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COVER STORY

Parental Engagement

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Principal - Air Force School,
ASTE/COE RESOURCE PERSON, Bengaluru



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Parental Engagement: A Cornerstone for Academic Success

CHUMKI NATH

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ASTE/COE RESOURCE PERSON, Bengaluru



Principal Chumki Nath's leadership at Air Force School, ASTE, has steered the institution toward excellence, emphasizing holistic development and innovative practices. From the impactful "Anubhav" event to the transformative School Cinema program, the school's journey epitomizes a commitment to shaping responsible and well-rounded individuals. As Air Force School, ASTE, continues to evolve, Mrs. Nath's vision for a positive impact on society and the holistic development of students remains at the forefront. She shares below her thoughts in an article about parental involvement in their children's education.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mrs. Chumki Nath, a seasoned teaching and leadership professional, brings over 25 years of classroom expertise, continually enhancing her skills through ongoing staff development, certifications, and current trend seminars. An educational visionary and articulate speaker, she implements forward-thinking processes for the holistic development of children. With a background in a defense family, she instills core army values, fostering excellent communication skills and the courage to face challenges. As an educator, she ensures instructional programs align with approved curricula and has documented success in initiating effective teachers' training programs. Serving various educational institutions nationwide, Mrs. Nath, as Principal, emphasizes holistic student development through a well-balanced blend of academics and co-curricular activities, following an activity-oriented and learner-centred approach.



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Nestled in the heart of Bengaluru, Air Force School, ASTE, stands as a beacon of educational excellence. With ISO certification, this premier institution has been a cornerstone in shaping young minds for decades. Established in 1977, the school operates under the aegis of the IAF Educational and Cultural Society. Initially conceived as a Nursery School to cater to the educational needs of children from Air Force personnel serving in HAL-based units, it has evolved over the years to provide education up to XII standard. The school, affiliated with CBSE New Delhi, operates from two locations - Murgeshpalya Camp and Akash Vihar Camp.

At the forefront of this educational institution is Mrs. Chumki Nath, a distinguished teaching and leadership professional with over 25 years of experience. Mrs. Nath brings a wealth of expertise honed through continuous staff development, certifications, and participation in current trend

seminars. As an educational visionary and eloquent speaker, she has implemented forward-thinking processes aimed at the holistic development of children. Mrs. Nath's success extends to mentoring staff in various committee roles and administration development teams, ensuring alignment of instructional programs with the approved curriculum.

Academic Excellence and Holistic Development:

Air Force School, ASTE, prides itself on achieving academic excellence while simultaneously focusing on holistic development. The institution envisions instilling moral courage and a determined spirit in students, preparing them to navigate life's challenges with resilience and happiness. Mrs. Nath, as the Principal, takes a keen interest in fostering the holistic development of students.

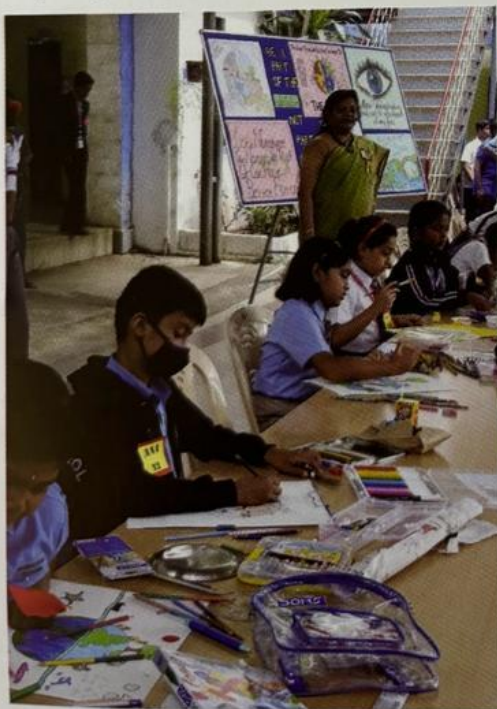
Cover Story

Innovative Practices – "Anubhav":

A standout initiative under Mrs. Nath's leadership is the "Anubhav" event, a PAN-India student extravaganza initiated in 2018. This event incorporates a myriad of online and offline competitions and features guest lectures by erudite personalities. "Anubhav" has become a testament to the collaborative spirit and unwavering dedication of the Air Force School community, fostering intellectual growth, national unity, and leadership among students. "Anubhav," the PAN-India student event, serves as a prime example of the school's commitment to innovative practices. The event's genesis lay in a shared desire to nurture intellectual growth, foster national unity, and ignite leadership qualities among students. Brainstorming sessions led to the conceptualization of "Anubhav" – a series of events encompassing both online and offline formats.

Stages of Implementation:

The journey of "Anubhav" involved meticulous planning, with dedicated committees crafting the framework for specific events. From ideation to execution, the school ensured seamless transitions between virtual and physical spaces. The selection of esteemed judges added credibility to the event, enriching the experience for participants.



Legacy of "Anubhav":

"Anubhav" stands as a legacy, showcasing the power of collaboration and the resilience of the human spirit. The initiative has left an indelible mark on fostering national unity, intellectual growth, and lasting friendships among students. As the school moves forward, the lessons learned from "Anubhav" serve as reminders of the impact achievable through shared vision and dedication.

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academically.”

Impact of School Cinema Program:

One of the notable practices incorporated at Air Force School, ASTE, is the School Cinema program. Mrs. Nath acknowledges its positive impact on students and says, “School Cinema is one of the best practices that we have incorporated in our curriculum. Our school students are very disciplined and school cinema has added an extra mile to inculcate values and life skills in them. The movies shown to them through School Cinema helps them to ingrain morals in a cinematic way. The students witness the stories that resonate with their own experiences, making them feel connected and understood. It portrays diverse culture, lifestyle and issues promoting the students’ empathy and understanding.” The program, featuring age-appropriate movies and accompanying workbooks, not only aids in learning life skills but also promotes interaction and brainstorming sessions among students, improving their communication skills.

