

"Teachers are the second parents for students. As a parent, interacting with your child's teachers will give you a chance to know your child's new developments and abilities. This way, the teachers will be able to offer extra help where need arises. In addition interacting with teachers will help a parent understand their child more as some children pretend in the presence of their parents."



Teaching & Learning

ESSENTIALS OF EDUCATION

FROM THE EDITOR



Know your child's teachers

Stories are often told of how some naughty students when sent home from school to bring their parents, hire strangers.

And because teachers do not know who the actual parents of the said student are, they end up falling for the trick thereby not achieving the objective of the suspension. Such scenarios would not happen if parents and teachers were always in close contact.

Parents should therefore, stop the laissez-faire attitude of leaving teachers to take much of the responsibility of learners. Of course some will say they are busy but if you cannot find time for your child who will? Read about how it is important that you interact with your child's teacher frequently in our story today.

You will also meet the two students who beat 100 others to the debate championship and how their experience has changed their lives on page 21 as well as Dr Mesharch Katusimeh who is determined to bring the troubles of Ankole Western University to an end.

Have a good week.

Paul

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POLICY/PRACTICE

ESSENTIALS AND ALTERNATIVE IDEAS

Parent, teacher relationships crucial



Parents should be vigilant when it comes to their children's well-being at school. And to achieve this, they must be in close contact with teachers and interact with them from time-to-time.

Teacher Jane Akello of Buganda Road Primary School teaches pupils. Parents should interact with their children's teachers to assess their progress among other things.

FILE PHOTO

BY SARAH AANYU
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Whenever Lordrich Kananura's parents visited him at St Peters Primary School, Nsambya, they made it a point to go to the headmaster's office and inquire about his progress.

However, this would not go down well with Kananura, a Primary Seven pupil, who says his results would always be way too below his parent's expectations. But the interaction would eventually help Kananura because his parents heeded his teachers' advice and started him on private coaching which saw his results improve greatly.

"When my mother spoke to the class teacher, he made sure that he checked my notes every week and also gave me papers for revision that helped me improve my class performance," says Kananura.

John Katongole, a head teacher at St Peter's Senior Secondary School, Naa-

TEACHER BENEFITS

Research shows that parental involvement can free teachers to focus more on the task of teaching children. Also, by having more contact with parents, teachers learn more about students' needs and home environment, which is information they can apply toward better meeting those needs. Parents who are involved tend to have a more positive view of teachers, which results in improved teacher morale.



lya, says the relationship between teachers and parents should be good because it is the teachers who take care of the children in the parent's absence.

"Sometimes a teacher may know a child more than the parent because most of the children's days are spent at school," says Katongole.

Creates comfort for pupils

Rose Katengeke, a teacher at Pearl Africa School, Kabalagala and mother of five,

says teachers are important figures in children's lives. She says because of her busy schedule, she enrolls her children in boarding schools when they reach Primary Three.

"For me to know more about my children and also be able to monitor them, I always make sure that I get to know the teachers and even take their numbers so that I can constantly speak to them for any updates about my children," says Katengeke.

She says when parents and teachers harmonise, the child gets comfortable at school knowing they have a second parent they can talk to.

Checks discipline

Katongole says teachers should not interact with parents only when the student has committed an offence because some parents do not even appear when summoned for their children's disciplinary issues but instead send a representative.

Joshua Akorikin, a Senior Four student at Naalya Secondary School, advises parents to look out for signs as to why their child keeps them away from the teachers. He says most times it is indiscipline students who do not want their parents to meet teachers because they will get to know about their bad conduct at school.

"It is better if the teacher discusses the child in their presence because that is when the real information about the child will be revealed leaving no room for denial. And in case the teacher is exaggerating, the child, too, will have a chance to defend themselves," Akorikin says.

Performance

Katengeke says children's performance must be combined effort between parents and teachers because it is a teacher who knows the child's worst done subjects thus encouraging their parent to get them special help.

Katongole encourages parents of day scholars who see no need to meet up with teachers because they check on their children's academic progress daily forgetting that there are some main areas being ignored such as discipline at school.

"Sometimes when the parents come for visitation at school, they mind majolly about giving their children eatables and ignore reading the circulars which advise them to meet up with the teachers and review the student's performance and behaviour," he adds.

Whatever the reasons a parent has for not interacting with their child's teacher, they should know that relationship is important because it helps check pupil's behaviour thus keeping them in line with the objective of going to school.

Benefits to parents

- Parents benefit by getting ideas from school on how to help and support their children, and by learning more about the school's academic programmes and how they work.

- They also become more confident about the value of their school involvement.
- Parents develop a greater appreciation for the important role they play in their children's education.