

# THE LEARNERS HIVE



# THE WORLD IS EVOLVING, WHY NOT EDUCATION?

Our mission is to deliver

AN EDUCATION THAT TRULY MATTERS

We are a community of

Lifelong Learners



#### THE LEARNERS DISPOSITION

#### What constitutes a lifelong learner?

Learning is coming across something new and allowing it to add to who you are, be it in terms of education, behaviour, or value system. Beyond our traditional ways of learning in our careers, educationally and professionally, life plays the role of our most prominent teacher. And the key to surfing through and riding the waves of life is becoming lifelong learners. If one is open to learning, they can sail through most challenges that life brings them.

Every lifelong learner will also have a few attributes that will set them apart from everyone. Lifelong learners will not be afraid to show vulnerability, emotions, weaknesses, and strengths. They will always carry a childlike glee and curiosity, a wish to know what is happening and why. A lifelong learner also won't settle for answers easily; they are fans of authenticity.

More than just accepting the answers presented to them, lifelong learners would like to explore and understand the answers, logic, and responses from every angle, looking at permutations and combinations. When they face problems, they may take a pause, but get back right up instead of backing out. They're a rare combination of being empathetic thinkers and doers. A lifelong learner is also aware that everyone will have a pace of their own, and that's ok because everybody is allowed to make mistakes.

Being a lifelong learner enriches one's life, and brings with it knowledge, **empathy, and** the wisdom to take life on as it is, helping one grow into one's best version.





## AT THE CORE OF LIVING AND LEARNING: LIFE SKILLS

#### The Role of Art in Education

"Robots and foreign labor will never be able to replace creative people in creating sectors making new and desirable products and services. Therefore, arts education, an investment in our future creative workforce, will become a crucial element in our education system. A resilient economic growth and prosperity in the 21st century will depend on our art education", stated a UCLA economist William Yu, in this article by the world-renowned publication and portal, Big Think.

In a world snowballing, every young person deserves a complete and competitive education that includes the arts. It is no more about specialising in one subject but becoming all-rounded in terms of development. Furthermore, sufficient data exists to overwhelmingly support the belief that study and participation in arts is a critical component in improving learning throughout all academic areas.

So, studying and engaging with arts through dance and movement, music, and theater, will enhance creativity and amplify overall development. Arts soften us; they open us to more ideas, leading to a higher engagement with our communities and experiences. Art education is also best delivered and backed by playful learning. And going by that pedagogy of playful learning, we grow more mindful of those around us and are exposed to newer perspectives and ideas every day.





An article in The Washington Post says, "Art integration is a new and increasingly popular way of bringing the arts into the classroom. Teachers are using dance, drama and the visual arts to teach various academic subjects more engagingly. Students have built sculptures to learn about exponents, and students have used art to express their thoughts and opinions about police brutality and racial equality. Educators and artists who are proponents of the method say it reaches students who might not otherwise absorb traditional classroom methods."

Arts are said to enhance student engagement, creativity, and innovation because there is always space in them to explore and find uniqueness.

That also ends up adding to one's morale and self-confidence. While subjects like math, social sciences, and other sciences amplify one's critical thinking, arts add to one's behaviour and virtue systems. Arts do not just impact one's knowledge but also their wisdom and overall approach towards life. Had it not been for the arts, we would not have poets, writers, dancers, educators, painters, designers, and healers. Moreover, reiterating it, we need them as much as we need our scientists, analysts, doctors, and engineers.

It has also been seen that because the arts allow learners more space to be themselves and learn collaboratively, they increase in children the capacity for contextual learning, and instil a participatory approach and leadership.



#### LEARNING SPACES

#### Library

We at Learners have set up a beautiful library for our young learners. A library is a place that calls for peace and oneness of a mind. Along with books from an array of topics, subjects and backgrounds, we also have interesting texts, quotations, artwork around and a globe for our learners to look at. We have made sure to curate the space mindfully, with winsome little corners for our learners to find their reading space, and spacious sofas placed for them to find comfort.

