

September/October 2009

SAI NEWSLETTER

“Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) is the primary basis of this great movement to restore righteousness in the world”.

Sathya Sai Baba

Dear Parents, Welcome to a new school year! Sai Centres offer a variety of programs for the benefit of each member of the family. However, the SSE program remains the heart of every Sai Centre as it benefits the entire family.

The SSE program is based on the precept that true education is spiritual education and culminates in character.

The essential Unity of Faiths, the practice of Human Values, and the Life and Teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba comprise the substance of the SSE program.

The SSE program is designed for children ages 4 - 17 transitioning into the Young Adults Leadership program for ages 18 - 35.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba says: *“You do not realize your good luck in getting me as the guide. I shall not rest until I reform all of you.”*

Knowingly or unknowingly, our transformation process has begun!

Great emphasis is placed within the SSE program on the triple partnership between the parents, teachers and the child.

Parental involvement provides a meaningful channel of communication and encourages mutual support between parents and teachers. It also enhances, reinforces, and integrates at home what the children are experiencing and learning in the SSE class.

Dear Parents, this program has been designed specifically for children of active members of the Sathya Sai Centres. If you would like to participate or volunteer in the activities, speak to your child's SSE teacher. On-going training and apprenticeship programs are available for new volunteers.

A unique series of workshops are also offered to parents who wish to imbibe and incorporate human values into their parenting styles.

Jai Sai Ram.



Children See, Children Do.

So, the best way to teach is by being an Example.

Parental Responsibilities and Consent

1. We will ensure that our child attends SSE classes regularly and on time.
2. We will try to be the role models in accompanying our child to attend all activities of the centre.
3. We will take personal interest in what our child is taught and co-operate with the teachers to help our child to imbibe the benefits at home.
4. We will ensure that our child do regularly at home and practice the prescribed prayers, bhajans and japa.
5. We will assist in assessing our child's progress by filling out the spiritual diary on a daily basis.
6. We will fully co-operate with my/our child's SSE teacher and help make assessments of our child's progress in the report cards.
7. We will attend regularly the orientation sessions, meetings and other functions arranged for parents.
8. We will keep a watch on our child's company and do the needful to ensure that the child doesn't move in unhealthy company as it will affect the good impact being made by the SSE classes.
9. We will involve our child in practicing the Nine Points of Code of Conduct prescribed by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

A Quick Review of the Nine-Point Code of Conduct

1. Do daily meditation and prayer
2. Conduct devotional singing with family members once a week.
3. Participate in the SSE program by children of the family.
4. Participation in community service work and other programs of the organization.
5. Regular attendance at the Center's devotional meetings
6. Regular study of Sai literature.
7. Speak softly and lovingly with everyone.
8. Do not speak ill of others, especially in their absence.
9. Practice ceiling on desires

SMILE - God is WATCHing!

Children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun had made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. GOD is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. GOD is watching the apples."



What makes a Hero?



Vision

Climbed Everest. Blind. Despite losing his vision at the age of 13, Erik Weihenmayer has become one of the celebrated and accomplished athletes in the world.

Overcoming

Marlon lost his foot in an accident with a lawnmower. He is a 10 time World Champion and Olympic Champion. He has been called "the world's fastest amputee".



Foresight

Helen Keller was an American author, political activist and lecturer. She was the first deaf/blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her spirit will endure as long as man can read and stories can be told of the woman who showed the world there are no boundaries to courage and faith.

Ambition

Liz grew up in the Bronx. Addicted to drugs, her parents sometimes sold household items in order to get their fix. Her inspiring story was adapted for film in the 2003 film "Homeless to Harvard: the Liz Murray Story."



Live life

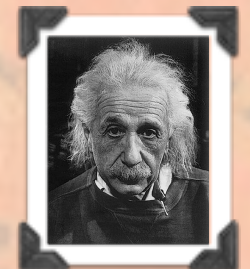
In 2007, at age 95, Nola Ochs became the world's oldest college graduate, a dream that began 77 years earlier.

Children's Page

Can you match these famous quotes with the correct source i.e. Terry Fox, Helen Keller, Oprah Winfrey, Bill Gates, Al Gore, Walt Disney, Albert Einstein and Mother Teresa?

1. "There are two ways to live your life:
 - as if everything is a miracle
 - as if nothing is a miracle."
2. "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight and no vision."
3. "Unless a life is lived for others, it is not worthwhile."
4. "I bet some of you feel sorry for me. Well Don't. Having an artificial leg has its advantages. I've broken my right knee many times, and it doesn't hurt a bit."
5. "We write our own History. And the chapters which we're proudest, We had the Courage to Change."
6. "I always knew I was always destined for greatness."
7. "As we look ahead....leaders will be those who empower others."
8. "If you can dream it, you can do it! Always remember that this whole thing started with a dream & a mouse!"

**** Email your answers to the Editor by October1, 2009 to claim your prize. One winner will be selected.*



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