tell them it was your idea and you will get in big trouble!” Tell your kids that no matter what anyone tells them, body secrets are not okay and they should always tell you if someone tries to make them keep a body secret.

Tell your children they will never be in trouble if they tell you a body secret.

Children often tell me that they

didn’t say anything because they thought they would get in trouble, too. This fear is often used by the perpetrator. Tell your child that no matter what happens, when they tell you anything about body safety or body secrets they will NEVER get in trouble.

Tell your child that these rules apply even with people they know and even with another child.

This is an important point to discuss with your child. When you ask a young child what a “bad guy” looks like they will most likely describe a cartoonish villain. You can say something like, “Mommy and daddy might touch your private parts when we are cleaning you or if you need cream — but no one else should touch you there. Not friends, not aunts or uncles, not teachers or coaches. Even if you like them or

think they are in charge, they should still not touch your private parts.”

Encourage parents to have a code word for their child can use when they feel unsafe or want to be picked up.

As children get a little bit older, you can give them a code word that they can use when they are feeling unsafe. This can be used at home, when there are guests in the house or when they are on a playdate or a sleepover.

Clear communication is a cornerstone of effective prevention. Make sure other adults and older children understand the expectations kids will have of them and how their cooperation will help keep kids safe.

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We bring you some of the brightest brains from India, who've won us acclaim and honour world over. From mathematics to arts and sciences, these little geniuses will leave you amazed and awed with their achievements.

“Be equal to your talent, not your age. At times let the gap between them be embarrassing”



Ayesha AZIZ

India's youngest pilot, Ayesha Aziz was 16 years old when she earned her licence to fly a plane. And because she did something challenging and unconventional, she is now gearing to fly an MIG-29 fighter jet at Russia's Sokul airbase.



Aaravind CHITHAMBARAM

Hailed as the next Vishwanathan Anand, Chithambaram was awarded his first Grandmaster title by the World Chess Federation at the age of 15.

The boy was three-years-old when he lost his father and his mother, who worked as an LIC agent, ran the household. He was introduced to chess by his grandfather who bought him his first game set. His coach, Grandmaster RB Ramesh, helped Chithambaram's family move to Chennai where the boy was coached for free. Since then, it has been an unstoppable journey for this child prodigy.

Aziz joined a flying school after she finished high school. After taking ground lessons and successfully clearing five viva sessions, Aziz was awarded her student pilot licence. The talented 21-year-old, who was lucky enough to visit NASA and meet John McBride and Sunita Williams, believes that “women must be allowed to come out of their comfort zone and take up more challenging careers than just becoming engineers, doctors or stay as housewives even if they are educated.”



Priyanshi SOMANI

Also known as the ‘human calculator’, Somani became the youngest Indian to win the Mental Calculation World Cup in 2010. From there, she went to win many awards and earned a coveted spot in the Limca Book of World Records. Proving how age doesn't limit the boundaries of excellence, Somani was just 12 when she won the World Cup. By solving all mathematical problems in 6.28 minutes, Somani had beaten 37 participants. In 2012, she set another world record by calculating square roots faster than any other contender.



Akrit

JASWAL

At the age of seven, Jaswal operated on an eight-year-old girl whose family couldn't afford surgery. The girl's fingers had fused together after she got burned. After operating successfully on her, Jaswal instantly rose to fame as India's 'first child surgeon'. The young prodigy was invited by Imperial College, London to find a cure for cancer. He also got to meet Oprah Winfrey.



Reuben

PAUL

Paul is a wonder kid who's a hacker, app developer, cyber security expert and the CEO of a game development firm, Prudent Games all rolled into one. When this jack-of-all-trades is not working, he keeps himself busy with studying computer security and learning Kung Fu, gymnastics, swimming, art, and music.

Paul, who is highly respected in the hacker circles, became the youngest attendee at the Ground Zero Summit, 2015. At the summit, Paul had delivered his own keynote address and became a 'special ambassador' where he shared information on cyber security to kids.



Sushma

VERMA

Daughter of a sanitation worker, Sushma Verma became India's youngest post-graduate when she earned her M.Sc. in Microbiology at the age of 15. She had ranked first in her class in the first, second, and third semesters. In a class where other children were 9 to 10 years older than her, Verma shone like a star.

In June 2007, her name was added to the Limca Book of World Records for becoming the youngest matriculate in India. She even came first in the IQ test that was held in Japan where she outranked 35 other participants.

Akshat Mittal had launched his Oddeven.com website in December 2015 in anticipation of the odd-even rule implemented by the Delhi Government. The website matched individuals for a potential carpool or ride-share basis their destination.

A pupil of Amity International School, Delhi, Mittal later sold his company to carpool app, Orahi.com for an undisclosed amount.

