

THE SCHOOL CHAMELEONS CHRONICLES



February 2024



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Our Pledge

I can create change,
I can transform my world,
I am inspired by what people do,
And my story is inspiring too.

I am a changemaker,
I want to inspire a million,
I can adapt and make a difference,
Because I am a school chameleon.



Dear School Chameleons,

Albert Einstein's words echoes through the ages: 'Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.'

With this sentiment in mind, a thought-provoking inquiry emerged: What if, in this leap year of 2024, we dedicated our extra day to catalyzing **positive change**?

This question sparked the inception of a School Chameleon initiative. Inspired by our collective efforts towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we saw an opportunity to deepen awareness and foster engagement among students, teachers, and parents. Our aim is clear: to inspire personal pledges—commitments to make a tangible difference.

This month, our focus is on making the UN SDGs more personal, for we believe that true compassion begins within. Together, let us seize this moment to ignite transformative change and shape a brighter future for all.

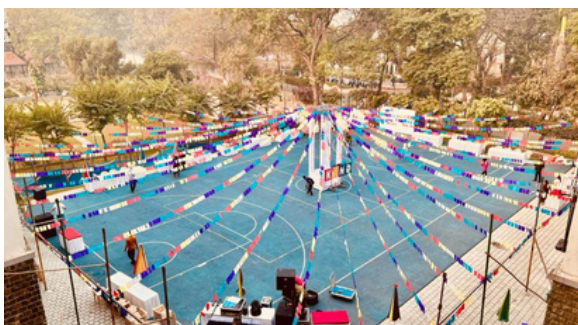


Feature: The Kindness Mela

When Somaiya School, Ghatkopar, joined forces with Project Mumbai and School Chameleons, a remarkable sense of unity and kindness permeated the air!

With over 25 Kindness Stalls addressing topics from water conservation to gender equality and beyond, the event sparkled with positivity. Additionally, a jukebox featuring young singers for song dedications, nukkad natak addressing bullying, and a thrilling flash mob contributed to the festivities.

Heartfelt gratitude to the School Chameleons and their students for their enthusiastic participation and support.









The Somaiya School
KINDNESS MELA
Saturday, 20th January 2024 | Timings: 9 am to 1 pm

Practise your '**kindness muscle**' and enjoy the various activities conducted by the students, teachers and NGOs on various aspects of **KINDNESS** and find something that appeals to you.

 <p>Nukkad Natak Topic: Bullying & NVC - Grade 5</p>	 <p>Flash Mob By Dance Club</p>		
 <p>Foot Reflexology The Victoria Memorial School for the blind</p>	 <p>Rawsome @ Likhsh Animal Welfare Awareness Campaign - First Aid for Animals & Adoption</p>	 <p>Samanta ki Daud Gender sensitization</p>	 <p>Kindness Cafe Treat to yourself</p>
 <p>Annapoorna - Food for all You pay for a roti, we will make it for you to donate</p>	 <p>Just Bag It Get your clothes and make a bag out of it</p>	 <p>Project Mumbai Save Water Water Conservation Game</p>	
 <p>Amar Chitra Katha Storytelling and book sale</p>	 <p>Cube of love New humanity presents</p>	 <p>Silver Lining Old age sensitization</p>	 <p>Satrang! Painting Recycled Plastic Benches</p>
 <p>Kilaah! सेन-देन Book Exchange</p>	 <p>Kindness Jukebox Donate and dedicate a song</p>	 <p>Conscious Comfort Mental Health</p>	 <p>Organ Donation Awareness session</p>



A Jar of Kindness

@The Somaiya School (Basketball Court)

Open to All



CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

February

Compassionate Classrooms through Drama

In this workshop, participants will experience drama-based practices that support social-emotional learning (SEL) and a collaborative learning environment between students and teachers. Participants will take away practical tools they can use to encourage listening, focused attention, and open expression that builds trust and compassion in the classroom. After ensemble-building games and exercises, participants will learn basic image theatre and stretch their improvisational skills.

