Random Teacher Thoughts

"As teachers, you will teach as much with who you are as with what you know". Our passion for music is only equaled by our passion to help those who wish to learn its wonders.

Shari Lewis—Entertainer and educator

Education means to teach and to nurture—without nurturing , education is ineffective.

Shinichi Suzuki

Education from birth, as an international project, will create a new world.

Shinichi Suzuki

Ten thousand years from now education will still be human development.

Shinichi Suzuki

Teachers give away an enormous amount of energy each day to many people, sometimes saving nothing for themselves. What kind of teachers will we be if our life force is continually spent? What kind of role models are we offering then to our children? Our aspirations is to help our students cultivate all their powers to become whole. May we also guard this wish for ourselves in our own growth. May we learn how and when to replenish our body and soul.

Teaching is Holy. Vicki Vorreiter *, American Suzuki Journal August 1995*

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I am painfully aware of the times in my own teaching when I lose touch with my inner teacher and therefore with my own authority. In those times I try to gain power by barricading myself behind the podium and my status while wielding the threat of grades. But when my teaching is authorized by the teacher within me, I need neither weapons nor armor to teach.

Authority comes as I reclaim my identity and integrity, remembering my selfhood and my sense of vocation. Then teaching can come for the depths of my own truth—and the truth this is within my students has a chance to respond in kind.

Courage to Teach Parker J. Palmer

The teacher may have predetermined and stated consequences for misbehavior, but these are clearly secondary to the *expectation*s. The key is to set expectations and then establish relationship so that students want to meet these expectations. Great teachers don't focus on "What am I going to do if students misbehave?" They expect good behavior—and generally that's what they get.

What Great Teachers Do Differently. Todd Whitaker

To understand the learning problems of another person, particularly a child, we must try to see things as if through their eyes. Whatever method is used, our the new and unknown, and to gain some control over it, without trying to force him faster or further than he feels ready to go, both pupil and teacher have the most fun and most progress.

How Children Learn. John Holt

Educator Robert Duke believes that teachers are solely responsible for their students' failures. This may be hard for some teachers to grasp because they are more likely to claim their students' successes than their failures. Piano teacher Mary Craig Powell took responsibility for her students performances by not letting them perform if she didn't think they were prepared. This way she prevented a traumatic performance experience for her students. She also offered many opportunities for her students to succeed by providing various performance scenarios differing in intensity.

Toxic Teaching. Nicole Biggs, American Music Teacher , Oct/Nov 2010

To teach is to touch a life forever. You can make a difference in a life by sharing your love of music.

Ask the Teacher, Marla Mutschler, Strad, Nov. 2010

When I was young, I gave too much credence to parents for their greater maturity and parenting experience, and not enough to my training. I realized that my lack of leadership made for disappointing progress. If we remember that our requests are for the benefit of the child, it is easier to make them. Parents often appreciate another perspective. They can listen to things that may be uncomfortable to hear about themselves of their child when they know the teacher is a true advocate for their child.

An Interview with a Master Teacher –Ronda Cole ; Katie Lansdale Strings July 2009

When I'm teaching someone, there are two teachers in the room; and one is more important—the student.

Ask the Teacher, Laurence Lesser , Strad March 2010

What's the most surprising thing that any student has ever said to you?
A seven year old was trying to read some music, but stopped and said, "I feel like there's a traffic jam in my brain." It seemed the perfect description of what it's like when you're trying to sightread.

Ask the Teacher, Cathy Elliott. Strad, Feb. 2009