

A Letter to Teachers

Dear teachers,

Greetings and best wishes for a wonderful New Year!

January is a special month for us. Not only is it the first month of the English calendar, but it is also the month when our nation celebrates Republic Day. For Mission Hundred Schools, let us make January 2016 a specially significant month by launching the Mission Hundred Magazine for teachers.

Through this magazine we hope to bring the M100 schools closer to one another and experience the warmth and comfort of belonging to a caring family. Together we can travel towards the destination of providing meaningful education to our children, reflecting on our practices, sharing experiences and empowering one another at every step.

This magazine will carry resources, ideas, suggestions and activities and tips for your classrooms. Most of these will work at different levels from primary to upper primary. We hope we can soon bring you good high school resources too. We hope you will try these out in your classrooms this month. Please do let us know if they were effective and how your students responded to them. Please also share your experiences, ideas and suggestions to make our classrooms more vibrant and enriching. Let us work hand in hand to make this newsletter a vibrant, creative and enriching teacher resource for our schools.

Warm regards

Editor

Wise Words

Here are some proverbs, sayings and quotations from all over the world to inspire you. You may write or display them on your blackboards or notice boards, explain and discuss them with your students.

An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind.
If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

M. K. Gandhi
African Proverb



Teacher tip

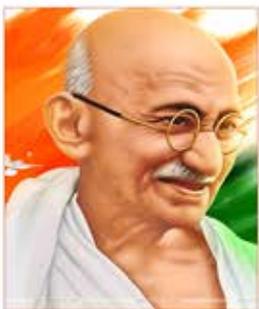


Duty at the doorstep

To mould students into the kind of citizens we would like them to be, it is important that we set clear expectations from them. Tell them exactly what is acceptable and what is not acceptable. Be consistent in applying your rules. Do not excuse or overlook any transgression by one child while scolding another for the same mistake. Consistency also means that rules apply everywhere in the school – not only in the classroom, but also in the ground, in the corridors and elsewhere. To ensure that this is clear, you may need to take up duty at the school door too. If you want students to be quiet, calm and orderly, they need to know that their time starts when they step into the school. So make sure you are the door to receive them with a smile, a greeting and firm insistence on following school rules.

Stories

This month we feature two stories from Gandhi Katha a collection of real incidents from the life of Mahatma Gandhi as recorded by his followers and co-workers and compiled by Umashankar Joshi



Gandhiji used to get up early in the morning. He would then wash his face and brush his teeth with a datun. He would finish all jobs with only a small jug of water. Once, observing this, his colleague Mohanlal Pandya asked, "Bapu, why are you so miserly with the use of water, when the whole of Sabarmati river is flowing just next to our Ashram?" Gandhiji asked him a question, "Tell me first, do you find my face properly cleaned?" Pandyaji answered, "Yes, it is." Gandhiji: "Then what does it matter? You use jugs and jugs of water. But, you just wet your hands and apply on your face, while I wash my face properly with water. So, this amount of water is quite sufficient for me." Pandyaji: "But, any way the river is full of water." Gandhiji: "For whom the river water is flowing? Is it only for me?" Pandyaji: "It is for all. It is also for us...." Gandhiji: "That is correct. The river water is for all; for the birds, animals, insects, and men and not only for me. I can use only that quantity, which is required by me. But, I have no right to use more than what is really my need. From a collective property, could we take more than what is needed?"

Once Gandhiji had lodged in a very rich man's house. It was the time for evening prayers. Many people had gathered for the same. Now it was time to start the prayer. Gandhiji instructed to switch off the lights. The switch of electric lamp was just above the owner of the house, where he was sitting. As was his habit, the owner called out his servant loudly to do the job. But, what happened then? Gandhiji instantly got up, switched off the light and the prayer then started. As usual, there was a question-answer session following the prayer. Someone questioned about spinning work. In reply, Gandhiji said referring to Bhagawad Gita that, those who do not perform their duty, devoting their acts to almighty, are thieves. After the prayer, people dispersed. Somebody pushed the corner table and a decorated vase rolled down and the glass broke into pieces. Oh, but what is this? The landlord himself has reached there running, and has started picking up and collecting the broken glass. Where has the habit of calling the servant disappeared? What a change in a moment? It was the practice of his great guest, which had made this magic change possible.

Puzzles

1. Look at the number below. Can you make it into 35 by removing only two lines?
Can you turn it into 25 by moving two lines?

99

2. Soumya makes and uses bar soaps by sticking together left over end pieces of soaps. She uses six soap bits to make 1 small bar soap. Yesterday she found 72 soap bits. How many bar soaps can she make and use?

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