

WHERE THE HEART LIES...



*Navneet Kaur Saluja**

“If you desire to make a difference in the world, you must be different from the world.”
-Elaine S Dalton.



With this objective in mind, the Learning Centre in Sanskriti School has been an integral part of the school since its inception in 1998. It remains and thrives to be the heart and soul of the school. Over the last two decades, the school has witnessed small changes to larger transformations and these have rippled across the classroom and school settings, thereby allowing our differently abled community to flourish and grow independently.

The Learning Centre comprises Junior LC (Classes Nursery to V), Middle (Classes VI-VIII) and Senior LC (Classes IX -XII). It focuses on a holistic curriculum which not only addresses concerns related to academics, socio-emotional, physio-motor, speech and linguistic areas but also targets developing pre-vocational and vocational skills of the child to keep pace with the formal system of education.

The center has a team of experienced and dedicated professionals who help in devising an individualized educational plan in collaboration with the parents. This tailored educational program suits the learners needs and abilities to apply and absorb the information given to him/her and is subject to constant evaluation and revision. The educators across the center persevere consistently so as to help and guide the children to overcome various challenges. Along with their academic goals, they are also groomed in another quintessential aspect, which is imbibing the values of a good Sanskritian, and in turn a good samaritan. This effective combination allows them to simultaneously excel in academics and co-curricular fields, which helps them in realizing their self worth and makes them capable to fulfill their life goals.

Besides reaching out to the needs of the children at the center, we as a team of educators also provide remediation to the mainstream students, who have been formally diagnosed with Learning Disability and are struggling with reading, writing

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and mathematics. Monitoring, guiding and assisting them to form a conceptual understanding related to subjects and other issues are also taken care of.

Maintaining a child centric approach and detrmining a least restrictive educational setting, the children are mainstreamed for all the activities which means that we here work on a barrier free attitudinal inclusive environment too.

The center provides training mainly through three media:

- Training students on CBSE patterns with exemptions.
- National Open School (NIOS Board)
- Business Related Skills (Non academic, Functional curriculum with Pre- Vocational and Vocational Skills.

Every year, the Learning Centre family also celebrates 3 inter and intra school events and with the onset of the monsoons, the month August brings in us the fervor, with Indradhanush as the first school event to be hosted by us.

Indradhanush, is a prestigious event organized on 17th August every year, in memory of our student Shev Bhatnagar, who left for heavenly abode in the year 2016. Through this event we not only reach out and spread happiness to the differently abled learners from Delhi and NCR schools, who zealously participate in co-curricular activities but also try to live through the memories of our beloved student, Shev.

With the festive season setting in, we also welcome another extraordinary event, which is the Diwali Utsav Career Fair. As the name of the event suggests, the core objective is to encourage professionals, parents, facilitators and/or resource persons to talk and present about their experiences, introduce and expose the parent community to the newness and various career options available out in the open for our disabled youth. Sensitizing the mainstream and providing a platform to our young disabled entrepreneurs also becomes the prima facie objective of this event. Here, they not only share their most inspiring journeys but also showcase their skills by exhibiting their hand crafted products and the proceeds go to the individual. Robust action, high spiritedness and positive energy levels can be realized throughout for the preparation and spade work for this mega celebration.

Hurray !! And here we are to end the academic year, with a lot of sporty energy celebrating the Adaptive Athletic Meet. Maintaining a sportsman spirit, team building approach, problem solving and keeping oneself physically and mentally energized remains the objective of our Adaptive Athletic Meet.. Again an Inter and intra event it is organized in collaboration with Special Olympics, Delhi to encourage sports and fitness for CWSN.

The Junior School

And now as we enter our school premises, the Junior School Learning Centre lies in the heart of the Junior School building and as you approach the place, vibrancy along with the calmness and a soothing ambience can be felt. Happy and cheerful little ones with their endearing smiles and irresistible cuddles can make anyone smile.. With their expressive eyes, naughty smiles and not so vocal “GOOD MORNING” is the right dose to start your day. The heart and openness of the educators have no words to express but can only be felt across.

