

Gurus Educational Services

JULY 2015 NEWSLETTER



A Note from our CEO:

Dear Teachers,

I hope you are all having a good summer.

I am excited to announce some important changes.

We are now Gurus Education Services as we expand beyond bay area and Public Speaking and Debates.

You will learn about many new exciting changes from us soon as we launch new programs in the new areas. It also means there is lot of opportunity for all of us to grow. Typical, of any fast growing company, with Gurus as well, career is a jungle gym and not ladder!

“Jungle gyms offer more creative exploration. There are many ways to get to the top of a jungle gym. The ability to forge a unique path with occasional dips, detours, and even dead ends, present a better chance for fulfillment”, excerpt from Chery Sandberg’s book Lean In. So do not hesitate to discuss any suggestions, feedback, new programs, and thoughts to rise.

Here are some new opportunities to grow:

Do you have a program
that we can offer?

• Be our Program
Vendor

Can you help us start a
class at a school or at a
new location?

• Be our Outreach
Executive

I am also pleased to announce Kim has taken on additional responsibilities of supporting teachers with any teaching/curriculum related matters along with her existing responsibilities of training and hiring. You might hear from her asking for suggestions and feedback about our curriculum and support. If you have any feedback to give, feel free to reach out to her.

Erika is our Operations Manager as she manages all operations and she continues to support all of you with all non-curriculum related matters such as scheduling, supplies needs, parents’ feedback and more.

Kritha is our Client Relations Manager as she manages our facilities and partners such as park and rec, schools and customers. She mans the main phone line and the email address.

Thank you for all your support and hard work!

Ritu

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

-William Butler Yeats

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Updates and Reminders:

- ❖ **Summer Camps are in full swing!** Most of our feedback has been concerning **tardiness**. Please remember to arrive early to get settled in. This will make great impressions on the facility staff and parents. At the end of your successful camp, **encourage students** to continue and **inform parents** about school year programs! If they'd like to start a program, they need at least 7 students! That's it!
- ❖ **Our adults program begins in the Fall!** More details to come, but for now, spread the word! It's never too late to build these skills.

A Message from Kim

Teacher, Human Resources Manager

Hello Team!

I'm honored to expand my service to Gurus Educational Services! From day one, being a part of our mission has given me nothing but of rich experiences. I began here as a teacher, going through the preliminary struggles of finding my personal approach, and then eventually finding my voice alongside my students.

A couple months ago, I stepped into the role of Hiring Manager. In that role, I became passionate about selecting teachers who would represent our team well. I found that tapping into teachers' personal mission and creating alignment with our company's core values, was key. Additionally, after assessing the teacher surveys, I recognized a need for more teacher support and connection, which led me into my current role as Human Resources Manager.

As Human Resources Manager, my priorities are: meet your needs, refine our team structure, and develop an open line of communication between our management and teachers. Remember, you are always welcome to voice yourself! The more we know, the more we can improve, and therefore, the better programming we can provide for our students.

The approach I take in both of my roles as a teacher and Human Resources manager is based on empathy. I believe that an open heart is the starting point for great learning and great work. Again, you are always free and safe to voice your questions, concerns, and comments about anything teaching related. I am here for you!

With gratitude,

Kim

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Activity of the month:

Make a news report!

(Pre-Public Speaking)

From: Kimia

A news report is a great way to tie up all the learning modules for this age group! Reporters have the task of making each story the most compelling and groundbreaking news, even if they're covering something as basic as the weather. They do this by exercising the skills that we teach!

Setting up an environment where they can use their imagination is key in awakening their enthusiasm. Do this by creating an imaginary news station and designating a "camera crew", or suggest that they report from the "field." Either way, make sure to give them a "microphone," (marker)! Enjoy!

Here is a video for inspiration:
<https://youtu.be/aO8Lk05NY8k>

Balancing Structure and Topics

From: Kurt

Below, Kurt speaks on stressing the importance of structure and competition in class, rather than the topic.

Topics should be enthusiastically received early on in a class series. Students can lose sight of the importance of structure as they really focus on the issue. If they can't relate to a topic a teacher may lose the students and it may take two classes or so to reinvigorate them.

I believe that teachers need to establish the competitive aspect of PS & D so that unpopular topics become the tool not the focus of the challenge. We need to stress that we attack the POV not the person, which is of course one of the valuable lessons of PS & D. The topic does not matter as much as how ready and able the student is to use the tools he or she has learned.

Teacher's Corner!

A Story From the Classroom

From: Harrison Noah

During my first two days of teaching for the BADC, I was that odd mix of excited and nervous that accompanies 'first days.' I was subbing for Romeo so I knew I had to acquit myself well those two days. I did a great job on Monday: the students were engaged, they laughed, and they all gave me big smiles as they left. But when I returned on Friday to be Romeo's TA, I was relieved of this notion. One of the little girls came up to me, pointed to Romeo, and happily declared, "He's way more fun than you."