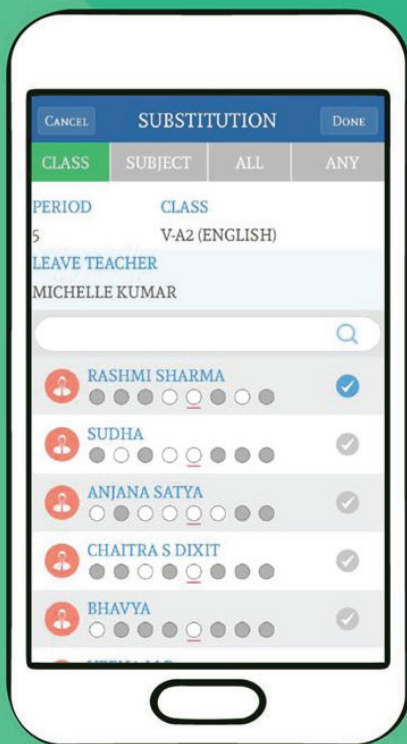


Akshat

MITTAL

Substitution allocation confusion when teacher on leave?

Hassle-free and logical substitution
automatically allocated ahead of time.



Wed, Jan 17 2018, 07:25 PM

FES MATRICULATION HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL - KODUNGAIYUR EAST

SUBSTITUTION REPORT

Date : 10-01-2018

Period	Class	Subject	Leave Staff	Substitution Staff
1	VIII-A	MATHS	Mrs. VELVIZHI. P	Ms.Esther grace
1	IX-B	SCIENCE1	Mrs.Punithavathy	Mr. MURUGANANDHAM. R
2	X-B	SCIENCE1	Mrs.Punithavathy	Mrs. KIRUBA DEVI
3	XII-B	BUSINESS MATHS	Mrs. VELVIZHI. P	Mr. HERALD JOHN. S. J
3	XI-A	CHEMISTRY	Mrs.Punithavathy	Muthu Selvi
4	VIII-B	MATHS	Mrs. VELVIZHI. P	Mrs. MARY SHARMILA. Y
5	XI-B	BUSINESS MATHS	Mrs. VELVIZHI. P	Mr. MURUGANANDHAM. R
7	IX-B	MUSIC CLASS	Mrs.Punithavathy	Mrs. REVATHI. G
7	X-B	VALUE EDUCATION	Mrs. SHANTHI SAMSON	Mrs. Reena Rajeshwari. K
8	VIII-B	MATHS	Mrs. VELVIZHI. P	Mrs. HAMEEDA. J
8	XII-A	CHEMISTRY	Mrs.Punithavathy	Mrs.Ruba
8	IX-B	ENGLISH	Mrs. SHANTHI SAMSON	Ms. JAYA SANDHIYA

Notes :

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IMAGE CREDITS: TRA NGUYEN

Exceptional things that great teachers do.

- DERRICK MEADOR

13 habits of a successful teacher

All teachers are not created equal. Some are frankly better than others. It is a privilege and special opportunity when we have a great one. Great teachers go above and beyond to ensure that each child is successful. Many of us have had that one teacher that inspired us more than any other. Great teachers are able to bring the best out of every student. They are often energetic, fun, and seemingly always at the top of their game.

Their students look forward to coming to their class each day. When students are promoted to the next grade, they are sad that they are leaving but armed with the skills necessary to be successful.

They are innovators, communicators, and educators. They are compassionate, endearing, charming, and funny. They are creative, smart, and ambitious. They are passionate, personable, and proactive. They are dedicated, continuous learners who are gifted in their craft. They are in a sense the total teaching package.

So what makes someone a great teacher? There is not a single answer.

Instead, there are several exceptional things that great teachers do. Many teachers do a few of these things, but the great teachers consistently do them all.

A GREAT TEACHER IS

PREPARED: Preparation takes a lot of time. Great teachers spend a lot of time outside of the school preparing for each day. This often includes weekends. They also spend countless hours during the summer working to improve their craft. They prepare detailed lessons, activities, and centers each designed to maximize student learning opportunities.

They create detailed lesson plans and often plan for more in a day than they typically can complete.

ORGANIZED: Being organized leads to efficiency. This allows great teachers minimal distractions and maximizes instructional time. Increasing instructional time will lead to an increase in academic success for students. Organization is about creating an efficient system to find resources and other materials quickly

which a teacher needs. There are many different organizational styles. A great teacher finds the system that works for them and makes it better.

A CONTINUOUS LEARNER: They continuously read and apply the newest research in their classroom. They are never satisfied whether they have taught for one year or twenty. They seek out professional development opportunities, research ideas online and subscribe to multiple teaching related newsletters. Great teachers are not afraid to ask other teachers what they are doing in their classrooms. They often take these ideas and experiment with them in their classroom.

ADAPTABLE: They recognize that each school day and each school year is different. What works for one student or one class may not work for the next. They continuously change things up to take advantage of individual strengths and weaknesses within a classroom.

Great teachers are not afraid to scrap entire lessons and start back over with a new approach. They recognize when



IMAGE CREDITS: ASHWINI (CREATIVE COMMONS)

something is working and stick to it. When an approach is ineffective, they make the necessary changes.

They are constantly changing and never become stale. As trends change, they change with them. They grow each year they teach always improving across multiple areas. They are not the same teacher from year to year. Great teachers learn from their mistakes. They look to improve upon what has been successful and find something new to replace what has been not worked. They are not afraid to learn new strategies, technologies, or implement new curricula.

PROACTIVE: Being proactive can stave off a lot of potential problems including academic, discipline, or any other issue. It can prevent a small concern from turning into an enormous problem.

