



I got in touch with an old friend, Anchella Lagumbay, for our feature on Filipinos who are teaching abroad (see page 8). She was my seatmate in second year high school, her last year in the Philippines, before her family migrated to California. Between her teaching load and church volunteer work, she has quite a hectic schedule. The week her response to my questions was due, she even had to deal with a parent who was complaining like crazy (coincidentally, that's the problem Tita Lita deals with in her advice column on page 19—more proof that teaching problems are the same across borders!) In the end, though, she sent me a thank you letter that was so striking I asked her permission to share it with you:

"i want to thank you for asking me to respond to those questions. i prepared my responses during my nightmare of a week at school with that 'loony' parent. your questions couldn't have been 'needed' at a better time. god definitely used those to anchor me once again... to shed light on my calling to this profession. some might try to steal the joy that i have for teaching, but i can't let them. i don't teach because of her (the parent)... i teach in spite of her.

I think the 'secret of my success' and the reason i have survived as an educator here is that every day, since my second year of teaching, i have prayed for each student in my class by name before i head over to the classroom. i do notice a difference if by any chance i leave a name out in my prayers. a lot of my co-workers, even my principal, and people from the school district always say that there's a certain 'aura of peace' in my room every time they come in...it's not me... it's me giving up my control and letting HIM take over."

Have you thought lately about your profession? Why don't you find some time this summer to do so? You just might discover some things along the way!

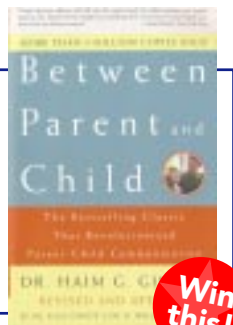
featured letter
Star Teacher magazine can be compared to a real star that shines brightly on a dark night. It enlightens one's mind with ideas, tips, and experiences that are relevant and important to teachers, so that they can be STARS in their chosen profession.
Yes, teachers today face a lot of challenges and, if not fully equipped with the latest and best strategies and ideas, cannot cope with the fast-changing world. They won't be very effective in their sacred duty to mold the youth.
So to Star Teacher, congratulations! We will be forever grateful to you for helping us to lighten our burdens in many ways.
—Nida Orlina Aquino

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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 from National Book Store: Between Parent and Child—a wonderful book that can help teachers to effectively "parent" their students (check out our review of this and other books on page 15). Please include your land line or cellphone number in your letter so we can get in touch with you.



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TEACHERS' TIPS

Readers from all over share their real-life solutions to classroom dilemmas and education questions.

Summer Learning

QUICK QUERY:

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

SOUND SOLUTIONS:

I plan to motivate my students to read during the summer by asking them to research on an interesting and fun topic that they will present when school opens again in June. As an incentive, prizes can be awarded to those who do the research. —**Fritzie C. Lagarda**

Encourage kids to pursue a favorite sport or engage in a hobby that interests them. Informal learning should be encouraged during the summer months because this can teach many values and skills, such as decision-making, responsibility, commitment to finish a task, concentration and focus, relating with unfamiliar people. In the end, it's also about developing one-

self to be the best he can be and fulfilling one's Christian mission to be of service to others. —**Alvin L. Ang**

Arrange field trips to different libraries where they can explore, conduct activities in gardens and other venues, invite a resource person to discuss a certain topic, and make use of different technologies like the computer or even TV. —**Rose Espiritu Santo**

Teachers should encourage students to do independent reading, try out hands-on activities, join summer camps, or be part of the school's theater and arts guild. As principal of my school, I am planning to put up a drama guild because it promotes reading, develops speaking proficiency as well

star tip

There are a number of things that a teacher can suggest or do to encourage their students to continue learning in more creative ways than normal classroom learning will allow: watch or participate in a play, form a choir and join a singing contest, learn to play a musical instrument, take swimming lessons, join a reading group or book club (bookstores usually organize this or you can even form your own), organize or attend a storytelling session (check out Museo Pambata and bookstores), visit Quest Science Center, form competing basketball or volleyball teams... the list is endless!

Volunteer work for church, orphanages, the barangay, organizing tutorial groups for those who need further assistance in their academic requirements, tree-planting, etc. are also worthwhile alternatives.

The teacher and her students may even agree to meet once or twice during the summer just to see how the kids are and to provide guidance to those who have not yet found productive activities.

All of these activities are designed to develop self-discipline, talent and skills, to kindle an appreciation for the arts, to teach value of teamwork and to increase the sense of social responsibility and awareness. Summer activities should support the home and the school's efforts to keep learning a year-round and lifelong goal. —**Charro E. Gonzales**

DO YOU HAVE A SOUND SOLUTION TO THIS QUICK QUERY?

My students don't know how to follow instructions, whether verbal or written. How can I teach them this important skill?



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as freedom of expression, enhances public relations and most of all, increases self-confidence. This is another way of developing the multiple intelligences, giving the children a chance to get out of their boxes!

—**Eloisa Opeña**

Summer learning should be fun. Encourage parents to bring their kids to different places, like the zoo

to learn about animals, or to Intramuros, the walled city in Manila, to learn about history. —**Roberto N. Galang**

Encourage parents and children to form a neighborhood reading club. Mothers, fathers, lolos and lolas can conduct read-alouds and storytelling sessions to kids, and kids can talk about the books they've read. —**Dali Soriano**