



I can't think of a better gift to find under the *Star Teacher* Christmas tree than mail from our readers. We've received heartwarming letters, faxes and text messages to show support, share tips and give suggestions. Thanks, teachers! Your kind words mean so much to us, so please keep writing.

In this issue, we tackle the topic of generosity in keeping with the spirit of the season. Karen Galarpe's article (page 6) was an eye-opener and showed me the deeper meaning of the word. Sharing, I learned, begins with a grateful heart for one's blessings. Everything else follows from that. And as we have seen all through history, generosity can change the world—and is, in fact, the reason for Christmas.

This made me think about how many people have shared their talent and energy towards the making of this magazine. Their generosity is truly inspiring and I can't say thank you enough. So with this attitude of gratitude, let me wish everyone who is part of *Star Teacher*, including all you readers, a blessed holiday season and a peaceful new year!

PS. We've received a number of inquiries from schools about subscribing to *Star Teacher* or buying extra copies. We're working on making this possible. In the meantime, please visit the SAS website at www.readerstransform.com, where you can download free copies of past issues.



Here I am with the powers behind the *Star Teacher* makeover, Barbi Chan (left) and Cherry Pacheco-Uy (standing). Along with photographer Ocs Alvarez (who is behind the camera, of course), they take time out each quarter to discover the beauty in teachers, often declining more lucrative assignments to do so.



Thanks to Ms. Rose Espiritu-Santo of Tibagan Elementary School in Makati City for welcoming us to her school for the cover shoot, to the school principal Dr. Domingo and staff, and to Grade 4 students Brian and Dazzle, our cover models.

ABOUT THE COVER: shot on location at Tibagan Elementary School by Ocs Alvarez. Christmas gifts courtesy of Michele Tan.

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EDITOR

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We have mail!

I had the chance to read STAR TEACHER at our principal's office. From the title alone, the magazine already interested me. I borrowed the magazine, brought it home and read it from cover to cover. All the topics were interesting, especially for me, a beginning teacher. I even adopted some of the suggested "quick tricks" by Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz, like playing "Hangman." I simplified it and used it in our Reading and Language lesson. The children loved it so much. Thank you and more power!

—April L. Malecdan,
Baguio City

WRITE TO US

Tell us what you think of *Star Teacher*, because it's YOUR magazine. If your letter is featured in a future issue, you'll receive this special gift: Anew Deep Crease Concentrate with Bo-Hylurox™ is a state-of-the-art wrinkle smoother that relaxes and fills skin for optimal wrinkle-fighting results. A nearly weightless serum that glides right over the skin, Anew Deep Crease Concentrate couldn't be easier to use. All it takes is one drop to fight the most stubborn lines!



Star TEACHER

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Do you have your own stories to tell? Tips to share? Concerns to air? Or perhaps you'd like to be the next featured makeover! Whatever your reason, we'd love to hear from you! Please write to us at:

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TEACHER'S TIPS

Share your classroom problems with us! We ask teachers from all over to tell us how they deal.

Help! I have a KSP student

QUICK QUERY:

I have a student who always wants me to give her extra attention, and always asks for help from me. It seems she can't do anything on her own. Any tips?

SOUND SOLUTIONS:

arrange for small successes—give her tasks that she'll be able to accomplish on her own. You can break down a big activity into short, easy steps. Focus on areas she's good at and which hold her interest. This will help her realize that she *can* do things, and will lessen her tendency to ask help from other people. Get support from the child's family and friends.
—*Luwi Infante*

iextend special help to children like this if I know they can't do the task. Why not do the task with her at first, then have her repeat it

by herself? I also encourage the class to work with their "learning *barkadas*." You can even ask her to be a leader to keep her occupied. —*Lyn dela Cruz*

iwill give her special tasks and responsibilities, so that she will learn to be more independent and need not to seek my help all the time.
—*Mariza Baldemor*

take time out to talk to the student and see what her problem really is. Does she just want attention? Does she need help academically? If she merely seems to want attention, maybe giving her time after class will help for

DO YOU HAVE A SOUND SOLUTION TO THIS QUICK QUERY?

How can I encourage students to continue learning and reading during the summer?

Send your reply to: *Star Teacher*
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If we pick your Sound Solution, you'll receive a special gift from Avon and a free copy of *YES!* magazine courtesy of Summit Media. Write to us now!



Star tip

first of all, the teacher has to find out why the child is seeking extra attention. The child might really be slow in picking up the lesson (maybe due to hearing, sight, mental difficulty), in which case you should be extra-patient since this is beyond the child's control. If you think this is the case, talk with the parents and gently suggest that a physical check-up might be in order.

On the other hand, the student might have low self-esteem due to a past "traumatic" experience of being ridiculed in front of others. It's also possible that the child is not being attended to at home, or the opposite, is always the center of attention and babied by parents. If this is the case, praise the child when she does something on her own. You can also pretend you don't hear her request if you know that she can easily do it by herself. Once she accomplishes the task, recognize her for it. If you feel that the child is being babied at home, talk to her about how much fun it is to be a "big girl." You can share stories about independent kids with her.

Finally, the child might be seeking approval for everything she does. If this is the case, explain that it's okay to make mistakes. When you ask your class to do an activity, tell them they have to work by themselves, but you will go around and check on them. Tell your attention-seeker that she can only call you once she is finished. Reassure her, though, that her work doesn't have to be perfect. —*Cris Tungol*

starters. If she needs academic help, then help her out while building her confidence. Teach her to be independent by expressing your belief that she can do it. —*Daniel Gonzalez*

every child is unique, so I will try to understand my student's situation and investigate her family background to know the reasons behind her behavior. —*Lyn Banaga*