Great teachers recognize potential problems immediately and work to fix them quickly. They understand that the time put into correcting a small problem is considerably less than it would be if it ballooned into something bigger. Once it becomes a large issue, it will almost always take away from valuable class time.

COMMUNICATES: Communication is a critical component of a successful teacher. They must be adept at communicating with several subgroups including students, parents, administrators, support personnel, and other teachers. Each of these subgroups must be communicated with differently, and great teachers are terrific at communicating with everyone. They are able to communicate so that every person understands the message they are trying to convey. Great teachers keep people informed. They explain concepts well and make people feel comfortable around them.

NETWORKS: Networking has become a critical component of

being a great teacher. It has also become easier. Social networks such as Google+, Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest allow teachers from all over the world to share ideas and provide best practices quickly. They also allow teachers to seek input and advice from other teachers. Networking provides a natural support system with those who share a similar passion. It provides great teachers with another means of learning and honing their craft.

INSPIRES: They are able to pull the best out of every student they teach. They inspire them to become better students, to maximize their time in the classroom, and to look towards the future.

A great teacher takes an interest a student has and helps turn it into a passion making educational connections that will potentially last a lifetime. They understand that each student is different, and they embrace those differences. They teach their students that it is those differences that often make them exceptional.

COMPASSIONATE: They hurt when their students hurt and rejoice when their students rejoice. They understand that life happens and that the kids they teach do not control their home lives. Great teachers believe in second chances, but use mistakes to teach life lessons. They offer advice, counselling, and mentoring when necessary. Great teachers understand that school is sometimes the safest place a kid can be.

RESPECTED: Respect is earned over time. It does not come easy. Respected teachers are able to maximize learning because they do not typically have classroom management issues. When they have an issue, they are dealt with quickly and in a respectable manner. They do not embarrass or berate the student. Great teachers understand you have to give respect before you earn respect. They are considerable

*Great teachers
recognize
potential problems
immediately and
work to fix them
quickly.*



IMAGE CREDITS: NETDNA.COM

and thoughtful to everyone but understand that there are occasions where they must stand their ground.

ABLE TO MAKE LEARNING FUN:

They are unpredictable. They jump into character when reading a story, teach lessons with enthusiasm, take advantage of teachable moments, and provide dynamic, hands-on activities that students will remember. They tell stories to make real life connections. Great teachers incorporate student interests into their lessons. They are not afraid to do crazy things that motivate their students to learn.

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND:

They volunteer their own time to tutor a struggling student after school or

on weekends. They help out in other areas around school when they are needed. A great teacher is the first to help a family of a student in need in any way they can. They advocate for the students when necessary. They look out for each student's best interest. They do what it takes to ensure that each student is safe, healthy, clothed, and fed.

LOVING WHAT THEY DO:

They are passionate about their job. They enjoy getting up each morning and going to their classroom. They are excited about the opportunities they have. They like the challenges that each day presents. Great teachers always have a smile on their face. They rarely let their students know when something

is bothering them because they worry it will affect them negatively. They are natural educators because they were born to be a teacher.

EDUCATING:

They not only teach students the required curriculum, but they also teach them life skills. They are in a constant state of teaching, taking advantage of impromptu opportunities that may captivate and inspire a particular student. They do not rely on a mainstream or boxed in approach to educate. They are able to take a variety of styles and mold them into their own unique style to meet the needs of the students that they have at any given time.

