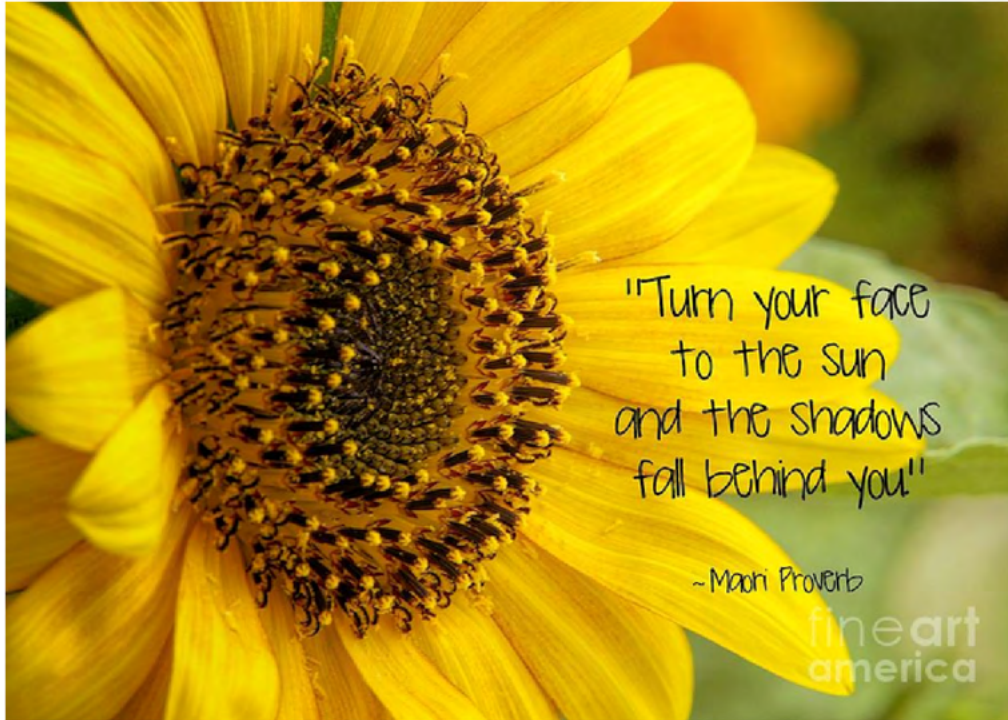


TTM! CONNECT



I hope the New Year has started well for you and that 2024 will be full of joyous surprises!

Thanks to your unwavering dedication and hard work, our mentees constantly express deep appreciation for the dramatic changes that TTM! mentors have wrought in their lives. Often, these plaudits revolve around greater fluency in the English language, higher grades at school and greater levels of confidence.

We hear too about the deep bonds that have formed between mentors and mentees, how invaluable these are, and the extent to which the mutual trust has helped our mentees in areas that go well beyond the English language.

This is precisely the aim of the TTM! mentorship program, and this is why we are mentors and not teachers. My deepest thanks to you for turning the TTM! dream into a vibrant reality!

We are on a constant quest to become better and better; this often involves examining decisions we have made in the past. In that context, we sometimes ask, "Why mentor?" "Why not focus on helping our mentees clear their English exams?"

As we look at 2024 and beyond, we end up reinforcing the importance of mentoring. These are frightening times, times of great insecurity. We live in a world riven by strife. Unending wars raging in different parts of the globe. Destruction wrought by merciless forces of nature. Poverty, cyber-crime, unfettered corruption, threat of unemployment, religious intolerance...all these and more, stare our mentees in the face.

To navigate these minefields, our mentees need us more than ever before! They need a steadying hand, and they need a compass to guide them. You are that hand, and you are their compass.

Help them. Surround them with love. Understand them with compassion. Turn their face to the sun, so the shadows fall behind them.

~ Malavika Sharma

New partnerships

Gauri, the Group Head, and Surita visited the OM Foundation School to meet our eager new mentees. What a great start to 2024!



