

August 2020

Z-CLIPS

E-Learning during the Pandemic

Fortunately, most middle-income homes here have technology access. Therefore, private schools are able to keep their students engaged with academics and co-curricular activities. Our two Parsi school principals have given very interesting account of eLearning in their schools, written especially for you readers. Trust you will enjoy reading them.

BVS Parsi High School

Someone shared this with me a month ago.

Waqt sabka aata hai...
Mobile ko Be-izzat karke
school se nikala thaa...
(Mobile are not allowed
in school)
Aaj wahi mobile
school chala raha hai

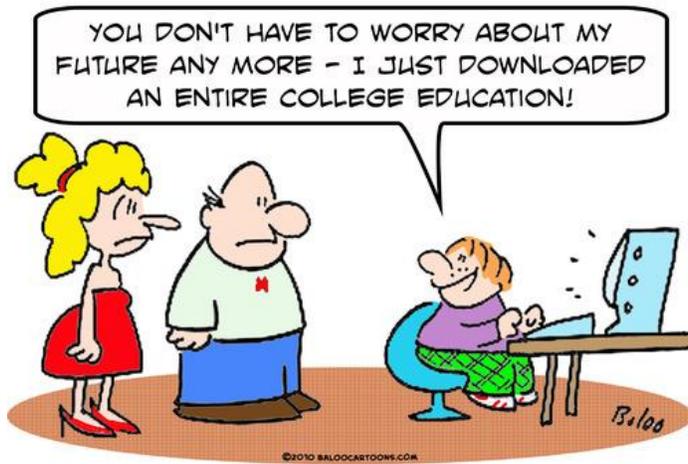
Most schools do not allow mobiles and other electronic gadgets in schools and now, ironically, we will not be able to operate without these gadgets. So where does one start to fathom the impact of using technology to learn and teach? Is it a boon or a bone? A friend or a foe?

The pandemic has certainly shaken up the educational institutions out of their archaic systems and have thrust us into the world of E learning and teaching.

BVS embraced it with a very positive attitude. Mind you, many of us had to unlearn a lot of things and learn a lot. But it was done with great enthusiasm and the staff, teachers and administration rose to the occasion. With a mixture of EDMODO, GOOGLE CLASSROOM and ZOOM MEETING and then recording some lessons, we have merged all these to step into a new academic year from 15th June, 2020. Besides academics BVS is offering many co-curricular activities online such as clubs, music, societies, sports and mind games.

Let's see the upside: As a head I see the tuition culture taking a back seat since tutorials are given online and stay online for reference for a long time. The stimulus given through audio-visual medium has tremendous benefits. The assignments are paper free. Students can do work at their own pace. Can use any gadget e.g. cell phones, laptops, iPads etc to do the lessons.

How are the student's managing? Pretty well as we keep on getting feedback from the heads, subject coordinators and teachers who troubleshoot as and when required. Children are very resilient and since they are post-millennials, for them to use technology has been "child's play".



Jokes aside, today's child will be able to manage technology very well. The only thing that worries us as educationists is that we all are missing out on the human interaction aspect of children staying away from educational institutions for too long. We all may face some mental and emotional baggage that they will come back with besides their school bags, when educational institutions open. There is a distinction in the digitally native generation i.e. the younger age bracket will experience a smoother transition as they are more familiar with technology being used in the classroom. There is also this notion of the "flipped classroom" in which students' self-navigate learning content whereby they first digest the content on their own and then ask questions afterwards. This means more independent learning in the classroom that enables students to learn at pace that works best for them.

Readers who are tech savvy can always follow us on:

YouTube link: [bvsparsihighschool](#)

face book page: [bvsparsischooledupk](#)

school's website: bvs@cyber.net.pk

In the meantime, stay safe and well.

Mrs Kermin Parakh

Principal

The Mama Parsi Girls' Secondary School

26th February 2020 evening, Breaking News! Schools closed to students till further notice due to two coronavirus cases detected in Karachi.

Students rejoice! Prelims and Annual exams postponed! Little do they realize the indefinite months of confinement to their homes awaiting them

Teaching Staff at first, is completely bamboozled with no inkling of the herculean task ahead of them. Teachers had been gearing up for annual exams and now they were all thrown into a new way of teaching 'Distance digital teaching'. All hands on deck! New timetables, Zoom, Google Classroom training sessions and what not, came into play literally overnight.

Our teachers, our unsung heroes, not only started grappling with the new situation but even lent support to parents and students to acclimatize them to the new daily routine. Besides academic pursuits students are happily kept occupied with PE, Music, Art and Craft and Scrabble activities as well ensuring no boredom sets in.

In the course of last four months life has changed for everyone in many a way with the COVID-19 pandemic taking physical, mental, emotional and even financial toll on many but, we've accepted the challenges crossing every bridge as and when we come to.

Conclusively, one thing has definitely come out clear that, even with all the incessant efforts and advanced technology there can be no substitute for face to face teaching/learning in the physical school environment. We eagerly look forward to the day when our students and teachers return to school. As crazy as I might sound, I yearn to witness our kids' bedlam during recess time and the PT period pandemonium. Without our students and teachers, the School is just brick and mortar!