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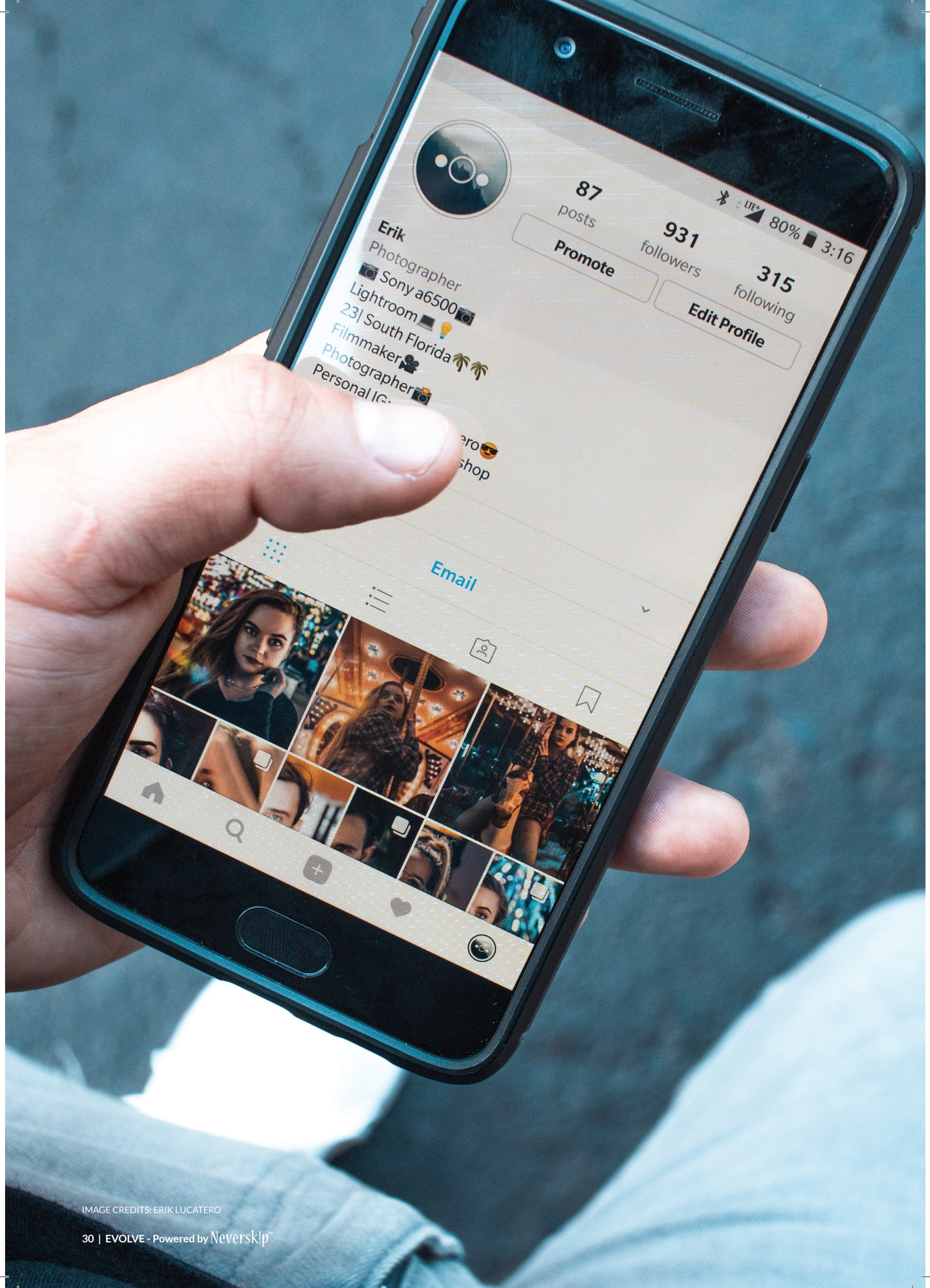


IMAGE CREDITS: ERIK LUCATERO

Child on Social Media

When Kavitha's daughter (Aarushi, we call her) was in seventh standard, she picked up her mom's phone one day and discovered Instagram. It was love at first sight. "She begged me to let her get her own account," recalls Kavitha, of Bangalore. She resisted at first but finally gave in, and last year at age 13, Aarushi began posting silly selfies, videos of herself doing cartwheels, and pictures of her dog. "It's all very age-appropriate and sweet, but I do have to keep a constant eye on her," says Kavitha.

At ever-younger ages, kids are asking for their own YouTube channel, Instagram account, or even to use Snapchat. Before you say yes, here are some issues to consider.

In today's computer-driven world, children are becoming computer savvy at very young ages. Many software products on the market are specifically geared toward the preschool crowd. These products can really help give a child a head start on learning skills such as reading and basic mathematics.

However, there's a big difference between a child using these kid-appropriate tools versus venturing into the broader online world. Yet many parents are allowing their young children to develop an online presence at alarmingly early ages. Some parents are even posting photos of their child on social networking websites before they're born, starting with their sonogram photo. Should your kids use social media? How young is "too young" for children to be online? What precautions should parents take to ensure their safety and online reputation, regardless of the child's age?

Although these questions are ultimately the decision of each parent, this article will discuss some facts to consider when deciding should your kids use social media.

Minimum age for social network websites

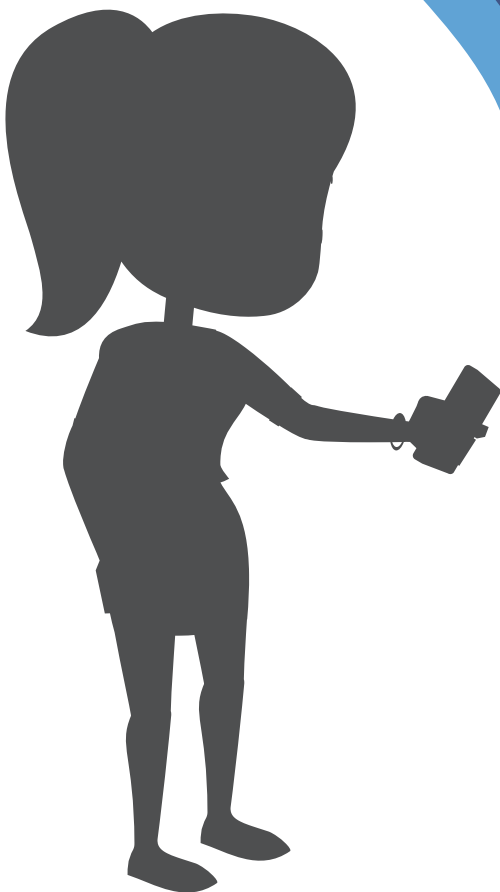
Social networking websites have minimum age requirements that must be met before a person can sign up. For example, many social networks, including Facebook, Pinterest, Tumblr, Reddit, and Snapchat, require that a child be at least 13 years old to use their websites. However, many parents post information and even photos of their children on their own social networking account, in most cases to conveniently share photos and information with family and friends.

