



## Inside this Father's Day special

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We Strive Board member, Ms. Vidya Patcha shares her journey with We Strive.

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We Strive Newsletter team shares their memories with their dad

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Akshara's Comic Strip



## We Strive Horizon Newsletter

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### Father's Day Special

On this Father's Day, we take a moment to honor and celebrate the fathers and father figures in our lives. All the devoted dads deserve recognition for the love, guidance, and support they provide. In this newsletter, we share heartwarming stories reminiscing memories with dad. Join us in celebrating the amazing dads who make a difference in our lives every day.

Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers, and singers of song. - Unknown

### Upcoming Events for July

- Chemistry Club Public Speaking Contest – July (More details to follow)
- Summer Bash – July 15<sup>th</sup>
- Leadership Certification – Last 2 weeks of July
- Public Speaking Contest – July 29/30
- Tutor Underprivileged – July (date TBD)



# Board Member Talk

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## IN CONVERSATION WITH Ms. VIDYA PATCHA, WE STRIVE BOARD MEMBER

Interviewed by Suhaas Madasu

**Ms. Vidya, one of the board members of We Strive joined the organization in 2017. She began her journey by providing academic writing and editorial assistance to the students. Since then, she facilitated tours, coordinated informative sessions with authors and writers, while simultaneously mentoring students in academic and creative writing. Some of her noteworthy works include initiating and coordinating a resume writing workshop and reviving the Horizon newsletter. In a candid conversation with We Strive student, she shares her journey with this organization.**

### **When did you join We Strive?**

I began working with We Strive in the year 2017.

### **What made you join We Strive?**

I joined We Strive because the rare concept of focusing on life skills excited me. In the past, schools dedicated classes for moral science, and life skills such as sewing, wood working, and so on. With more focus on technology, math and science, these essential skills took a back seat. Apart from that, strict focus on academics often paves a narrow-tunneled path for children's growth. I believe that life skills that teach us patience, excellence, and strong work ethics, along with peripheral elements like empathy, compassion and ongoing awareness of changing dynamics are critical for nurturing a child into an all-rounded person. We Strive attempts to fill that void in the recent education system and provides a platform for children to be independent and self-sustained.

### **What impact do you feel you made through We Strive?**

I began my journey with We Strive by leading the Creative and Essay Writing Club where I primarily mentored students to articulate their thoughts effectively. I have also facilitated sessions and workshops with authors and writers to help students understand the thought process and "behind the scenes" work that goes into bringing an idea to fruition. I strongly believe that these initiatives were invaluable in helping the students develop a deeper appreciation for the art of writing and the importance of effective communication.

**In your opinion, how do you think We Strive impacted our community?**

In addition to empowering students with life skills, We Strive also places a strong emphasis on giving back to the community. By encouraging students to engage in volunteer work and community service, We Strive works to develop a sense of empathy and social responsibility in its participants. This creates a ripple effect, inspiring students to continue giving back to their communities throughout their lives. Ultimately, this focus on community service can help create a more compassionate and connected society.

**Are there any other clubs led by you that we can share with our readers?**

I have supervised Book Reading club and initiated a sewing club. Unfortunately, sewing club did not take place due to changes in the method of instruction during COVID.

**What challenges did you face as you stood up these clubs?**

Students may have limited experience with task management and execution, which can make it difficult to ensure that initiatives are completed successfully. Apart from that, having different schedules and priorities, make it challenging to coordinate meetings. Plus, different age groups, skill levels and abilities can impact the quality of work. Coordinating everything virtually is a big challenge because of the above factors. Addressing these challenges requires patience, effective communication, leadership, and flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

**Are there any upcoming classes?**

Nothing in this month. I do take classes time-to-time to mentor students on the concepts of creating Horizon Newsletter content and format.

**What is the experience overall from We strive so far?**

It was a great experience watching what We Strive evolved into since its inception. I also experienced personal growth throughout this journey. It was a pleasure watching the children from earlier batches bloom into confident, compassionate, and successful individuals. The hope that these individuals or "little ripples" will multiply and continue to create more positive ripples drives me to push my intellectual and physical limits further.

**What is your vision for We Strive?**

My vision for We Strive would be to become a leading organization that empowers students to become proactive and innovative leaders who make a positive impact on their communities. This vision could be achieved by continuing to offer a range of programs and initiatives that help students develop essential life skills such as leadership, communication, and problem-solving, while also encouraging them to engage in volunteer work and community service. Ultimately, the goal would be to create a generation of socially responsible and empathetic individuals who are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle the challenges of the future.



## WHAT I LIKE TO DO IN SUMMER?

In this article, [Gowri Upadhyaya](#) and [Medha Talluri](#) share their summer experience.

The cloudy wispy clean air and the soft breeze, the sweet smell of jasmine flowers, and the grasshoppers as green as basil springing around. These are the signs that you know summer is coming. Summer is my favorite season by far because of the beautiful weather, the amount of time I get to spend with my loved ones, and the break from school of course! Buckle up while I tell you guys some of my favorite activities I like to do during summer. The one activity I enjoy doing the most is going to the pool with my friends! The mood of going to the pool is a great vibe and the sunny weather makes it much more enjoyable. The number of activities you can do at the pool are endless really, like playing with water guns, floaties, Marco polo and more! Talking about playing games I also enjoy playing with my dog Oreo. I love taking him on walks outside and playing fetch with him! I not only take the season of summer to relax but to also spend time on some of the hobbies I am passionate about. Not only is it great to spend time on your hobbies but also to try new things and learn something new! For example, this summer I am trying to spend my time challenging myself with drawing more complicated pieces. I am also challenging myself by learning new recipes and using skills with spices, sweets, and flavors! But I can't forget that my favorite part of summer is spending time with my loved ones. It is important to cherish memories and bond with them! I am wishing everyone a great summer out there! 😊 – **Gowri Upadhyaya**

I love summer. Not because of the weather, I personally despise the heat. It's actually because of all of the activities I can do that I can't enjoy in other seasons.

