

PERSISTENCE: INITIATIVES

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PERSISTENCE INITIATIVES AT RIVERSIDE

Currently there are multiple initiatives such as Heal, Visit to Hospitals, Old Age homes, Blind school, HUM and Muskaan that children engage with under the Persistence program.

1. HEAL AT CIVIL HOSPITAL

Heal is a movement that strives to "Seal Smiles" on the faces of children affected by cancer or any other illness. Students conduct sessions of 2 hours every Saturday doing art and crafts and some entertaining activity.

The main goals of this initiative are:

- **Smile** - Getting smiles on the faces of the children.
- **Distraction** - Try to get them minds off from their pain for at least 2 hours.
- Create long lasting memories that stay with the children, their parents and the volunteers even after we have left the hospital.



2. RED CROSS - HOSPITAL

Students conduct sessions at the Red Cross Hospital that range from 2-3 hours every Sunday doing art and crafts and some entertaining activity with the admitted children.

The main goal of this initiative is that students create an environment of engagement and respect for both, children-patients at the hospital and themselves.



3. BLIND SCHOOL

Students visit the blind school and spend time with the visually challenged children through Interactive activities, English speaking classes, Sports & Games and Personality development. Students conduct sessions on every Saturday for 2 hours.

The main goals of this initiative are:

- Students aim to aid the children of the blind school holistically, by allowing them to attain cognitive competence, improve their social skills and gain confidence.
- Having seen their present situation, they would like to work with them, on a journey from dependence to independence.



4. OLD AGE HOMES

Students visit the grandparents at the old age home and plan engaging sessions for them such as card house, block painting, sponge painting, flag making, *antakshari* (game that involves singing), mosaic with papers, clay work, wire work, flower pot decoration, iPad games and playing different kinds of board games. Students typically spend 2 hours every Saturday with the grandparents.

The main goals of this initiative are:

- Students aim to make each grandparent feel loved and valued by creating a sense of community and family.
- Students aim to create a lively atmosphere by physically and mentally submitting themselves as well as taking responsibility to make a difference in the lives of the old grandparents.
- They strive to spread smiles and make memories that they cherish for a long time, by having a strong presence and connection with the grandparents.



5. HUM INITIATIVES

HUM Is run at Riverside school for the children of Pre-K to grade 2. Students conduct sessions that range from 45 min to an hour every day doing different activities and experiences under the 5 growth areas of social, emotional, cognitive, physical and spiritual investments.

The main goal of this initiative is that in HUM students aim that “Every child earns their right to education by doing right by themselves and by others, thus adding value to themselves and to others”.



6. MUSKAN

Muskan, is an endeavor for the young 14 year old's (8th graders) to learn to respect and acknowledge the presence of our helpers. They do '*Kar Sewa*' (service through physical labour) by cleaning the school every Wednesday for an hour to give the support staff a relaxing time which they look forward to. Other than that, once a week they interact with them by organizing fun filled activities.

The main goals of this initiative are:

- To help bring smiles on the faces of our support staff.
- Students appreciate the immense support that they have had through their growing years from the support team of drivers, conductors and the cleaning staff. They recognize that it's time to acknowledge them and give back in small measures.

