



TI TIMES



SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 2005 - 2006

Newsletter from T.I. School, Ambattur, Chennai - 600 053.

(For Private Circulation only)

AUGUST 2005

INSIDE

- + ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES
- + PROFILES
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... AND MUCH MORE

KUDOS VIBIN!

XII Std. school topper Vibin.P gets extra ten marks in Biology after retotalling, making his aggregate 1177 now, in place of 1167 declared earlier.



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Dear reader,

Further to my letter in the July issue (which triggered off a kind of false alarm among some parents who believed and understood that there is a total ban on examinations in school), I would like to clarify once again that we are working on finer methods of assessment. We are into a mode of careful, meticulous, complete planning for instructional



delivery that ensures total learning and a suitable assessment strategy. To put it in simple terms, assessment will be done in different stages.

It is even possible, that, in specific situations, different question papers may be set to different groups of students based on their individual needs.

Also every assessment will lay more emphasis on creativity and critical thinking rather than on rote learning. Speaking skills in languages, reasoning and analytical skills in sciences, computing skills in mathematics to mention a few, form the most essential skills and are the true indicators of a child's capabilities. Our aim is to provide an enabling environment to bring out and develop these skills even if it means doing away with conventional mode of examination system, which does not completely cater to this need.

The discomfort and anxiety caused during the course of this transition is something we all have to go through patiently, till such time the new method unfolds steadily and beautifully, producing the desired result.

Please have a look at the sample given in Maths on page 2, that will help you understand a little more.

Similar strategies are being planned for other subjects as well.

Venkatkrishnan

OUR GOAL - EXCELLENCE

Proposed Strategy of Assessment for Maths

Mode of testing

Objective

1.	a. Mid-terminal Examination b. Terminal Examination	
2.	Tests : Unit tests (at the end of each unit)	Micro level assessment
3.	Quiz a. Slip tests (Written, objective test) b. Mental sums (Oral, one-word type)	To improve learning alertness
4.	Assignments a. Homework (Reinforcement) b. Review assignment (Revision) c. Knowledge enrichment (CBSE/ICSE component)	To assess regularity and correctness
5.	Practical work a. Notebook upkeep (Completion/Graph/Geometry/Neatness) b. Project work (Differs from student to student / Learning aids) c. Exposition (Known or unknown topic) d. Practical Examination (Related to Math-lab)	To locate extra-ordinary talents

Credit distribution

Mode	Stds. I to V	Stds. VI to VIII	Stds. IX and XI
1 a.	50	20	20
b.	-	20	20
2	20	20	15
3 a.	5	5	5
b.	5	5	5
c.	-	10	10
4 a.	5	5	5
b.	5	5	5
c.	-	10	10
5 a.	5	5	5
b.	-	-	5
c.	-	-	5
d.	5	5	-
Total	100	100	100

Note: Extra credits may be given to those who participate well in 'Problem Corner' and other projects.

'The Topic that 'Fired' their Imagination'

The Know alls of class II

I hardly expected any response or reaction from II Std. children, the topic being 'fire' for that particular period. But the moment we started brainstorming as preparation for a related activity, ideas poured out, discussions became animated as everybody had something to share and express and finally I was pleasantly exhausted with all their serious exchange and felt 'they already know so much'.

While Prashanth rattled off the uses of fire extinguishers and their location in the school Sriram talked of how to check for leakage of gas in the kitchen not forgetting as to how to change the tube and Vigneswaran thought of rushing a fire accident patient to the hospital immediately. End of it, they also recalled sadly the 'Kumbakonam incident'

I was dumbstruck temporarily for the knowledge they demonstrated on the subject and plotted quietly to give that invisible pat on each and every little back in the class.

That was a lesson they almost 'taught meee!

Prabha Primary teacher.

KG Wise

One of these days if you happen to go around KG sections and find the little ones kneading wheat flour and rolling chapattis don't assume in haste that they are playing Chef! Chef! or doing some cookery activity. Kneading 'atta' involves some fine motor skills, where all fingers are used in co-ordination. Children are given this exercise regularly to strengthen their finger muscles, which help them to have a better grip on the pencils when they learn to write at a later stage.

Not only this, the dough thus made is used for making models of numbers, alphabets and other activities that take place during the day. The dough serves as a natural, harmless, chemical free, pliable moulding material for all their activities.

So, moms! next time if your little ones insist on helping you in the kitchen let them do it. It's worth the mess.



Firming up the little Fingers

Snippets

A symphony in Maths



Students of Classes VII & VIII learning Graph in open air.



Mr. Prasad with students - giving a taste of good cinema.

Sweet News for Sugarcane!



Technologist at EID Parry Sugar factory explaining the application of biotechnology in Sugarcane cultivation to XII Std. students on their recent trip to Pugalur.

Book Review

Attention! Parents and students of XII Std.

