

TEACHING- A FIRST

SUMMER OF 2017

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I visit India every four years and I normally visit my cousins and have lots of fun. But, every time we visit, we visit for around a month because it is a long trip here and there. So, the routine can get a little boring over the course of the month. So, this trip would be a little more exciting thanks to the NSF APNA program. As a result, this year, my excitement shot through the roof as I prepared myself to teach kids in India.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?-

The scheduled day for my first lesson, I was nervous and excited at the same time. I was conducting a spelling bee workshop and I was incredibly surprised on how the experience went. I first had to meet with the headmistress and explain why I was there. They tested me on my teaching skills just to see if I was going to be able to deliver the content to the students. The students were the most behaved class I have ever seen a class be and when I first walked into the room I was immediately greeted with a monotonous "Good morning teacher!". Startled by this act I stood there not knowing what to do next. One of the teachers in the classroom told me to tell them to sit



down. I did as she said and the kids replied with "Thank you, teacher!" After that, my brother started to present on the North South Foundation mission and scholarship opportunities. I watched in awe as my brother spoke in a loud, clear voice and captivated his entire audience. As my brother was presenting, I noticed how well this was going. All my earlier fears started melting away and I was eager to start.

STARTING IT UP-

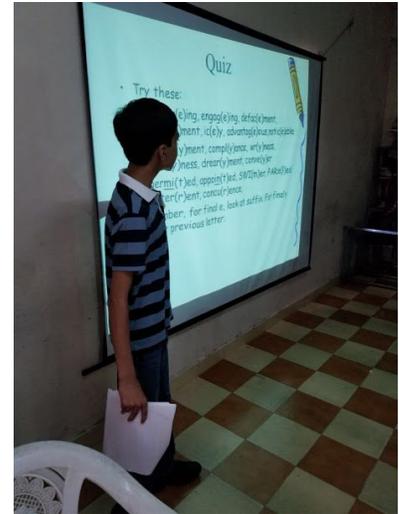
They all sat down and we started the lesson. I was a little shy at first, but as the lesson went on I slowly gained confidence and I conducted a quiz on the first day to round it off. The quiz went very well and just like that $\frac{1}{5}$ of the available material was completed. I rinsed and repeated the process with new material every day. On the 4th day, they brought me a mic to be able to better deliver to the students. I

went through all the material and I handed out chocolates with the certificates at the end.

Even though we were maybe speaking too fast in a foreign language that they only just learned, they did their best to listen. My

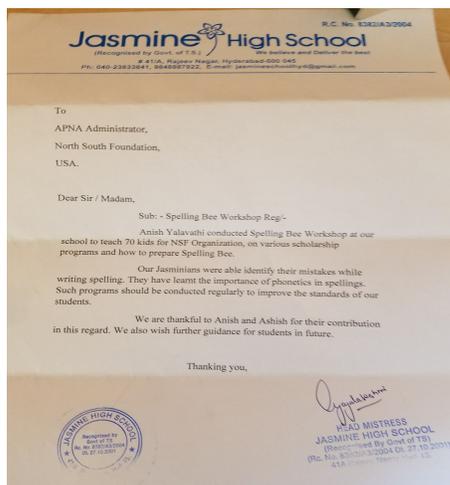
favorite part of the experience was the way they greeted me every time I walked into the classroom. Under all that initial shock, this act made you feel very welcome like you weren't a total stranger that just waltzed into the classroom. Also, another rewarding thing about teaching in India was the completely different way of teaching. The teacher has way more authority there so it took a little getting used to.

Actually, looking back at this experience, there is one thing that I would want to do differently if I ever did this again and that is to take a bigger leadership role. I was very timid on the first day and I quickly learned that will get you nowhere as a teacher. So I raised my voice as the days went on. Still, I didn't have the volume to discipline the kids or get them to listen. So that would be one thing I would change if I ever decided to conduct a workshop in India. Also, I was teaching a class of 73 students alone and if you don't have the authority it can be very hard to control all of the students.



A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU AND ME-

The whole experience was very rewarding as normally I would never volunteer to do extra work on a vacation, but I learned something while I was teaching and that was that being a teacher just makes it more rewarding as you see the kids trying their best and surprising you with knowledge that you've never planned to hear about. Most of



the time I created a plan the day before, but I quickly figured out that the whole lesson will become better if you use the plan as a guideline, not a rule to strictly follow. This was very fun and I am very glad that I did it. This picture is of a letter the headmistress wrote. She mentions a person named Ashish, who is my older brother and just set the mood for the class and introduced what the NSF is. Also, I have attached a video just to show the kids' outfits and what the class looked like. This was all very fun and I hope to conduct more workshops in the future.