Institutional feedback - Sri Satya Sai Vidya Vihar

With Divine blessings and Kalsi ma'am's dedicated mission to uplift the school, the day when Mrs. Bridget Ganguly came to visit our school was a red-letter day for the school. She came with a hamper full of blessings for the E.W.S. Children.

English teachers of middle school and students of SSSVV embarked on a journey to fulfil an important mission of bringing about a change in the fluency of English as a spoken language. With a little push and encouragement from the respected director, Kalsi ma'am, Madhurima ma'am and all the mentors we were able to take a step towards achieving this goal. Step by step, we moved towards achieving the target set by all of us.

It was a rich experience for the students as we could see and feel the change in the student's spoken and written language. The students were more confident and there was an amazing change in their overall personality and performance in English as a language. Many hurdles had to be overcome by the students as well as their mentors like exams, regular school, and not having the device to attend classes. Yet, the end result is our victory.

So we thank our most respected Kalsi ma'am, Madhurima ma'am and the mentors for having encouraged the students and motivating them to achieve success in an endeavour to complete one year in this direction. As coordinators, we would like to apologize on behalf of those students who left the course because of their personal and genuine problems.



RITA DIWAN & MINU SACHDEV

SSSVV-EWS

Mentor/ Mentee Talk

This is Rehan Khan, class IX student of Sarvodaya Vidyalaya in New Delhi, and TTM! mentee. He gave a speech in English at the Republic Day function of his school. He says his school teacher and TTM! mentor Jyoti Sankaran helped him prepare . Rehan attends after school classes at Gyan Aarambh , which has partnered with TTM!.



IQBAL JUDGE
Gyan Aarambh



I am a project supervisor at VRCT, an NGO that works for women's empowerment, and I have been a mentee for 2 years with TTM!. The TTM! sessions have helped me improve my speaking and writing skills, vocabulary, fluency and confidence at my workplace. I am able to communicate better with my colleagues and convey my thoughts clearly, especially during my weekly presentations. Now I present topics such as digital literacy, stress management, leadership etc. in English.

Lesson 76, Level 2+ (Healthy food can reduce diseases) was the one which really proved helpful in my work.

My mentor also took a number of sessions on grammar, so that I can get better command on grammatical accuracy. Engaging exercises on tenses, tag questions, conditionals etc. ensured that learning does not get monotonous.

I also read poems, newspaper articles, classic stories and recently a novel, 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull' by Richard Bach. I learnt how to face challenging situations, criticism and that there is no limit to learning. When we inculcate these skills in ourselves, then we can become leaders for others. I also liked 'The Garden Party' by Katherine Mansfield, which exposes class divisions and hypocrisy in society.

I want to continue reading and discussing stories, articles etc. although I do not have much free time for reading, and these also help me to improve my vocabulary and analytical thinking.



SUNITA PANCHAL
Vidya Roshan Charitable Trust

Book Review

"7 Mindsets for Success, Happiness and Fulfilment", which is written by the well-known **Swami Muktananda**, is a source of hope. Swami Muktananda is a world-renowned spiritual teacher, who learnt his Vedic teaching from the famous Swami Jagadguru Kripaluji Maharaj. He has written many books on how to live a spiritual life. In this book he has mentioned seven ways in which a person can conduct his or her life.

This book starts with a little introduction as to why it is important to have the right mindset, how you can develop it and how to proceed to the first step which is **'Positivity'**. Positivity is the foundation of a good life. If we don't have an optimistic attitude towards anything we will not be able to proceed further in any work. The second mindset is taking **'Responsibility'** for our emotions. The world will throw stones at us, but it is up to us how we deal with it, what feelings we are harbouring in our life. Then comes the third mindset, which is **'Inspiration'**. It provides us the fuel and powers us to excellence. It increases our inner strength as well. Then comes the fourth point that is **'Purity of intention'**. Pure intention immediately frees us from stress, anxiety and tension. We can purify our intentions through the practice of karma-yoga. The fifth mindset is **'Cultivating Knowledge'**. In this context Swamiji focuses on material and spiritual knowledge. He states that there are many means from where we can get material knowledge but for spiritual knowledge, we require a saint who is well-versed in Vedic scriptures. Even after getting the best of knowledge sometimes a person fails to apply all the rules. This is due to lack of **'Discipline'** which is our sixth rule. It is the bridge between our knowledge and implementation. We can develop this attitude with the help of yoga, and that is how the author takes us to the last step, that is **'Grow in the face of problems'**. With a positive approach, we can turn adversities to our benefits.