The workshop is experiential. It begins with theatre games and exercises that build trust, empathy, active listening, and focused attention (mindfulness). These games and exercises help create an 'ensemble' mentality that encourages compassionate relationships. After ensemble-building games and exercises, participants learn Image Theatre techniques – the heart of the work – and then stretch their improvisational skills through a small Image Theatre Playback performance that 'rehearses' active listening and compassionate connection. Participants are invited at all stages to reflect on and share how these techniques apply to their context.

Half day workshop for School teachers at your school

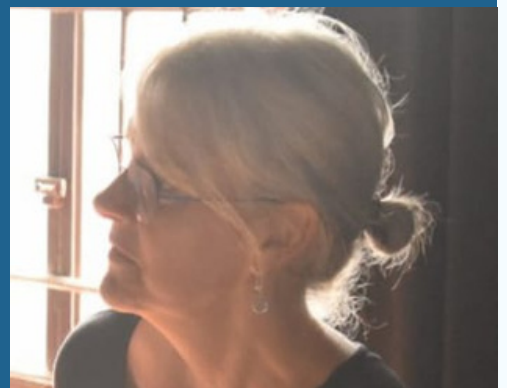
Maximum participants: 25

Date available: 12th Feb, 2024.

Cost: 25000/-

About Laura Juliet Strakova:

I am an applied theatre practitioner, community facilitator, educator and actress based in Prague, Czech Republic. I am the founder of Rehearsal for Reality, a registered association that seeks to foster dialogue and community building through participatory theatre experiences. I am trained in Theatre for Living, Theatre of the Oppressed, Playback Theatre, and Gestalt Theatre & Therapy. I have worked on social issues with frontline communities, activists, social workers and educators worldwide.



Edu-Innovate Principal Summit
Navigating the Future of Education

 Somaiya Vidyavihar University

13th
FEB

09:30 AM	Registration
10:00 AM	Welcome Address
10:30 AM	Environmental Sustainability in Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementing green initiatives• Incorporating sustainability into the curriculum• Sustainable development goal in teaching and learning• Creating environmentally friendly school practices
12:10 PM	Panel Discussion - Leading through Change: Adapting to Educational Trends <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading innovation in education• 21st Century School Leaders embrace change and innovation
01:45 PM	Lunch Break
02:30 PM	Somaiya Vidyavihar Campus Tour
03:30 PM	High Tea
03:50 PM	Closing Remarks

Tuesday, 13th February 2024

Kindly register on the following link: [Google Form](#)

[Somaiya Vidyavihar University Link](#) | [Somaiya Vidyavihar University Google Map](#)

LINK TO SUBMIT STORIES

We're eagerly anticipating your fantastic stories each month, and get ready for a monthly dose of Stoffees fun!

[Click Here](#)



"In the echoes of silence, we found our voices. Our journey through Project-Based Learning on hearing impairment didn't just educate us; it transformed us."

It all began with a seemingly ordinary incident, a spark that ignited a profound shift in our perspective. Amidst the usual classroom murmurs about cafeteria options– “Again the same bland bhindi and daal” , came a comment that we as educators couldn't ignore: "And they turn a deaf ear to our complaints. It makes me wonder if they are truly 'deaf' or just plain insensitive."

It propelled us into action, marking the inception of our Project-Based Learning on "Hearing Impairment - Awareness and Support." The first exercise had students forming color-coded groups, but with a catch: they could only use non-verbal cues and sign language. This "silent symphony" revealed to them the privilege of being able to communicate freely, setting the tone for a transformative journey ahead.

The emotional weight of this realization deepened when we visited a school for the hearing impaired. Far from a mere field trip, this visit became a pivotal chapter in our narrative. As we stepped into their world, our students were humbled by the extraordinary abilities they witnessed, challenging their preconceived notions. However, as we ventured deeper into their world, we learned about the challenges they had to deal with. For children born into poverty, the financial burden of hearing aids or implants was like a wall they couldn't break. Our hearts were pulled in their direction, especially when we met those who had been abandoned by their own parents and found refuge in orphanages simply because their families couldn't afford to raise them. We realized that our project wasn't about studying a topic; it was about creating a story of change. With this



newfound understanding, we committed ourselves to fundraising, making sure that the next chapters of their lives would be different.