For the early years, till up to grade 5, the library has some lovely collections like the Harry Potter series, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and The Mixed-Up Chameleon, which are favorites amongst our little learners.



#### Science Lab

One of the biggest goals we have at Learners is to contribute to, curate and uphold a 'maker's ethos' for our learners. Our Science Lab has been put together keeping that very bit in mind. We try for our learners to develop a scientific temper, and a creative and innovative bent of mind. We want our learners to look at problems in a hopeful and exciting way and happily think critically and look for answers. Our lab is equipped for our little scientists with the best kind of paraphernalia, the finest science equipment, funnels, diagrams, maps and visual data, etc., to add to their learning and experience.







#### LATEST EVENTS



# **Soft Engagement:**

On March 24th, we had our learners over for a warm up before the session officially began. Short ice-breakers, music and movement, storytelling, and craft activities were conducted among the learners and the teachers to help both get to know each other a little more and get a good idea of what life at Learners for them would be like.

# Facilitators' Preparation and Planning:

The whole of March was a busy month for our facilitators since they were focused on planning and ideating newer ways of implementing the curriculum. A lot of time went into planning the units, lesson plans and the overall framework. Facilitators spent hours collaboratively brainstorming, figuring their larger goals and looking at activities and approaches that could help them conduct classes to engage with our learners in the best possible way.



# **Professional Development:**

The only way our teachers become their best versions is by constantly upskilling themselves and being open to learning. We at Learners conducted various language-related and subject-centric workshops for our teachers focused on English, Hindi and Math, led by external faculty and experts. We also had a special workshop on 'The Role of a Teacher' by Abha Adams, which helped our teachers get into the skin of their roles, giving them a deeper understanding of their priorities and re-aligning them with their responsibilities and values



## LATEST EVENTS



# Welcoming New Members to our Community:

We added new and wonderful members to our team this month - people from various backgrounds with different experiences joining different departments of the school. The more diverse and more robust our team, the better our impact and growth.

## **Cambridge Primary Introductory Workshop:**

From March 3rd - April 11th, four members of our faculty undertook month-long rigorous and exhaustive trainings in English, Science, and Math. These were introductory courses to the primary level of these subjects prescribed by the prestigious Cambridge Board. While helping the participants get a stronger hold on the subjects, the workshop also enabled them to experience innovative ways of delivering classes.



# **COMMUNITY VOICES**

#### LEARNINGS FROM YOUNG LEARNERS

We asked our young learners the following question (and received heartwarming answers!) - what is your favorite thing about online classes?

#### Lubhani -

"I love all the beautiful craft and learning videos that ma'am shows us. There were videos of snakes and dolphins also! I enjoy learning more about crafts online through images and videos."



#### Tarun -

"I enjoy painting online.
I also like studying Math online!"



#### Gurbani -

"I like playing games during classes. And I LOVEEE colouring the mosttt!"







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#### Aparna -

"Online activities! And also making cards, my new stationary, my new friends and my new school's name also – Learners International School.

I love my school's teachers and

principal ma'am also. Also the classes are wonderful too!





**Shubhi –**"I love doing water colours!"

**Secrat -**"Fun Maths activities - I enjoy them the most!







We asked our facilitators - What do you plan to do to make learners a loving and emotionally safe space for young ones, online/offline?

"They may forget what you said but they will not forget how you made them feel." -Carl Buechner.



"A facilitator indeed touches lives once and for eternity. Therefore, it becomes so important to make sure that your touch is encouraging, for it will be imprinted on your learners' hearts and minds forever. These unprecedented times are already so challenging for all of us, so to facilitate learning and a positive and meaningful experience, we need to work extra harder this time. Curiosity is a deeply ingrained feature of every human mind. I strive to nurture that curiosity and value the social-emotional needs of our learners to foster optimal learning and growth. The key is to believe in their potential and just be persistent. They would live up to what we believe of them, so I am going to be patient and see the magic unfold."