Exciting Careers! Exciting courses! From Advertising to Homeopathy to Social work your search for colleges ends here.

Education South Student's Companion

is an exhaustive, upgraded version of comprehensive data bank of professional colleges in South, complete with names and addresses, courses offered, entry mode, number of seats and facilities.

For copies contact: India book house,
24, Commander-in-chief Road, Egmore, Chennai-8



**Calling the 'in house expert'
- integration at its peak**



Setting a new trend Mr. Senthil Kumar XII Std. Biology teacher sought the expertise of Physical Director Mr. Ramalingam while dealing with the lesson 'Health & Fitness' in class XII.

Mr. Ramalingam gave a lecture demo on aerobics for fitness and specific exercises to strengthen specific muscles, thus making the classroom session a lively activity.

A letter to Dr. Sekar, Chief Veterinarian



The lesson in IV Science 'caring for animals' was experienced by children on 14th July 2005.

What the children saw in reality left a lasting impact and learning.

Thank you Blue Cross! And thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Ramesh (Parents of Praveen & Naveen) for arranging the visit.

Tribute to a teacher'



She is petite, she is the live wire .No event is complete without her ebullient presence. This gregarious go-getter is the master of ceremonies. Also, she is the one who raises her brow and twists her nose in disdain when your grammar goes haywire. Her flow of language makes you wonder if she had rubbed her dainty shoulders with Shakespeare and Milton. Finally, she is everybody's definition of an ' English teacher'.

There you got it! For Sukanya Baskaran, school is her second home. Sukanya joined TI in the year 1989 and has grown with the school professionally as well as personally and has been an integral part of its growth and development over these sixteen years of her service. Presently she teaches classes X, XI and XII.It is an understatement to say that, she has her own way with children. Behind her firm disciplinarian approach and her steely voice there is a concrete feeling of love and affection (which she perhaps fails to hide sometimes) and children exactly know how to get the best of both in the right amount from her.

Sukanya is one of those few 'most remembered, revered and visited' teachers by the old students. They are with her through thick and thin and she owes it to them.

She is a person with a strong sense of 'community' and reaches out to all and one with the same zest and warmth. Personally, 'Sukanya' has a penchant for bright colours and enjoys sashaying her collection be it clothes or fashion jewellery with the simplicity and innocence of an indulgent kid.

Old melodies by Mukesh, P.B. Srinivas and Seerkazhi still hold their charm and magic on her.

While Sukanya proclaims emotionally 'I will teach till my last breath', her friends and colleagues swear 'we simply cannot do without her.'

The 'Key Person' of the school

Bang at 8.15 in the morning, if this gentleman with a bunch of keys tucked protectively under his arm is not sighted, there would be mayhem in the campus. The day doesn't start until he opens the school office. Fortunately there has been no evidence of such confusion in the last seventeen years.'Ramesh. Sir' as children fondly call him not only holds the keys close to his heart but the entire School and all its members too.

Soft spoken, humble, diligent and very responsible, Ramesh in his capacity of an 'Office Assistant' manages everything that has to be managed in a School office. He is our 'transport manager' who efficiently co-coordinates and schedules the bus/van trips. He guides and directs his colleagues with a calm and professional approach.

You are mistaken if you think that he is devoid of any humour with so much work around him. He tickles you and provokes laughter in his own quiet, inimitable style on the most unsuspecting things. He amuses himself perfecting his spoken English, notoriously unmindful of the effect it evokes. Ramesh is a parent too, with his son in IV Std.

He says 'I almost grew up here'. It's true he knows the story of each and every wall and structure in the premises and to think of it, who else is more sensitive to the moods and the seasons of the School better than "Ramesh Sir"?



The dream boy of TI

He is a teacher's delight, school's pride and a mother's dream. Loves Tamil language, quotes with élan from Tamil Kural and Kamba Ramayana, believes in upholding the traditional values imbibed from his family and country, does his 'gayatri' all three times without fail, is more than comfortable in dhoti kurtha with sacred ash on forehead even during his stay in US... In short, Subbu is 'Himself'.



Subramani Ramakrishnan enjoys telling his friends that his admission number was four when he came to join TI School in the year 1981. After schooling he did his engineering from Sri Venkateswara College and secured 7th rank in Madras University. Presently Subbu is working as Operations Manager in IBM Global Services at Bangalore. His thirst for knowledge led to yet another Postgraduate degree in Software Enterprise Management from IIM, Bangalore in 2003 that he naturally topped. It's not like him to stop just there, so, he did his MBA with specialization in Finance from IGNOU.

His teacher Mrs. Sukanya fondly recalls that even after leaving school, whenever Subbu is in Chennai, he would never miss a chance to be in the school either to help the youngsters in some activity or playing judge in debates, or to participate in Independence day and Republic day celebrations or, to be there, just breathe the air in the school and relive 'those days'.