Others are motivated to add information about their children simply to add interesting content to their own profiles. In some cases, parents might simply be trying to “keep up with the times,” posting photos of their child because all their friends are posting photos of their children.

Regardless of the reason, it’s important for parents to understand the potential effects and even risks of posting personal information and photos of their child online. After all, it’s never too soon to start thinking about a child’s Internet privacy and reputation.

How to talk to your kids about social media

Once your children start venturing onto social media, it’s important to instill some advice on how to navigate the online landscape successfully. Eventually, your children will find



themselves having to make decisions online without your supervision. For that reason, they need to be aware of the potential threats and safety concerns:

Cyber bullying: Teach your children the importance of not spreading rumours or mean comments about other kids. Likewise, teach your children that they should come to you if someone is bullying them online.

Private Information: Make sure that your children know to never post their address, phone number, email, or other personal information in any social network. Share consequences of scenarios that can occur when this kind of information is shared online.

Photos: Talk to your kids about the ways photographs can be used to bully or shame other people. Instil in them the importance of being very careful about taking photos and posting them online. Likewise, teach them that they should never share photos that would likely be embarrassing to other people.

Friending Strangers: Teach your kids not to accept friend requests or respond to messages from people they don't know in real life. There are unfortunately many predators out there looking to trick children into doing nefarious things. Your kids should be aware of these risks and what to do to mitigate them.

How Can Kids Slow Down?

First, we need to slow down and rethink what we are allowing our kids to do. We need to understand the world of social media and how teens use it differently from adults. Here are a few tips that work well for many parents.

1. DELAY ACCESS. The longer parents delay access, the more time a child will have to mature so that he or she can use technology more wisely as a young adult. Delaying access also places a greater importance on developing personal authentic relationships first.

2. FOLLOW THEIR ACCOUNTS. Make sure privacy settings are in place but know that those settings can give you a false sense of security.

3. CREATE FAMILY ACCOUNTS. Create family accounts instead of individual teen accounts. This allows kids to keep up with friends in a safer social media environment.

4. ALLOW SOCIAL MEDIA ONLY ON LARGE SCREENS. Allow your teens to only use their social media accounts on home computers or laptops in plain view, this way they will use it less. When it is used on a small private phone screen they can put in their pocket there are more potential problems with reckless use. The more secret the access, the more potential for bad choices.

5. KEEP A SHARP EYE ON THE CLOCK; THEY WILL NOT. Do you know how much time your child spends on social media a day? Be aware of this, and reduce the amount of time your child is on social media across all platforms. The average teen spends nine hours a day connected to social media. Instead, set one time each day for three days a week for your child to check their social media. Do they benefit from more time than that?

6. PLAN FACE-TO-FACE TIME WITH THEIR FRIENDS. Remember that they don't need 842 friends; four-to-six close friends are enough for

healthy social development. Help them learn how to plan real, in-person, social get-togethers such as a leave-phones-at-the-door party, a home movie night, bowling, board games, cooking pizza, or hosting a bonfire. They crave these social gatherings so encourage them to invite friends over and help them (as needed) to organize the event.

7. SPEND MORE REAL NON-TECH TIME TOGETHER. Teens who are strongly attached to their parents and family show more overall happiness and success in life. They still need us now more than ever. It is easy to detach from them: Teens can be annoying! But attaching to family allows them to detach from the social media drama. Your child needs to feel like they can come home and leave the drama of their social world behind for a few hours. They want you to help them say no to social media and yes to more time with the family. They are craving those moments to disconnect, so make plans and encourage this at home.

Social media is an unavoidable reality for most of today's kids. By making sure they follow certain tips, you can help them stay safe when communicating with others online.



BOOK REVIEW

The Freedom Writer's Diary by Erin Gruwell

"It is not what happens to us that matters, but how we deal with it – and the Freedom Writers are a perfect example. They could have chosen to fight racism with racism, hate with hate, pain with pain. But they did not. If we all do what the Freedom Writers have done, and choose to deal with inhumane situations in a humane way, we can turn the world around and create positive lessons for ourselves and from others."

The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to change themselves and the world around them.

Straight from the front line of urban America, the inspiring story of one fiercely determined teacher and her remarkable students.

Gruwell's story could be inspirational to young teachers. As a student teacher, she was woefully neglected by her supervising teacher. She was given the lowest freshman English class at Wilson High School in Long Beach, California. Her students were gang members (or their girlfriends). Many had been arrested, kicked out of other schools, or been witness to violence directed against family and friends.

Gruwell begins to penetrate her students' world and their consciousness by trying to begin with their reality, instead of the prepared curriculum. She uses her own money to buy them the books denied to them by a department head who said it was useless to teach them *Catcher in the Rye* or *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Soon, she teaches the students

the stories of others who faced insurmountable odds: Anne Frank and her modern-day counterpart, Zlata Filipovic. Slowly but surely, Gruwell reaches her students, gaining their trust. She also seeks and gains notoriety with her methods. Through careful and persistent networking, Gruwell begins to expand the horizons of her students beyond their ghetto through field trips she manages to organize and fund without the help or support of the school.

