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# Are You Having Fun Yet?



**H**e who dares to teach must never cease to learn.

Richard Henry Dann

This issue of *The Scrivener* salutes education and those who are involved as teachers and as learners.

It seems everyone has an opinion on the subject of education. The reason for this is quite simple: we have all been exposed to education, through our own schooling and that of our children.

More so in my case—my spouse is a teacher. That makes for great debate in our home—which has led me to the strong belief that we as professionals are all educators at some level and begs the question: what *does* make a great teacher?

This year our elder son has a very interesting humanities teacher whom we shall call Mr. R. It seems Mr. R has magical abilities. He is part actor, part authoritarian, part motivator, part comedian. Our son regales us with stories of Mr. R's classes—how he makes school imitate life and the

real world—how he cajoles his students into taking risks and working hard.

When speaking with our son's friends, I often ask them to tell me about their favourite subject and teacher. The two are usually connected. I pose those questions to gain insight into the youngsters with whom our child is associating and I like to compare their answers with our son's. That opener is also a great segue into expanded conversation.

**Maybe we can take a lesson from Mr. R: Good teachers create learning experiences that are challenging, inspiring, and fun.**

Some weeks ago, my son had three friends over for a Friday evening visit; none had been previously exposed to my inquisition. As they swilled pop and ate—should I say *inhaled*—snack food at the kitchen table, as only 13-year-olds can, I asked, “So what's your favourite subject and who's your favourite teacher?”

They all gave different answers and, much to my shock, no one mentioned Mr. R.

After my requisite follow-up questions to each young man, I asked the group: “What about Mr. R?” Was my son the only student so positively affected by this educator?

In varying degrees of animation, the boys said Mr. R's class did not count—it was not like school. They agreed it was hard work, with the pressures of exams and term papers and all, but Mr. R was in a category by himself. Being in his class was just . . . **fun**.

Maybe we can take a lesson from Mr. R: *Good teachers create learning experiences that are challenging, inspiring, and fun.*

We know that ongoing education helps us achieve higher levels of competence in our work. Let's add a new dimension . . . let's improve the way **we deliver** our professional services and agree to enjoy ourselves more—by creating an environment that encourages clients and staff to feel great, too. The benefits will include reduced levels of stress and better results.

Spring is the season of new beginnings. Are you and the people around you teaching, learning, and having fun? ▲