Subbu! You swept us off our feet. Thank you for expressing your willingness to take active part in silver jubilee celebrations and help us in co-coordinating Alumni activities.

Email id; Subramani@in.ibm.com

Visitors from across the seas



Educators with a Common Mission

A team of teachers from different parts of US visited the school on 23rd July 05 for an interactive session with our teachers. Mrs. Hema Rao of 'FACE' Organisation facilitated the visit. Pleasantly, their visit coincided with the school's Annual Athletic meet and 'Kurivilla Jacob's Excellence in education' programme in which more than thirty schools participated.

All the different teams came together during lunch and interacted on common issues.

What they have to say:

"Thank you for a rewarding conversation, I will send information and stay in touch." Terry Decker, Bethlehem

"Great experience! Thanks for everything" Ken Hung, Philadelphia and David Sacoby.

"Lovely meeting with teachers". Ms. Mary Beth Hegeman, Bala Cynwyd middle School.



Guests on stage enjoying the sports events

Toppers Honoured

All the top scorers of Std. X & XII Board Exams were honoured in a formal ceremony on 6th July 05. Parents of the students also were invited for the function. Mrs. M.M.Murugappan correspondent TI school and Mrs. Arun Alagappan Joint correspondent of A.M.M.school distributed the gift cheques.

This is an annual feature where a gift cheque worth Rs 1000/. is awarded for highest aggregate in each group and Rs. 300/ for highest mark in each subject. These gift vouchers that can be redeemed at Higginbothams for books come in as timely assistance, enabling children to buy books of their choice needed for their further studies.



Mrs. M.M. Murugappan Correspondent TI School giving away the gift cheque to a topper from Higher Secondary



Mrs. Arun Alagappan joint correspondent AMM School with one of the X Std toppers.

Workshops / Training Programmes

Our counselor Mr. Chander kumar attended a lecture session on 'Services and Strategies in treatment of Addiction' delivered by Mrs. Shanthi Ranganathan (Hon Secretary, TT Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation, Chennai and a path breaker in the field of addiction treatment) This was organized by Chennai Counselor's Forum in commemoration of International Drug Awareness Day on 26th June.

Values Through Play

Dr. Kuzhandaiswamy, Secretary, Gandhi Peace Foundation addressed students of STD VI –IX on the values of love and responsibility on 25th June 05 as a part of Heritage club activity. His team comprised an amateur group of actors studying in IX STD, Mylapore Corporation School who staged a skit bringing out these values in the most striking way.

Bonus Read

TV 'Can stunt mental growth'

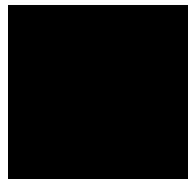
Too much viewing will lower interest in activities such as reading

At the event organized by the Center for Montessori Training, Chennai, Dr. Mathew, developmental neurologist from CMC Vellore said, as television and computer games / animation were an integration of sound, movement and colour, a child exposed to them for long hours would show a lack of interest in other objects and activities, such as books and reading, that don't include all three.

Televisions and computers caused a uniform pattern of stimulation that resulted in limited development of the child's brain.

Dr. Mathew advised, 15 minutes of television-viewing two or three times a day and three times as much of other activities, such as reading, music and physical exercise.

Courtesy : Indian Express, 29.07.05



Mr. N. Perumal, Parent of P. Haripriya, II Std. writes
It is nice to see lot of activities (especially extra curricular activities) in school.

I know T.I will always do good things to children and their future. Children love to go to T.I school because the environment is very suitable for learning...As a committed father I feel exams are required to monitor the performance of my child.

Principal replies

Thank you for the trust you have in us. Hope I have been able to clarify some of the doubts you have expressed about the new assessment system in my editorial. I am sure, involvement and concern from parents like you would go a long way in the development of school.

Mr. Sekar Santhanam, parent of S. Prasanth VIII Std. suggests,

...Students who score consistently can be given some scholarship...Students with full attendance can also be rewarded.

Principal replies

Thank you for the feedback, Sir and we understand the spirit behind your suggestion. Children displaying extraordinary skills and talents in any field will be recognised and provided with opportunities for further growth and exposure, which I feel is a reward in itself.

Speaking of 100% attendance, any sort of reward may lead to an unhealthy, cultivated discipline, wherein, the child psychologically feels pressurized, unwittingly vying with others for the said reward achieving no meaningful purpose.

S. Jaikumar, Parent of Krethik, U.K.G appreciates

The newsletter is very informative. It is extremely good and precisely edited. Best wishes for the silver jubilee year 2005 - 06.

Thanks to our other readers Mr. Ramanathan, Mr. James Prabhakaran and Mrs. Mala who conveyed their wishes for silver jubilee celebration.

Flash News from the Principal's Office

For the present there is no doing away with Quarterly, Half-yearly and Annual exams.
Parents cheer up! Go ahead and make your vacation plans.