Meanwhile, Gruwell's students learn the lessons of perseverance well. They travel on the lecture circuit with their teacher; some pull themselves out of their seemingly bottomless pits of despair, going on to college and even into teaching.

Gruwell leaves the high school and goes into college teaching. She does not question whether she is abandoning her calling—she attributes her need to leave to the jealousy and sniping of her colleagues at the high school. She does not acknowledge that she often went behind the backs of these colleagues and supervisors, going as far as the superintendent of schools, to get special privileges and bypass procedure to continue her unorthodox

(but admittedly successful) methods.

The book is a celebration of change. It embodies the spirit of Anne Frank, Zlata Filipović, and every other teen living in a situation of limited freedom, or lack thereof. What one must take from it, however, is that there's always potential to grow and improve and, much like Frank and Filipović, there will always be individuals willing to tell the truth about the horrors of the world. In that context, the gift of a pen and paper and their effects are limitless against oppression, hardships and judgment.

With powerful entries from the students' own diaries and a narrative text by Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers Diary* is an uplifting, unforgettable example of how hard work, courage, and the spirit of determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students.

Suitably, Erin Gruwell once said, "It would be easy to become a victim of our circumstances and continue feeling sad, scared or angry; or instead, we could choose to deal with injustice humanely and break the chains of negative thoughts and energies, and not let ourselves sink into it."



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Woman leader

- Interview with Dr. Jessy Jose



Tête-à-tête with Sr. Dr. Jessy Jose Fcc, Principal - Christu Jyothi Convent Sr. Sec. School



“If you educate a man, you educate an individual. But if you educate a woman, you educate a nation.”

What are your thoughts on women in the field of education and the need to educate girls?

Empower a woman, empower a country - That is the mode of energy and commitment of women leaders today. Every single girl in our country must be given quality education if we want a fully developed nation.

If you had to name one inspirational person in your life, who would it be and why?

St. Mother Theresa. She is the epitome of selfless love and service. She served the poorest of the poor and the outcast of the society and granted them a sense of dignity.

A book you recommend every teacher reads in his/her lifetime

Seven habits of highly effective people by Stephen Covey

If you had a chance to reform the current education system what one reform would you bring?

Improve the quality of infrastructure along with teaching and learning process in Government educational institutions.

As a leader of a prestigious institution, what qualities would you recommend for every Principal?

Positive outlook, far sighted vision and a high degree of commitment.

How can technology be a game changer in the lives of teachers in the future?

Technology can make things easier & faster but a teacher's place in the life of a student can never be changed - Teacher will ever remain an indispensable part of the educational system but the mode of transferring knowledge will eventually change as technology advances.

As a Principal of a leading school and on a tight schedule, how do you manage to hone your hobbies of Tabla and Keyboard?

These hobbies really elevate my mind and I do play musical instruments to lead others and me towards the divine path.

What is your take on social media in this digital age?

Be aware of everything but beware of your every action and reaction.

Your valuable advice to new age parents

Children are really innocent and immature to take right decisions at an early age. Therefore, new age parents should think twice before they provide electronic gadgets to their kids. Spend some quality time with the kids daily and encourage open sharing in a positive spirit.

How has Neverskip added value to your institution?

There was always demand from all quarters to start SMS facility to communicate better. It added ample value and satisfaction among all the stakeholders. We get lot of positive feedback from parents. Thankfully it has been a great help to declare holidays during foggy winter days.

RFID Attendance

Why should schools use this?

Gone are the days when for School Attendance manual roll calling was integral to a student's attendance in class.

Several Indian schools are all set to implement a high-tech solution that will enable the school and parents to monitor and track students' entry and exit from school. This system is

being adopted by many schools so that children can be monitored and tracked from anywhere to ensure their security and safety.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

An RFID tag will be attached to the student's ID card. When the student enters the school RFID card gets recorded at the entrance of the school, this is then automatically sent to a system where it detects the tag and will send notification to the parents of the child through SMS that child has arrived or left the premises of the school. The system will also store this data in its servers to retrieve at any point in time required. This RFID student attendance system can be used for both students, teaching and non-teaching staffs.

