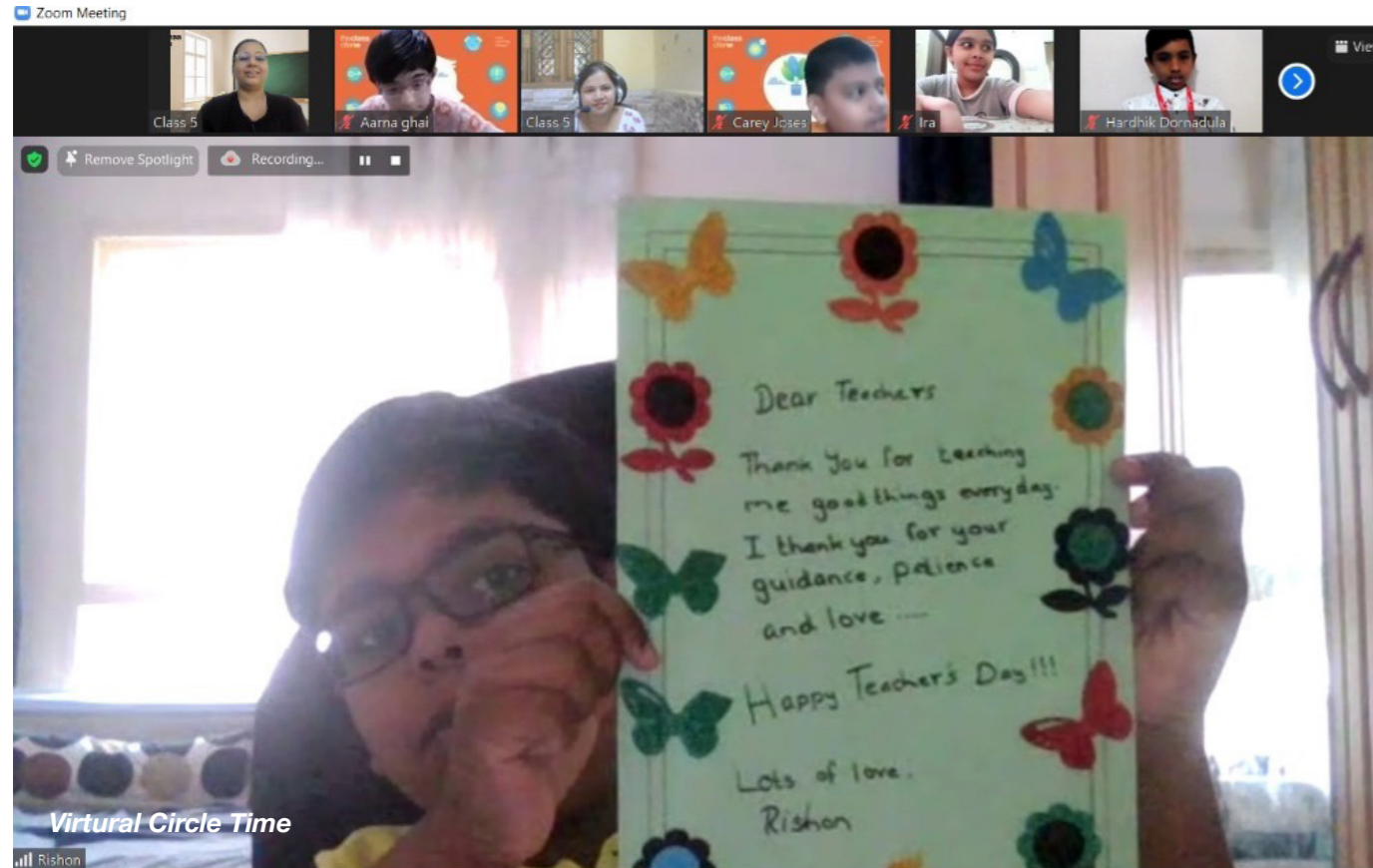


the**class**
of**one**



**The Class of One Chronicles:
Holistic Transformation through Social/
Emotional Development**



KEY FINDINGS

- Social and emotional development have a direct positive impact on academic performance.
- Differentiated instruction should be implemented to respond to variance among learners in the classroom.
- Positive reinforcement can encourage a student to come out of his/her shell.

THE CHALLENGE:

Average academic performance and lack of self-confidence

Thomas Jones* joined TCO1 in Grade 4 after his parents expressed concern about his average academic performance and lack of self-confidence. Considered a “slow-learner” in a traditional classroom, Thomas exhibited poor reading and comprehension skills, which resulted in poor vocabulary and communication skills. Extremely hesitant in the classroom, he often shied away from speaking in front of his teachers and peers, characterized by an inability to express himself.

*Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.

THE SOLUTION

Thomas’ teachers employed several strategies from TCO1’s pedagogical approach to facilitate holistic transformation:

- **Circle time:** At TCO1, circle time is considered a safe space—a judgment free zone where students are encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings through teacher-led prompts. It promotes multifaceted development: social/emotional intelligence, cognition and language development.
- **Application-based assignments:** TCO1 encourages students to actively participate in self-learning through practical activities such as problem-solving and independent investigation with project work.
- **Positive reinforcements from teachers and parents:** Positive reinforcement is a big part of our culture, ensuring that students are recognized for the atomic improvements they make on a daily basis. Our teachers consider themselves as facilitators and friends, rather than authority figures, offering praise and encouragement when students deserve it. We also strongly believe that after-school parent participation can be manifested in a variety of ways such as speaking encouraging words, or demonstrating patience by actively listening.

“The teachers motivated him by providing opportunities to speak and participate, and appreciating even the smallest efforts that he put in his activities and assignments.”

– Nazuk, Science Teacher

THE RESULT

Improved overall performance at school and home exhibited by holistic transformation in personality, behavior, academic performance and communication skills. Over the course of one year, TCO1 tracked noticeable changes in Thomas:

- **Confidence and self-expression:** While Thomas did not participate in circle time for a couple months, he actively listened to his peers express their emotions, which improved listening skills, fostered a sense of community and established a safe space. Overtime, Thomas was able to open up to his peers by responding to teacher-led prompts, which not only built his confidence, but also built a vocabulary of emotions to better express himself. His steady active participation improved interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence by forming new friendships where he could express his opinions and feelings openly.
- **Improved academic performance:** Since the standard lecture, reading and comprehension module did not lead to positive outcomes for Thomas, the teachers heavily focused on project work to ensure application of concepts through self-exploration and creativity. This led to improved academic performance, specifically in mathematics, due to enhanced problem-solving skills.
- **High self-esteem and leadership:** A strong partnership between the teacher and parents, formed on mutual principles of positive reinforcement, validation and patience allowed him space and time to improve his self-esteem and come out of his shell. Thomas, now a Grade 5 student, confidently leads assemblies and takes initiative to participate in extracurricular activities such as music.

Read more The Class of One Chronicles on www.theclassofone.com/chronicles