"As facilitators, we may need to be lavish in our praises and reward them for acts of goodness, appreciate learners for their behaviour, effort and participation in individual and group activities. To also reason out with the learners is very crucial now. I encourage them to treat each other with respect, use appropriate communication, and go the extra mile of reaching out to them. I routinely include strategies and activities in your lessons that allow students to express their thoughts and ideas, build relationships, and practice collaboration. I post the learners' work on classroom walls, help them feel ownership of the classroom, and help them feel as wanted and seen as I can."







"Indeed, all learners learn differently, so I let my learners take the onus of their learning. They are always proud of their work and I take the opportunity to take pride in their achievement too. That sense of hope and glory you arise in the learner is unmatchable. I also ensure that we all leave our bags of judgment outside the classroom. With no judgments, the environment is fear-free. I believe that the classroom environment physically also plays a vital role. Therefore I believe in keeping my class slick and span, student-friendly where their work is celebrated and I believe in giving them choices as to how to go about their learning and well, we do make a happy lot together."

"Online or offline, I've had these wonderful experiences in the sense that I've tried to add warmth to the class. I spend a lot of time getting to know my learners. I shared with them a lot about my day, my moods, so they feel easy enough sharing about theirs. We talk a lot about each other and the things and people that mean a lot to them, be it their friends or toys. Nothing exudes more warmth and joy than being able to talk to and hear each other out, and some heartfelt appreciation and eye contact being two cherries on the top."



Ms. Vandana





"With grade 2 and grade 3 learners, I'm trying to look at all of them and their issues, if any, personally. Personal care, ask and attention are what really help children. Sometimes just letting go of certain things like our learners coming late to class could mean a big deal to them. And then, of course, you gradually eventually help them get back on track. I've seen them try their best to get better if we're open and patient with them.

There is a thin line between being a friend and a teacher and that middle spot is what we have to reach, where there is trust, flexibility, respect along with openness."

"In my experience, we don't have to do anything out of the box, going beyond our regular classes for us to make them feel safe and wanted. Just very simple, basic, easy things. Like asking them how their day was, listening to them when they share things with you, them sharing their happiness with you, you accepting and acknowledging their little moments with a smile, a thumbs-up, a quick round of applause, that's all it takes really. Counting their little moments as big ones, showing them that we relate with them and all their feelings, be it their joy, their frustration, irritation, confusion, seeing them as they are is all it takes."







"To feel emotionally safe, students need teachers who are responsive to their needs. Responsiveness is grounded in trusting relationships between the teacher and students and understanding how students experience classroom life.

Students thrive when teachers know them well and affirm their individual and diverse identities. Teachers who affirm students' identities communicate in ways that show that they genuinely care for and respect each student and believe all students' knowledge, life experiences, and culture are an asset to the classroom community. I also elevate student's voices and perspectives by engaging the entire class in problem-solving conversations when challenges arise in the classroom."

Loving and emotionally safe space - I intend to discuss with the young learners, right at the beginning, how we can make our class a fair and safe space for all of us. Often, learners themselves come up with the best solutions. Apart from that, I ensure that I convey, through my tone and expressions, that in all situations - even serious ones or when I'm responding to their mistakes - I have love for them. They need to know they're loved inspite of, not because of. Lastly, a substantial presence of art, music and colours doesn't hurt.





#### PERSPECTIVES FROM PARENTS





"We enjoyed our visit to the Learners International School. It was lovely to go through the school's journey and ideology through a wonderful presentation of thought processes. We are excited about the upcoming developments at the school and would like to join in and stay aboard!"



33

Abinash Mahapatra, Parent of Abhisha Mahapatra





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"I am very positive about the methodologies that the school follows and the way they implement them. I strongly feel that with the talented staff that the school has, I'll be able to see good results in the future."





Aditya Bhardwaj, Parent of Shubhi and Aparna