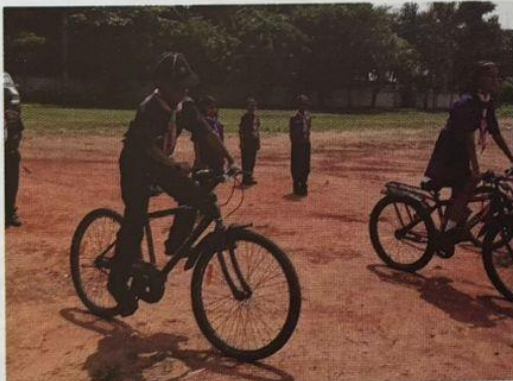
Vision for the Future:

Looking ahead, Air Force School, ASTE, aspires to create future citizens grounded in values like honesty, humanity, and respect. The institution aims to provide a safe learning atmosphere, leveraging modern technology and cultivating a high-performing learning culture. Emphasizing individualized approaches, community service, and a supportive learning environment, the school envisions contributing positively to society.

Parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's educational journey. Beyond simply sending them to school, active parental involvement is essential for fostering a supportive learning environment and maximizing a child's potential. Students with involved parents tend to perform better academically. When parents show interest in their child's education, monitor their progress, and provide assistance when needed, students are more likely to excel in their studies.

Parental involvement not only impacts academic performance but also shapes a child's attitudes towards learning. When parents demonstrate enthusiasm for education and engage in learning activities with their children outside of school, they instill a lifelong love for learning, and the school can evolve as a community.

Education is not just about academics; it's also about social and emotional growth. Parents who are actively involved in their child's education provide emotional support, encouragement, and guidance, helping their children navigate challenges and develop crucial social skills. We generally observe the parents' role for the child if the child is special or inclusive, but if the students are normal, the involvement of their parents just rests with PTMs.

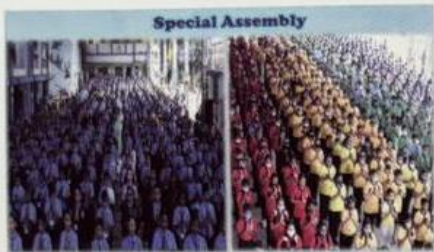


Effective communication between parents, teachers, and students is key to a successful educational experience. When parents are engaged in their child's schooling, they can communicate openly with teachers, stay informed about their child's progress, and collaborate on strategies to address any areas of concern.

Parents should make the students take the learning beyond the curriculum. Beyond the classroom, parental involvement helps build a strong support system for students. When parents are actively engaged in school activities, volunteer their time, and participate in parent-teacher associations, they contribute to a sense of community and support that benefits all students.

Parental involvement in a child's education is widely recognized as a crucial factor in academic success and overall development. When parents actively engage in their child's learning journey, they unlock a multitude of benefits that extend far beyond the classroom. Let's explore some of the ways in which parental involvement positively impacts a child's learning and development:

- **Enhanced Academic Performance:** Research consistently shows that students whose parents are actively involved in their education tend to perform better academically. When parents show interest in their child's studies, provide support with homework and projects, and communicate regularly with teachers, students are more motivated and better equipped to excel in their academic endeavors.
- **Improved Self-Esteem and Confidence:** Parental involvement fosters a sense of encouragement and validation that is essential for a child's self-esteem and confidence. When parents take an interest in their child's achievements, celebrate their successes, and provide constructive feedback, children feel valued and supported, leading to a positive self-image and a belief in their own abilities.
- **Strengthened Parent-Child Bond:** Actively engaging in a child's learning process strengthens the bond between parents and children. Whether it's reading together, exploring educational activities, or discussing school experiences, these shared moments create lasting memories and deepen the parent-child relationship, fostering trust, and open communication. These days children are glued to gadgets and gizmos, in most of the houses we find both the parents working and hence they are not able to give time to their children. All the activities mentioned above will help in fostering a good bond between the parents and children at home. It will make the child happy and joyful.



- Development of Critical Skills:** Parental involvement provides opportunities for children to develop essential skills beyond academics. Through activities such as reading aloud, solving puzzles, or engaging in creative projects, parents can help nurture their child's critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills, setting a strong foundation for future success. Parents can even provide a hands on experience to the children by taking them to field visits, old age homes and orphanages to make them exposed to the harsh life realities.
- Instilling Values and Work Ethic:** Parents serve as role models for their children, and their involvement in education sends a powerful message about the value of learning and hard work. When parents prioritize education, demonstrate a strong work ethic, and actively participate in their child's educational journey, they instill important values that shape their child's attitudes towards learning and future endeavors. Parents should value the resources and facilities provided by the school and also teach their children to protect, safeguard, respect and use it judiciously.
- Preparation for Lifelong Learning:** By actively engaging in their child's learning process, parents instill a lifelong love for learning. When children see their parents reading, exploring new interests, and embracing educational opportunities, they are more likely to adopt a similar mindset, becoming lifelong learners who continuously seek knowledge and growth.

In conclusion, parental involvement is a cornerstone of a child's educational success and overall well-being. By actively participating in their child's learning journey, parents unlock a myriad of benefits that contribute to their child's academic achievement, personal development, and lifelong success. Parental involvement is not just beneficial; it's essential for the holistic development of children. By taking an active role in their child's education, parents can nurture a love for learning, foster academic success, and contribute to their child's overall well-being.