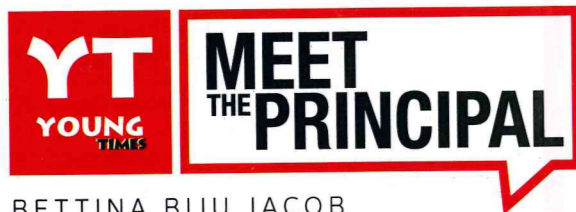


Five ways to be a success story in the modern world by Ms. Jwairia Saleem

Principal, The Indian Academy, Dubai

Ever felt that you're taking a path to please someone else? Have you stayed up worrying about your exams or a myriad of other insecurities? This week, you get to meet an educator to whom you can relate — she's been through it all and more. Read about her take on life, education, technology, and success.



BETTINA BIJU JACOB
YT INTERN
letters@youngtimes.com

The *YT Den* brightened up quite a notch when Ms. Jwairia Saleem, Principal, The Indian Academy, Dubai started the *Meet the Principal* session with students from ASPAM Indian International School, Sharjah. With an unparalleled passion for the education system and the youth, Ms. Saleem has been involved in school leadership for over 15 years. However, it does not take long to figure out that, for all

her years of experience, she is very young at heart. From developing schools to adapt to the 21st century way of life to winning an award for transforming education ecosystems, she has always tried to make sure to stay connected with her students. And, this was evident when she ditched the microphone to move closer and speak directly with the students. Captivated by her candid responses, the students were ever-ready with questions for her. Here's a recap of five memorable lessons that were discussed during the session.

1 Do not obsess over success
As contradictory as it may seem to the title of the article, this one is very important, according to her. She illustrates the point

by sharing an anecdote from her student life. When she was stressing over an upcoming Chemistry test, it was her father who brought her back to her feet. He said, "The sky will not fall down if you fail!" The pressure to succeed is often imposed by none other than yourself. Often, peer pressure gets the best of you. Do not adhere to what others think is right for you. While the world will constantly set standards for how you should proceed, and what's considered to be a success, what's important is to find what you love to do and pursue that wholeheartedly.

Speaking about success, she also added an inspiring statement about beauty; she said, "We spend too much of our energy trying to please other people and lose who we ourselves are in the process. So, love yourself, be confident, and have a positive body image. It doesn't matter how fat, thin or tall you are

because beauty is only a myth. If you feel beautiful, you'll look beautiful."

2 Think modern to be modern
The word 'modern' reminds us of one thing we're all simultaneously excited and scared about — Artificial Intelligence (AI). She says that we are so ensnared by scientific products and recent technology that we, at times, forget to consider the scientific process. How did we become this advanced? We questioned everything, we were curious, and did not accept anything blindly. However, we rarely question things anymore. She notes that following trends is the same as having a herd mentality. Take the Internet, for example. Anything and everything is forwarded and shared without a thought. The next time some-