

# FROM THE EDITOR



The writing is on the wall. If we, as human beings and as a living species, do not take the warnings we are every day being given by everything around us, then we are doomed.

Does this sound harsh? No one wants to be a pessimist, but events around us point to this dire eventuality.

The newspapers are full of it – the planet earth is becoming warmer every year, unseasonal rains are flooding the plains the rivers they feed flow through, whole areas are getting submerged as lake beds are becoming residential colonies, some places are becoming deserts while the Arctic ice-cap is melting at an alarming rate. Glaciers are melting as well; monsoons are getting delayed but lasting longer when they do arrive.

Then again, birds and other animals, both land and aquatic, are being sighted less and less while the planet's green cover is getting depleted at an alarming rate. Environmentalists across the world are sounding alarm bells on every front, hoping that in some way the message will get through. We are being told about the evils of petrol-and diesel-belching cars and flying as a mode of travel is frowned upon though its speed and efficiency makes it popular.

We are also told that, with every degree of rise in world temperatures, we can expect far-reaching changes and as forests are cut down and human-animal interactions increase as a result, we can expect more and more pathogen transmissions. Having just experienced the virulence of COVID-19 and its disastrous consequences, we need no better proof.

So, who can we turn to to make the changes required? How can we attempt to restore some of the lost balance? How can we make sure that this planet does not become extinct by the next millennium? Because

that is the place we are in now - we have to stop short and take stock – of how to reclaim what is possible and how to preserve what is left from the collective carelessness of the human race. Because, if we have the will, it can be done.

We turn to the next generation – the younger people, who are now in school, especially in the primary classes – and their teachers. This issue of the Learning Curve is dedicated to the very significant task of informing and educating in order to retrieve lost ground. Teachers and students are considering and reflecting and stopping for a moment before they actually act. Every single article in this issue demonstrates the strength of the classroom exchange as teachers tell of their experiences and findings. Some of the writers have discovered to their surprise and joy that their young students know so much about the environment they live in, the leaves, the fruit of trees, and the soil. One article speaks about the discoveries made about the water table through practical tasks that teachers and students have together undertaken. Two articles have detailed the nature walks that they have taken with their younger children and the discoveries they have made together, while another describes the pleasures of being in a school in a beautiful mountain location, where it is possible to look at nature with fresh eyes every day. It is for us, as the species that causes the greatest imbalances, to educate our children to be aware of the consequences of their every choice and this education must start as soon as they reach the school gates the very first time. Feedback is welcome and may be sent to the email id given below.

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