

## From the Head's desk - October 2020



Dear parent,

Thanks for the responses that came my way for my previous note to you all. I really appreciate that. There are several threads for some great conversations and I hope to have that sometime with you all.

Around mid-September, my thoughts were pondering over what to write in my next note. But when I sat down to type, I instinctively started to type about an important newscast. A news item that has left many of us reminiscing about our childhood days, our growing years - the life and music of Sri S P Balasubramanian. Most of you who are reading this would have this warm smile, drift off to times and tunes that have had a great impact in our lives. Why?! I have asked the very same question several times. Was it the composition, or the lyrics or the musicality or something more, that touched us deep within. As I thought more about it, I impulsively asked my two panelists in our AAIS Live session: "The Grey Matters", on which type of music they related to the most and why. One of them grew up in India, was steeped into and raised in an environment that was deep-rooted in Indian classical and light music; while the other, a 23-year old, who grew up in Europe. If you want to know their response, I urge you to catch the video, if you had missed it, and hear it for yourself at '[Grey matters](#)'. The response may or may not surprise you, nevertheless, it is an opportunity to think back on SPB's saga.

Talking about 'Live sessions' I enjoyed myself, creating and curating these sessions for you all. What is a September in India without celebrating Teacher's Day! Especially, at times like these, when our teachers have been the frontline champions, untiringly rising to new demands, each day. I was a part of the virtual celebrations put together by our students and I found it heartening to see the same bond that ties together our students and teachers in the physical space, exist through the virtual world, as well. Looks like many of you also had a sneak peek into this private celebration!

And, that was the one of the reasons for having our Teacher's Day celebration as an FB Live session. The theme 'In-Out - connecting within and beyond', with Dr Gayathri Deepak and Mr Ramkumar was conceived to align ourselves to the concept chosen for this year's International Theme Day celebrations. We decided to have an open celebration, inviting each of you to be a part of this. Again, for those of you who attended and also wrote a note, my sincere thanks. Two things that stood out for me personally from this session were, to stay connected within (anchor oneself) and recognise the importance of the circles of influence we each are a part of. For me, one of my anchors is soaking in good music and hence the loss of SPB was a tad too personal. But we do have a treasure with us!

Don't we all look for some simple, wholesome love! For those of us, still working from home, the kitchen has been an integral part of cooking up not just meals, but also a space for learning, collaboration, risk-taking, laughs and much more. "Like cricket, food is an emotion too" - so said a Grade 12 student to me. And, how true is that. It was interesting to put together this "portion" as we had a parent, a teacher and someone from the community who brought in ladles-full of their experience, questions, anecdotes and truly cooked up a storm. Ms Sharmila, our guest wrote to me later on to say that this FB live with AAIS has brought her many other opportunities on other platforms. She deserves it, but I am happy that we provided her the space at AAIS first.

In every live session we have had until now, there exists a common thread that has woven it all together - you may have noticed it too. It is the thread of generosity. Every panelist shared what s/he had, generously and honestly. There was hardly a 30 - 40 minutes of preparation when we would decide the flow and aspects to touch upon. What we heard was their true and genuine responses to the questions raised. They were staying connected or had anchored themselves well.

"Generosity" is something that I have been hearing on other platforms too. I recently finished my Module 2 of an Educational Leadership Programme. The facilitators, who I admire and respect greatly, not only spoke of 'generosity' in leaders (every participant was a school leader), but also modelled it through the modules. I am deeply impacted by their behaviours.

How do some of you practice this (generosity) in your workspaces? How do you model it at home? How do you feel when you are generous?

Ponder on this and do respond when you get a chance. In the meantime, join our students and teachers as we celebrate 'Daan Utsav - Joy of Giving' (<https://daanutsav.org/>) at School. Write into the School to enquire about projects that have been initiated by our students and support them in their endeavours.

Warm regards,

Priya Dixit

PS: I am sure you have read many articles and tributes about SPB, but one that I enjoyed reading and that resonated closely to what I feel is this. Happy to share the [link](#) with you all.

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