Swamiji has also used shlokas from Geeta, Vedas, and Puranas to make it easier to understand how these things affect our life, career, and growth. What I like about this book is that after reading this, one will definitely feel light and positive.

Creativity

YOU ARE SPECIAL

Don't try to be like others,
Because you don't know
How special you are.
Stop thinking about others,
Because you are the special one.

Just listen to your heart
And do what you want.
Just feel your magic
And never lose hope.

In the race of life
Never lose hope,
Because you are the special one
Who is going to be a star.



SHRUTI PANDEY

Sri Satya Sai Vidya Vihar

CREATING A GARDEN ON THE ROOFTOP



KAJOL YADAV

BRMS



AYUSHI SHARMA

Purkal Youth Development Society



NAITIK RAJ

East Point

Congratulations !!!

Shreya and Tara were in Singapore with 8 others from Vidya school. They won this trophy. Proud moment for Vidya school.

This was the **Crackerjack Challenge**, wherein schools participated with projects displaying their creativity and initiative.

It is the vision of the school and our dedicated TTM! mentors who have worked relentlessly with our two participating mentees, and the fabulous work and confidence displayed by the young girls.



Chicken Soup - Mayank's story

Mayank has been my mentee for 2 years. A bright and intelligent child, his hesitation and lack of fluency in the English language was a concern for me. However, my understanding is that encouragement and proactive coaxing is the TTM! ethos. I nurtured his confidence, and encouraged him to converse. As his sentence construction is interesting, I pushed him to write for the TTM! Newsletter. His flute recital presented itself as an opportunity for him to emerge not only as an artiste, and hopefully as a writer as well ... All the best! Mayank!!

~ Nirupama Raina

Flute Recital for the Virasat Festival

My journey for Virasat festival started when I learnt that I was getting a chance to participate in the important Virasat art camp; cultural festival of Uttarakhand, aka Devbhoomi, in Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand on 27 th October 2023. I am learning the flute in my school - Purukul Youth Development Society.

As I learnt about my selection, I began to seriously practice my flute, playing regularly with great concentration. My music teacher, Mr Deepak Bhardwaj, believing in my talent, gave me this wonderful opportunity to show my skill and talent to people from all over Uttarakhand. The festival fascinated me a lot for I knew that I would meet and learn from so many artistes. At the festival, there was so much skill, talent and learning - all of which was of great value. My tabla partner for the contest was Shishir Bhaiya, my senior from grade X.

When the day of the contest came, I was nervous but I knew and realized that this was the best, and my only chance, to present and showcase my talent and skill. On stage, I strictly kept focus on playing my very best. I played raga Yaman, an evening raga. When my recital ended, I was relieved and excited at the applause. Later I was told by someone in the audience, that my recital was very melodious. I was so happy!

My music teacher appreciated and admired my playing! I felt good as he had recognized my talent, and trusted in me to play well. I was awarded a certificate by Virasat. After the concert, we went to the Virasat fair where we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. At the end I want to say that it really was a memorable day for me. I hope to keep learning the flute and improving my skill.

~ Mayank Dhiman



Editorial team signing off

"Tikkun Olam" is one of the three pillars of Judaism and is Hebrew for repairing or healing the world through social action.

There is turmoil in the world right now. Wars are raging, leading to death, destruction, displacement and sorrow. The effects of climate change are upon us. Our air and water are polluted, temperatures are rising, and storms are more severe than ever before, leading to flooding and decreased agricultural yield and consequently, hunger.

"Tikkun Olam" calls upon us to build and repair our community as a model for the larger world, step by step, hand in hand.

Let's think about what EACH one of us can do to make the world a better place.

BRIDGET GANGULY

DEBIKA LAHIRI

RAJAT RAY