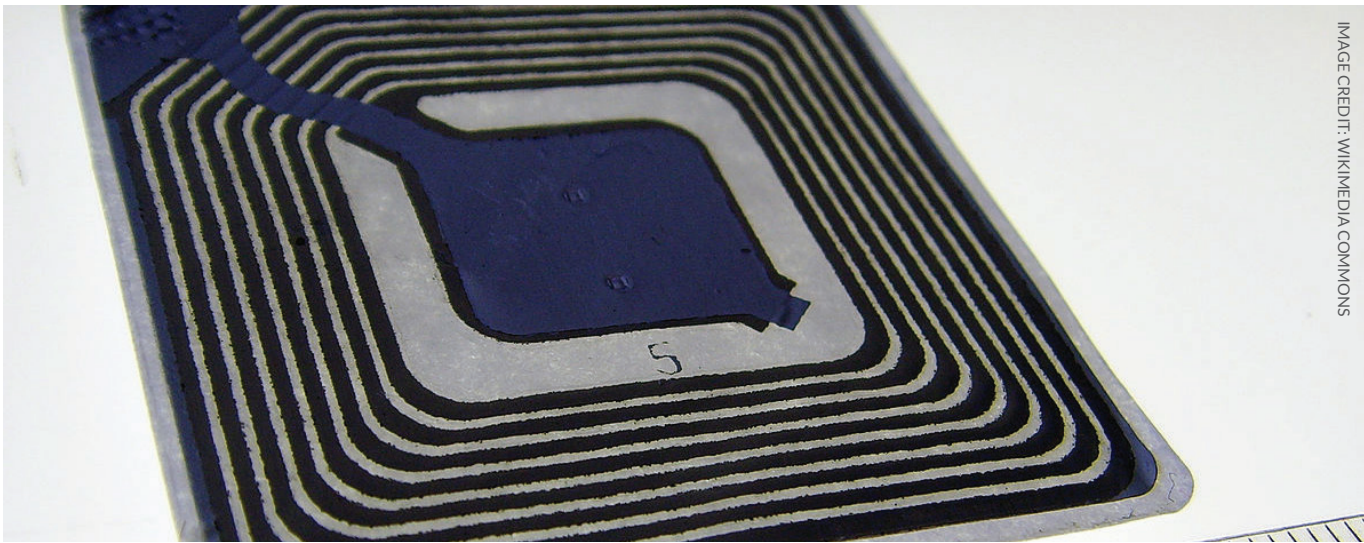
This system has been built in cutting edge technology using RFID and GPRS technology and is designed to help schools and parents to deal with problems of malingering or absenteeism.

Overall this RFID system will increase security of the students, reduces the unauthorised absenteeism and increases the daily attendance of schools.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION THOUGHTS

By using the RFID system, we are able

track the movement of students. In this way, students who arrive late or have unexplained absenteeism (when they are supposed to be in class) can be monitored and tracked online. For example, in case a student is reported to have boarded the school bus, but did not report into the school premises, immediate action can be taken to locate his or her whereabouts. Often parents are anxious if their child arrived safely at school as they are not the ones usually dropping them off, a SMS triggered system that confirms their presence in schools is a relief to most working parents. Besides tracking in and out times, the system



can also maintain every student's daily, monthly, and yearly attendance data. The advantage of this system is that the school administration does not have to be very technically aware to operate this system. The computerised attendance system definitely saves a lot of the teachers' precious morning time.

PARENTS THOUGHTS

Many thousands of children go missing from school in India every year. Most of them are cases where the child did not report to school after leaving home or left school in time to not return home. In such cases, the information reaches the parents very late. Timely realization can prevent many untoward incidents. Because this is passive RFID it does not pose any health risk to the kids as well. I am able to be free from anxiety everyday and able to concentrate at work.

ADVANTAGES OF THE RFID SYSTEM

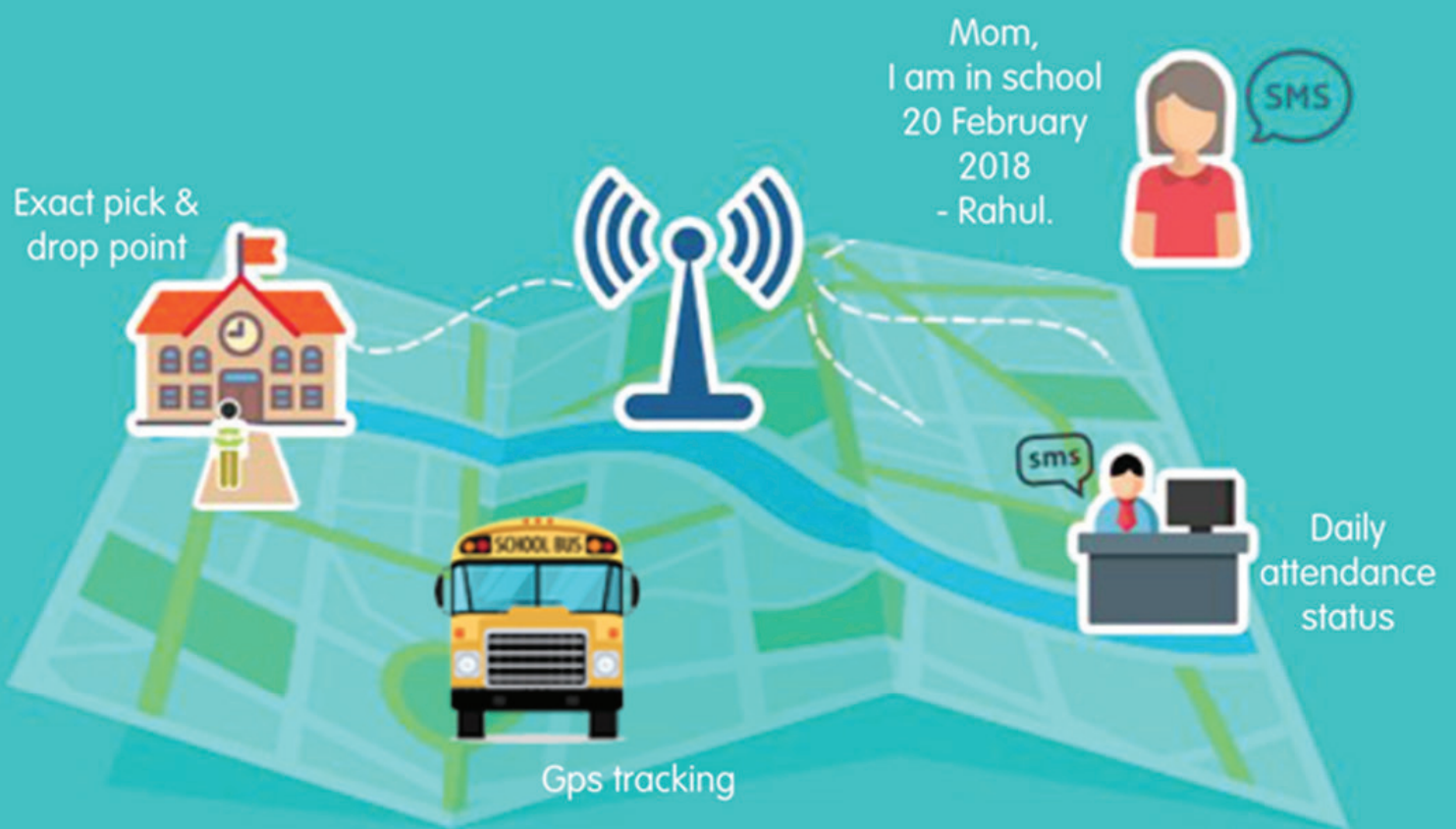
1. Schools adopting RFID technology stay ahead in competition. Maintaining automatic regularity of student attendance and taking action against late-comers and non-attendees, schools can not only enhance academic performance of students.
2. RFID technology also helps enhance classroom security.
3. The traditional method of taking attendance of students by calling roll numbers or names is a time consuming process. Schools can overcome this inefficiency and address the problem adopting RFID based attendance. RFID tags help automatically record student's attendance. Teachers can thus devote more time in effective teaching.
4. A class generally accommodates a large number of students. Manual signing through a biometric system or roll calling not only distracts attention of both teachers and students but also often lead to false attendance record. There are also chances of losing the attendance sheet owing to any possible negligence. This can be overcome with this technology. This also makes year end, attendance analysis is also at the finger tip of teacher.