Last but not the least, a big thank you to my hardworking and cooperative teachers and parents who have utilized their personal time, efforts and finance to invest in new teaching/learning aids.

You may click on the link below to view our students art work

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tCjofh1J3UQQB0rIFqluIZMtqvFI970p/view?usp=sharing>

Mrs Furengeez D Tampal

Principal

OUR FRIENDS

Virtual Hambandagi during the Mukhtad: 6 Aug 2020 to 15 Aug 2020

Due to the prevailing CoronaVirus and the guidelines laid down by the Government we had decided to cancel the Humbandangi prayers for this year. However, in keeping with the times and at the request of several Regulars, we will now have a virtual Humbandangi session **each morning at 7:00 a.m. starting from 6th August 2020**. This will be put up through our "Community Events" email along with a copy of the verses so that everyone can follow. Tushna Patel has been instrumental in putting forward this idea and we are ever so grateful to Natasha Mavalvala for hosting this.

We do hope that you will join us. Stay Home. Stay Safe. **Trustees, H J Behrana Parsi Fire Temple**

A Thank You Note

Zersis and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped us during our difficult time.

I was hospitalized with Covid Pneumonia, while my Zersis was Covid positive and quarantined at home. There are too many names to mention here, but we are so deeply and eternally grateful to all those who helped us in every possible way, like sending cooked meals (for my Zersis), different prayers and mantras for spiritual support, and positive energy for our rapid healing.

We are proud and happy to be members of a community which looks after each other in the times of need. May our community always stay united and healthy. Ushta te

Covid 19 Infection

As a doctor by profession, I probably brought home the virus from my overcrowded outpatient clinic, despite taking all the required precautions.

This novel virus has variable symptoms, like dry cough, headache, diarrhea, not the regular flu-like symptoms. However, the common denominator is fever plus lethargy / tiredness. Some individuals, unfortunately, are more susceptible to it than others, like diabetics, asthmatics, and people living with hypertension. According to the New England Journal of Medicine, individuals with blood group A get the severest form of infection compared to other blood groups, as the virus has a greater affinity for blood group A cells.

Richard Quest, the CNN journalist who also suffered this infection, very precisely gave the Covid-19 infection an analogy to a "tornado". He said, it comes and totally wrecks your body for a few days, but after it is over the damage that this "tornado" leaves behind is inconceivable. This includes weakness, tiredness, depression, emotional instability, and most importantly the risks of forming blood clots in circulation, which may lead to heart attack and stroke.

The bottom line is to take Covid-19 seriously. Wear your mask whenever and wherever you go. Take walks in fresh air / nature, this is the best thing to do for body and mind. When in closed AC rooms at work, the rule is to wear a mask, stay for less than 15 minutes at a time and to maintain 6 feet from each other, if possible.

As a community our strength and resilience has always brought us together against any hardship, let us continue to embody that strength and do our part to keep each other safe and healthy.

[Zersis & Havovi Birdie.](#)

POSTING

[Parsi style Limbuu nuu Achaar Rs 250/- and Salted Limes Rs 200/- per bottle.](#) Contact Hutokshi Irani at Anjuman Bagh. Mobile: 0321-2046484

MILESTONES

Maran

Farrokh Mehri, son of Rustam Mehri, father of Pooya and brother of Pervez, Meherwan and Naheed (Iran) **on 26 June**

Ex-Karachiite: Jamsi Sidhwa, husband of Arnawaz Sidhwa and father of Shahvir Sidhwa **on 28 June in Toronto, Canada**

Bakhtawar Wadia, wife of (late) Homi Wadia, mother of Neville and Pervez Wadia, mother in-law of Farida N Wadia and sister of Persis Patloo and Sarosh Byramji **on 3 July 2020**

Roshan Darabshah Bhagaria, sister of Homai Bhagaria(*retired Headmistress-Primary Section, Mama School*), (late) Roda Bhagaria (*Art Teacher, Mama School*) and (late) Purviz Kersi Kapadia. Aunt of Dr Diniar Kersi Kapadia and Dinaz Kapadia **on 7 July 2020**

Russie M Dinshaw, son of (late) Minocher N E Dinshaw, husband of Farida Dinshaw, father of Sohrab and Rashna, Dina and Shahzad, Sonya and Zeeshan, (late) Mansoor and Sadia **on 10 July 2020**

[KZBM extends its condolence to the Dinshaw family on the passing away of Russie Minocher Dinshaw. The Minocher Dinshaw family have been major donors to the KZBM and Russie's mother Aloomai was our President from 1955 to 1978, doing "everything for the Mandal with love, wisdom and capability", as eulogised at her Memorial meeting.](#)

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For noting in your diary:

Day/Date	Time	Venue	Event and its details
Every Wed	6:30 pm PST	Online	Zoroastrian meditation classes by Khojeste Mistree (ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES)
Every Sat	10:30 am PST	Facebook	Religious classes for children (adults may also attend) by EMPOWERING MOBEDS
Every alternate Sat	10:00 pm PST	Online	Talk on a religious topic by Khojeste Mistree (ZOROASTRIAN STUDIES)