

Teachers, get to know your colleagues from around Malaysia and share views and teaching ideas with them. If you would like to be featured in Getting To Know You, answer these questions and email your photo and answers to schooltimes@nstp.com.my. For every published contribution we'll pay RM40.

Q. Please introduce yourself.

I am Zarina Burhan. Born in Melaka, I am married and a mother of three boys and a girl. I received my primary education in Johor Bahru and my secondary education in Melaka. Later, I pursued my studies in Teaching English at Maktab Perguruan Ilmu Khas(MPIK), Cheras, KL (1984-1986). I obtained a Bachelors in Education (TESL) with Honours at Universiti Putra Malaysia(UPM), Serdang, Selangor (2004-2006).

Q. When did you start your teaching career?

I started teaching in 1987 and it has been 25 years already!

Q. Where did or do you teach?

I first taught at SK Felda Palong 4, Gemas, N.Sembilan for four years. And then served another four years in SK Hutan Melintang, Teluk Intan, Perak. Then I went to SK Bukit Tembakau, Umbai, Melaka, and now I am teaching in Sekolah Menengah Agama Sharifah Rodziah, Teluk Mas, Melaka.

Q. What subject do you teach?

I teach English to Lower Secondary students. I also teach Pendidikan Sivik Dan Kewarganegaraan to Form Two students.

Q. What do you see as the challenges in the classroom?

Making my English lesson fun and bringing out the best in my students.

Q. How do you motivate your students?

I tell them it is fine to make mistakes and learn from them when the teacher corrects them. I play English Language games with them. I try to create humour during the lessons. My students really enjoy preparing the breakfast menu as part of their P&P (role-model as a chef). As for me, I do enjoy eating what is prepared!

Q. How do you make sure weaker students are able to follow your lessons?

I usually group students of mixed abilities together. Through peer learning, students are able to complete any task given.

Q. What is your most memorable teaching moment?

I have a lot of memorable moments, such as when I was awarded Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang in 2002 & 2010, when I won a trip to Guangzhou, China, and when I went to Osaka, Kobe and Kyota in Japan with my students and a colleague last year.

Q. What or who inspired you to be a teacher?

It has been a lifelong dream because the person who had always helped when I didn't understand something was a TEACHER - my kindergarten teacher, my primary teacher and my secondary teacher.

Q. What is your daily motivation as a teacher?

Remind myself always to be passionate and committed about my job.

Q. What is the most valuable lesson you have learnt as a teacher?

Communicate with your students like a real person because each student is unique in his or her own way.

Q. What would you consider your greatest achievement as a teacher?

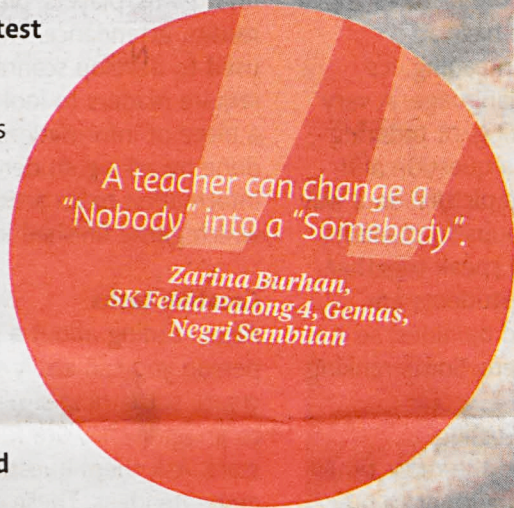
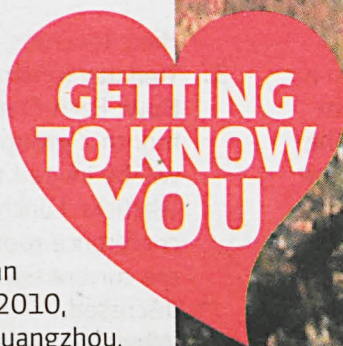
Those school leavers who still remember and wish me, and say "Thank you for everything".

Q. If you could wave a wand and change one thing in the education system, what would that be?

I would love to have more teaching aids especially computer tools and ICT skills to lighten our burden when teaching.

Q. What are your thoughts on being a teacher?

The teaching profession is undergoing a change - it is challenging but rewarding. A teacher can change a 'Nobody' to a 'Somebody'!



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*Zarina Burhan,
SK Felda Palong 4, Gemas,
Negri Sembilan*