If you are looking to increase the productivity of your school, this technology should have been installed yesterday.



Magical Attendance System

Save your precious morning hours at the same time ensure safety of children all with one system



A RFID system - No swiping required

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IMAGE CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Education according to Steve Jobs School

As a parent you hope that your child will become happy in life. That he or she will find a life destination where they can get the most out of their own – often unique – talent. Your child will grow up in a world with different forms of communication and cooperation. An even more digitalized world, where distances no longer exist and where you can find everything that you find interesting, want to know or learn, online.

For a many years, educators believed that the “assembly line” method of education was the only way. However, the world is rapidly evolving and a new era of thinking is starting a learning revolution. In 2013, seven SteveJobsSchools serving 1000, 4 to 12 year-olds opened their doors in Amsterdam and Almere. Because of their focus on learning through iPads, these institutions, pioneered by market researcher and entrepreneur Maurice de Hond – became known as the “SteveJobsSchools”.

Education for a new era

The internationally acclaimed SteveJobsSchool model is based on every child having an Independent Learning Plan (ILP), centred on their own way of learning, their strengths, preferences and choices. In these schools, children have daily choices in what they learn and the workshops they attend. The School is available 24/7 and the Learning Plan, educational programs and millions of educational apps can be accessed from any smart device such as an iPad or a smartphone.

A Steve JobsSchool offers your child a rich learning environment with the most modern educational methods, where your child not only learns all the compulsory primary school matter, but where he or she will especially will be stimulated in a unique way, to discover his or her own talent and to develop skills that are of vital importance for the world of tomorrow.



ALL IMAGE SOURCES: STEVEJOBSSCHOOL.WORLD | CHINADAILY.COM | JAVEA.COM | TAPOOK.COM | GOODTHINGSUY.COM

Individual, in a playful manner and at their own speed

Children attend 30-minute workshops on various subjects, there are no seating plans and 45% of learning takes place on an iPad which every child is given when they join. Children work on learning projects of their choice such as creating a real small business, cultivate vegetables in their own patch or take part in group projects such as building a shelter or working towards an art exhibition. Children are encouraged to choose a daily physical activity or sport coaching such as soccer, and to make time for activities like art or quiet

time in the Silent Square.

The concept is supported with adaptive math and language programs that adjust to the child's level, as well as child specific teacher support and workshops on a variety of topics. Teachers or rather 'coaches' are linked via their devices to all students and keep track of their learning with analytics and diagnostics. They provide individual help to students who need it and monitor others who are progressing well. Children set six weekly learning goals, with the help of their parents and Core Coach. Steve JobsSchool teaches your child from an early age to indicate what they want to learn. To find information,

to filter it to its relevance and to apply it, based on your child's own inquisitiveness. He or she will learn vital social skills by working together with other children in projects and by sharing new knowledge through presentations to the group.

All students in the SteveJobsSchool school receive iPads fully loaded with apps to guide this individualised learning. The aim is to encourage the children to design their own education with input and assistance from parents and teachers. With the SteveJobsSchool concept, no child is an exception, every child works at their own pace.

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