Inclusive teaching refers to pedagogy that aims to serve the needs of all students, regardless of background or identity, and support their engagement with subject material.

The Junior school also supports children by preparing them by building up skills and behaviors required to function in an inclusive class. Varied skills like social, communication, behaviors along with reading, writing and arithmetic skills are worked upon in individual as well as small comprehensive settings. Children participate in all co curricular activities and events like Annual Day, Sports Day, assemblies etc. along with the mainstream classes that they are integrated with. An inclusive setup not only helps CWSN but also empowers the neurotypical children with a better sense of awareness and sensitivity.

Middle & Senior School

Skill development and life skill training being the prime focus for the children aged from 11-18 yrs, and these are their middle and senior school years. A few vocational activities like Baking, Information Technology, paper products construction, block printing and beadwork are imbibed as a curriculum.

Dignity, self -worth, productive engagement and societal connectedness remain a few of many goals for any of us here. As soon as the child steps into our periphery, it's not only our responsibility as educators to hold up to them but also work relentlessly to shape them as positive, happy and optimistic individuals.

And as we walk across and head towards the senior block, one can get a sense of relaxed, happier, ever so enthusiastic young bakers. You can see them flocking around in their crisp blue aprons and chef caps. The neatness and the dignity can be realized with their proud presentations of the ever so tempting baked products. The aroma of the yummy brownies can simply not let anyone leave that place without grabbing a bite.

So, the baking unit being the main vocational center for our middle and senior students.

Here, the learners are not limited to just one skill of baking, but along with it reinforcing concepts like time, money, measurements, functional reading and writing are also tapped and honed upon. The learning graph now takes a hands-on trajectory. Transitioning to a more vocational learning happens here, where students bake cakes, brownies, pizzas, sandwiches and sell them within the school campus on a regular day. Social etiquette, transaction, problem solving, and collaborative working are some of the very important life skills and concept development exercises practiced everyday with our children.

To encourage transaction skills, effective communication, team building and responsibility taking goals and to boost self esteem, the students are pushed for regular selling exercises. This activity is not only enjoyed, but the learner also looks forward to taking their selling days.

Another activity, which has truly mesmerized our young adults and given a complete therapeutic dimension is the hands skill activities. This covers the hand crafted products made by our middle and senior school students. Some interesting and very creative things are their beadwork products and other festival related items.

Engagement with these activities has not only fostered social connectedness of our students at the learning center but at the same time it has also facilitated emotional strengthening, uplifted their self worth, integrity and definitely an upswing in their poise and self confidence.

Public speaking through presentations, hands-on experience with photography, theater and participating in other mainstream activities is a personality building exercise for our learning center students.

Pre-Covid times, the students have experienced some blissful and satisfying moments at Maitreyi College. Prepping up for a mega sale not only enhanced their responsibility sharing but also groomed their sense of belongingness. Preparing them through moc sessions with our learners before going for the selling exercises was another enjoyable part of their training program.

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By and large, we here at Sanskriti have created an environment and built a small yet meaningful world for our learners with an aspiration of yielding productive youth. The main intention is to teach and prepare the students to be ready to take their own risks.

And so as they embark for their future journey ahead the very thought of them bidding bye overwhelms the educator fraternity. The children whom we have mollycoddled, guided them take baby steps, handheld on each and every aspect of life, cocooned them safely in their journey from elementary to senior years are all set to face the world. And, with this very intention that “BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN” becomes a guiding force for our adorable and pure hearted children and the time to bid a sweet adieu!!

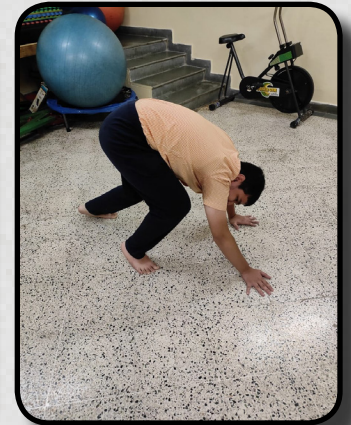


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