

Five wishes for my dear students, Yearbook Article 2018

Dear Students,

I am sharing with all of you a few excerpts from my batch of 2018 graduation speech. In addition to prosperity, peace, health and happiness, my wishes included various elements that contribute to experiencing a full, meaningful and satisfying life. I wish all this and more for each and every one of my students.

I wish you the joy of anticipation:

Many of us remember how thrilled we were as our birthday approached. As 5 year olds we could barely contain our excitement at the thought of a birthday celebration and we were filled with the joy of anticipation. Although nothing had actually happened we were experiencing the joy of anticipation long before the actual event. I wish you experience the joy of anticipation all through your lives.

I wish you experience wonder and awe:

I wish you are captivated by the beauty of a dew drop on a leaf, mesmerized by a beautiful sunset and astounded by the beauty of the night sky. These sights cost nothing. All we need is to spend a few minutes observing in rapt attention. May you experience wonder and awe all your life.

I wish you remain eternally curious:

Children ask questions that never cease to amaze for their sheer ingenuity. For example, a five year old asked, "why doesn't a spider get stuck in its own web" or "why is a raindrop round instead of any other shape"? It is this curiosity that has led to some of the world's greatest discoveries by scientists. I wish you always remain curious, ask questions and continuously seek answers.

I wish all your self-doubt is momentary:

Self-doubt is inevitable in the face of competition, while facing a challenge or taking an exam. Thoughts like, "Can I do it"? "Will I make a fool of myself?" are natural and expressing self-doubt is common. As long as it is fleeting, it won't drag your spirits down. So I wish any self-doubt you experience is fleeting.

I wish you the power of discernment

Under the influence of your parents and teachers you are likely to make the right choices that work well for your future. When you leave home and live on your own, at University, or when you start working, the choices you make are your responsibility. So start practicing now. Be responsible and make intelligent choices. The choices we make today unfold the course of events tomorrow. Hence, I wish you the power of discernment to make the right choice based, not in the interest of short term gain but on sound judgement.

I would like to conclude with a quote from the Dalai Lama "...the first step in seeking happiness is learning." And I wish you happiness always.

Best wishes,

Dr Bindu Hari [Director – TISB, NAFL & NPS Group of Schools]