Fundraising became an adventure in human sentiment, where supporters and skeptics alike taught us invaluable lessons in resilience and persuasion. We even organized a free audiometry screening for our community to emphasize the importance of caring for our hearing. It was a lesson in community engagement, organization, and the untapped potential of collective action. And the moment we knew it was all worth it? When a young girl, her life transformed by a hearing aid funded by our campaign, walked into our classroom. The sheer joy in her eyes left my students speechless.

As this chapter of Project-Based Learning drew to a close, a ripple effect was palpable. These students had become more than educated; they were transformed. The same cafeteria complaints that had once sparked this journey now took on a different tenor. The same old 'bhindi and daal' would still grace their plates, but the chorus of complaints had transformed. Instead of criticizing, they would offer a thoughtful comment about the food or express gratitude for having a meal to enjoy. The values of empathy and gratitude were now woven into their daily lives, shaping how they saw everything from school meals to societal norms.

This journey resonated deeply with the Sustainable Development Goals of reducing inequalities, promoting good health and well-being, and ensuring quality education. So, as they walked into the world, armed with this newfound wisdom, my students knew they were ready to be not just spectators but active participants in the story of humanity. They had learned that empathy and gratitude, when put into action, could indeed make the world a better, more equitable place. And in this journey, they found not just their voices but their true selves.



PARTNER PROFILE



About Wauly:

Wauly, India's leading Digital Signage Solution provider is offering education-focused digital signage, catering to schools' unique needs. Digital Signage in schools addresses the critical need for efficient communication. It ensures timely dissemination of information, such as announcements, schedules, and emergency alerts, fostering a safer environment.

Visual appeal of digital signage improves information recall by to 75% among students. Real-time updates reduce the reliance on traditional, static communication methods, promoting sustainability. Digital Signage also acts as a versatile platform to showcase achievements, events, and educational content, boosting school pride.

Explore the future of campus communication with Wauly today! Your gateway to a digitally transformed campus experience awaits!

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GLOBAL NEWS



Greater Good in Education
SCIENCE-BASED PRACTICES FOR KINDER, HAPPIER SCHOOLS

Kindness and Compassion for Students

Compassion and kindness are fundamental to human nature, fostering well-being, resilience, and positive relationships. Research shows they enhance happiness, health, and academic achievement. By cultivating these qualities, individuals contribute to a more compassionate society, promoting social connections and fostering a sense of community and fulfillment.

[Read Here](#)

HARVARD



GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION

Teaching and Learning with Compassion

Teaching and leading with compassion amidst pandemic challenges involve understanding individual stories, reframing learning loss, and prioritizing self-care to enrich classroom experiences and advocate for students' well-being.

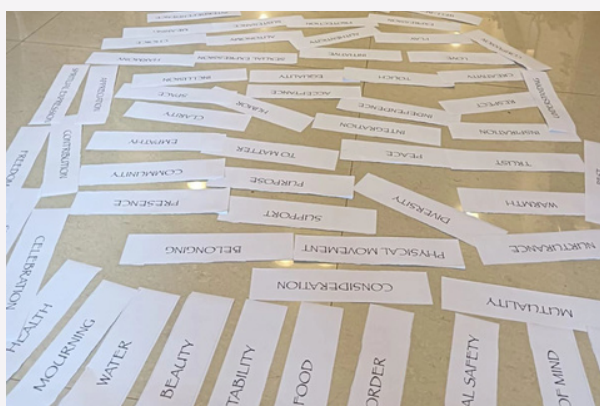
[Read Here](#)



HIGHLIGHT: NON VIOLENT COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP



The School Chameleons team learn along with teachers and educators at the Non Violent Communication Workshop conducted by trainers Mukesh George and Vivek Kumar Singh:



Feedback:

"I attended a workshop on Nonviolent Communication on 27th January 2024 at Bandra. It was a full day workshop and the speakers had come from Delhi to conduct the workshop. I found the workshop to be very enriching and informative. It was a very interactive workshop and a great learning experience. I hope to practice Nonviolent Communication and to teach my students and colleagues to practice the same. Looking forward to attending many more workshops."

Lata Uchil from MET Rishikul School

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