

Guest Editorial

Ms. Meenakshi Sahni,

Principal, Modern School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi since 2011.

A Medley of Sorts

Evolution touches all facets of life as it has over the ages. The role of a Principal in a school consisting of children as young as 3 years old to adults touching the right side of 60 is commonplace. Several generations under one roof to be progressively led forward by a leader at the helm! Understandingly a typical day in my office as Principal feels like a jet flying at supersonic speed with 'pilot' ensuring safety of all passengers while keeping a steady keel and an unwavering eye into the farthest point on the horizon. There are moments, however, which necessitate touching down and navigating the runway to arrive at the 'destination'- a must if we are to remain grounded.

One such 'touch down' that led to a destination hither to uncharted is recorded thus. I was invited by a music teacher to listen to a young student rehearse a classical rendition on one such busy day. Mindful of complex equations, I entered the music room and sat down to enthuse the eager student with my 'important' presence. As the music wafted into my being, I found the mental haze lifting and a sense of appreciation drawing me. It was in the transporting moments that glided in the lesson that it is perception which determines our reactions and responses. While music can sometimes be jarring too but still called music, noise must enjoy the equanimity of being termed as music by people with a discerning ear. 'Noise' emerging from a class full of vivacious bundles of joy and energy, be it 3 or 18 or expressive or not so adult, can sound like music if listened to with empathy and wonderment.

Discerning music from noise, therefore, is both an art and a skill. It's vital if we wish to give it

our best as teachers in class or attending to other day to day requirements as exemplars of employees at our workplaces or even performing other worldly roles such as those of parents, siblings, friends and the likes. It's all in the mind. Listen. Not hear. Music or noise is a question for you to raise and answer. The melody you hear therefore shall determine the world you and others around you live in, especially our children.

It's their birth right to be bequeathed with a world that listens to the melody of their dreams, aspirations and tales of our failure too, sometimes. I arrived at one of my destinations that precious morning. Hope that this little experience of mine helps you find your touch down moment too!

