



Stepping Stones

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I stared at the beckoning gates of Vidya Niketan School. I stepped in gingerly, wondering what this new phase in life would bring me. Just then a smiling girl shook my hand and greeted me with a cheerful “Good Morning!”. She continued to greet every student with the same gusto. I was pleasantly surprised by the gesture, which, as I came to know, was a Vidya Niketan tradition.

Though a new comer, I felt a certain warmth being exuded right from the pale yellow walls to the cheerful, accepting people. Optimism seemed to glint off every nook and cranny; an ideal atmosphere to spend the final years of my schooling. This is a place that strives towards discipline, but at the same time, it does so without excessively restraining or suppressing the potential in a student. A place where ideas are free flowing, yet not spiraling out of control.

A welcome change was the use of Smartboards in class. These boards enable a wider spectrum of

activities in class. Yes, it is agreed by most that the good old text book is the way, but without going beyond fine print we are stuck in a mundane, restrictive world. The open-minded nature of our teachers is uplifting and often stimulates healthy discussions in class. A relatively small class strength also encourages inputs from the entire class.

Though a cliché, I reiterate, “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.”

Vidya Niketan is a realm where academics and other activities are on equal footing. Widely engaging in sports events as well as inter-school fests, Model UN (MUN) and debates, I think it’s safe to say that school keeps us far from “dull”. The learning experience is as good as void unless we are able to practically apply all our textual knowledge.

Along with the tangles of growing and learning comes taking up the mantle of responsibility. Hosting a fest as well as a MUN and putting up various shows in school, Vidya Niketan school allows us to shoulder this responsibility. It is such opportunities that build confidence. It is at times like this when creativity and leadership qualities come to the fore.

As much as studies and other events, school life revolves around our peers and teachers as well. It is comforting to know that there is an approachable, caring teacher to share our woes. We often get so carried away in our frenzied

existence that we forget our fellow beings or how we treat them. What I love about Vidya Niketan is the deeply embedded value of sharing. We have weekly classes where we share our thoughts. Most inhibitions are dropped in these sessions and the entire class takes time off to listen to one another. Our life skills teacher never fails to leave us with some new aspect of life to delve upon. It has always heartened me, the care with which sensitive issues such as those of bullying have been handled, and promptly at that.

School is the place we learn; the place we blossom. It is the place that moulds us into what we become in our (fast approaching) adult lives. "The classroom should be an entrance into the world, not an escape from it", said John Ciardi and I could not agree with him more.

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