No School is an Island

What we can learn from learning remotely

Snapshots from the Frontline: Short Talks on Practice

AlJawhara AlThani
What are our schools not doing? ... Or doing accidently?

Moving away from the school building allows us to examine the expectations we have set of our teachers, students, and systems. What is amplified and what falls by the wayside when education is not framed by the conventional classroom?
Hidden Curriculum & Social Emotional Learning

• What happens within the school building goes beyond the curriculum.

• The hidden curriculum is the unintended, unplanned and unmeasured transmission of values, norms and beliefs that shape school culture and experience.
Hidden Curriculum & Social Emotional Learning

• Rather than a stage for the perfunctory performance of the student and teacher roles, the school building can be a place for a much richer human exchange if we build intentionality to what we have been doing accidentally.

• That means focus on social and emotional learning and holistic approaches to human development that confronts our bias and invites us to have complex conversations.
On Community

- Times of crisis disrupt children’s routines and their access to social and emotional support.
- This can compound the effects of inequality.
- Assumptions about student and staff’s access to technology, their ability to be productive in their home environment and the stressors placed on parents and caregivers can negatively impact the school community.
- A school that understands its community is more agile in its ability to meet its needs in an equitable way.
Coronavirus Ended the Screen-Time Debate. Screens Won.

We’ve tried all sorts of things to stop us from staring at our devices. Digital detoxes. Abstinence. Now? Bring on the Zoom cocktail hour.

Keeping Children Safe

In busy households, with everyone working online we have to be mindful of the increased risk of spending time online and navigating unfamiliar technology. Teachers, caregivers and students need to be aware of how to engage safely and productively in our new virtual playgrounds.
“Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.”

- Arundhati Roy, Financial Times, April 3 2020
Thank You

AlJawhara AlThani
aljawharaalthani@qf.org.qa