

EDUCATOR'S DESK

Mothers are our first teachers

SRI Bestari International School (SBIS), a school that values parents and especially mothers as the first teacher of their children, had its students all geared up with special gifts to honour their mothers on Mother's Day.

As the saying goes, "Being a mother is about learning strengths you didn't know you had and dealing with fears you didn't know existed." This special occasion once again reminded me of the tenacity that my mother possessed throughout her journey in raising me.

Ever since my father fell into severe depression when I was seven, my mum had no choice but to take on the role as the sole breadwinner. Life was difficult as she had to resort to taking on several jobs just to make ends meet. Eventually, mum decided to be a babysitter so that she could be part of her children's journeys and care for us closely as we grew up.

I used to wonder if she ever slept and was curious of the kind of superpower she had back in those days. It drained her of energy to look after four to five toddlers and babies at the same time, while also taking care of the laundry and never-ending house chores. Many times, the help I extended to lighten her workload would be turned down with a



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gentle reminder of my need to study for a better future.

With proper breakfast served on the table every day (especially appreciated on examination days) and her act of kneeling to pray for me were some of the most profound moments that reflected her love. My mother, whom I regard as my first teacher, taught me the value of grit – to persevere through the raging storms in life.

In the 21st century, women are an indispensable part of the workforce. There are more women in leadership positions

now than we've ever had in the history of labour. No matter how high women have positioned themselves on the corporate ladder, however, it is crucial for women who are also mothers not to lose sight of their priceless gift – their children.

Today, the role of a mother is no doubt more challenging than ever. With a hectic lifestyle, it is good to spend some time to ponder if we as mothers are "off the track" from our responsibility to be our own children's teachers, touching their hearts and impacting their lives.

In the spirit of SBIS' motto – "My growth mindset begins here with GRIT (Gratitude, Resilient, Intentional Inconvenience and Teamwork)" – Bestarians celebrated the grace and grit of mothers by recognising them as a special group of people and regarding them as one of the most important partners in their education journey.

The seniors from SBIS Science Society took the lead in baking the "Pretzel with Love" and making suncatchers using melted beads for their mothers. The juniors from Little Master Chef and Creative Arts Society jointly expressed their appreciation by making flower art and baking their secret recipe chocolate cookies, which were packed with personalised messages.

Building GRIT in life through instilling gratitude is pivotal to a child's character development. Studies have revealed that grateful children do better in school and are more likely to achieve their goals as they are more satisfied with school and life. One who embraces gratitude by counting his blessings in life shifts his focus away from materialism. When children are more

grateful, they become less materialistic because they value intrinsic things rather than extrinsic things.

SBIS had its inaugural intake in September 2017 and anticipates moving into new buildings this September. The new buildings will feature state-of-the-art facilities such as ICT suites, a Hall of Arts, a large multipurpose hall, fully equipped Science and Culinary Arts laboratories, music and dance studios, a swimming pool, an indoor playground, a modern library and purpose-built classrooms for 21st century teaching and learning.

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