Where I live, in summer the weather can get up to around 90°. To cool down, I love to visit the pool and stay there until my fingers look like prunes. If I can't go to the pool, I'd stay at home and eat ice cream. Maybe even turn on some Netflix!

Because it's summer, I also get summer break! That means no school for around two months! During summer break, I spend a lot of time with my family and try to appreciate the moment. I also spend a lot of time with my friends. Sometimes we go outside for food together and laugh even at bad jokes. I love having sleepovers and pulling all-nighters with them.

On rare occasions, I might get really bored. If that happens, I'd play music and sketch, whether I want to or not. Since I'm aware of the effect it has on me, I always try to do it. It doesn't even matter what music I play or what I sketch. It always helps calm me down as well as put me in a good mood.

Enjoying all of summer is a job I have taken upon myself. Luckily, I haven't failed! There are many congenial activities you can do to cure your boredom during summer, and I hope this article has given you ideas! – **Medha Talluri**

## MEMORIES WITH DAD

ON OCCASION OF FATHER'S DAY, WE STRIVE STUDENTS SHARE THEIR MEMORABLE MOMENTS AND MEMORIES WITH THEIR DADS.

A Sunday sermon in honor of the 362 men who had died in the explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah the year before was held on July 5, 1908, by a West Virginia church. However, this was a one-time event and not a national holiday.

The following year, Sonora Smart Dodd, one of a widower's six children, campaigned to get Father's Day recognized as an official alternative to Mother's Day. In order to gain support for her concept, she approached local churches, the YMCA, business owners, and elected officials. She was successful: On June 19, 1910, Washington State observed the first-ever statewide Father's Day.

The holiday spread gradually. In recognition of the day in 1916, President Wilson used telegraph signals to raise a flag in Spokane when he depressed a button in Washington, D.C. Father's Day should be observed, President Calvin Coolidge advised state governments in 1924.

Father's Day is now observed in the United States on the third Sunday in June, which falls on June 20 in 2021.

Favorite moments with my dad: When I was ten years old, I was attempting to decorate for my birthday party, but no one was there to help me. I asked my mom, my friends, and my brother, to help me but no one was, and I was really sad so I went to bed crying. The following morning, I woke up to find the living room fully decorated. I asked everyone

who did it and they all pointed to my dad. It turned out that he woke up early in the morning and decorated the living room even though he was busy.

Playing badminton and volleyball with my dad after work every day, and even though I'm not the best, he still makes it a lot of fun. Also going to beach, playing with our dog and taking him walks are some of the favorite activities I like to do.

Father, happy Father's Day! I love you! – **Harina Sri**

I would never have a laugh in my life without my dad because he is the funniest person I ever met. One of my many favorite memories is when I was about 6 months old, where I would sit on his shoulder and hit his head like a drum (but it sounded like I was slapping him). In one minute, my grandma would say (in a different language known as Telugu) stop hitting my son you cutie. Then I slid down and slept on my dad's tummy for a few minutes. Even now my dad tells so many (what I call bad dad jokes) jokes and I feel happier even though I'm really mad at him.

:) - **Tanmayee Nistala**

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"Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad, and that's why I call you dad, because you are so special to me. You taught me the game and you taught me how to play it right." The person who wrote this is more than a hundred percent true. Any man can get married and have kids, but you weren't just any man that could do that, you stepped up, you try your best to make my life the best possible. 10 years ago, September was the worst time of all of our lives (for the people who don't know; my dad had a heart attack and had to stay in the hospital for a long time). I had no idea what was going on but whatever situation we were in, you showed all of your love no matter what

happened. Till this day you never lost any of your love for me, and when I need you most you don't think about anything until I finish. You research, you try your best to make sure that I will have no struggles in my life. You are also not just a father but a son, a husband, a friend, (maybe grandpa :), grandson, and so much more to this earth. Happy Father's Day to you!!!

"To her, the name of father was another name for love."

**-Isha Kannan**

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This Sunday is a very special day- Father's Day! In honor of my dad, I would like to write about a very special memory that I share with him.

The day of my mom's birthday, April 19th, my dad wouldn't be able to attend due to a business trip in Boston. Since he would leave for Boston on Monday, and my mom's birthday was on Wednesday, he planned a surprise party with me on Sunday. Since I had a class early in the morning that day, he picked me up and we went to Harris Teeter to get a chocolate and a gift card. While there, he told me about the main gift he had already bought for my mom and that I had to remember to give it to her. On the way back home, we gave the gift to a friend for safekeeping so my mother wouldn't



accidentally find it. On the way home, we thought of excuses to tell my mom in case she wondered why we were so late. My dad was constantly spitting out lame excuses like "traffic" or "phone call." Since the volunteers were serving pizza at my class, I suggested we say that they took a long time getting there and I took a while eating.

After getting home and telling my mom the excuse, my dad showed me where the main gift was- in his closet. It was a bottle of perfume.

On Wednesday, everything went as planned. Even though my father was gone, we had an amazing plan. The family that we gave the "minor gift" to attend the party as well, so we got to give my mom her gift. After coming

back home and settling down, I told my mom that my dad bought her another present. When I gave her the bottle of perfume, I said it was my dad who truly planned this party. I told my father all about it when he came back. Even though my dad wasn't there for my mom's party, the memories we made together planning it will never leave my mind. I am determined to show him the amount of love he shows me every day. Thank you to all the amazing dads out there and thank you to mine too. - **Medha Talluri**

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# COMIC STRIP

BY AKSHARA MADASU

