

Pranav Sriram - NSF APNA Youth Ambassador

This past July I was offered the opportunity to conduct an English workshop at St.Philomena's English School located just outside Bengaluru, Karnataka. With my aunt's help (she works as a teacher there), I was able to arrange a meeting with the headmaster of the elementary school and begin preparations for the workshop.

I decided that I would teach students in third and fourth grade for this workshop and with the help of my parents planned out the competition as well as the award ceremony. I received enormous amounts of help from the staff at St. Philomena's. Not only did they help with the introduction, testing, award ceremony, and logistics but they also helped me while I was teaching.



The entire process was a fascinating experience. I was very surprised with how many kids wanted to attend the workshop. In total, my workshop had over 150 students! Luckily I was able to split the workshop into two sessions, one for third grade and one for fourth grade, but

even then it was still a very large number of children to manage. Due to time constraints, I had to do a three day workshop. As a result, I made sure that I made every single minute of the workshop count.



The teachers began the workshop by introducing me to all of the children with a short introduction ceremony. I introduced myself to the children and said a few words about how exactly the workshop would take place over the coming days. Afterwards, all of the children came with me to another room and I began going over some basic spelling

rules with the children. I used some of the PowerPoint slides provided by Mr. Venkat Gade and some additional examples I came up with to make sure that the children understood these basic rules.

Finally, I went over 50 of the 100 words from the word list I had provided every single child at the workshop with. I discussed the meanings of the words and provided examples. The teachers helped by writing down what I was saying on a blackboard. I allotted time towards the end for a review session where I would quiz the children over various topics I had taught them during the workshop. Lastly, I included a question and answer session where the students could ask me anything and got questions ranging from “What is my favorite food” to “How is life in America.”

While both workshops went very well, I tried my best to learn from the first day to make the second even better. In particular, I noticed that the students could be shy when I asked questions so I included the incentive of candy for correct answers during the next day. As a result, the second session felt much more interactive. I also had the children repeat the saying each of the words after me on the second day, which made sure that their pronunciation was correct.

The children were very polite and would always call me “sir.” Although they could get a little loud at times, it was because they were excited about learning and not because they were being disrespectful.



The workshop concluded with the competition, closing ceremony, and award ceremony. Five students from each of the two grades were each awarded with medals with the rest receiving ribbons and certificates. The children also received gel pens and candy for participating in the workshop. The school plans to have an annual spelling competition in the future so I encouraged all of the students to continue working extremely hard.

All in all, this workshop was a very enlightening experience. It felt amazing to be helping children improve their English skills and help motivate to continue working towards their academic interests in the future. The children seemed to really enjoy the workshop and I am very grateful to everyone for all the help I received with this workshop. I would honestly encourage anyone, who is interested in helping spread a love for education and learning, to participate in the NSF APNA program.