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The proverb ‘Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it’ probably sums up what transformational teaching is all about. As educators, we labour to invest in the lives of our charges, to shape minds, persuade wills, and teach literacies, content and skills so they can build the foundation of their lives on solid ground and continue to pursue a lifetime of learning, growing and mastering the basics that will be steppingstones to success and accomplishment.

Our work is rewarded when they can discern priorities, values and character. When they adopt a learning posture and adapt with an open mind, they are able to keep on seeking a better way for the future. Our hearts are gratified when they can light the path for the next generation.

When learning passes on, when dreams light up the world and when hope is ignited by knowledge, wisdom and conviction, we know that we have done how education was always meant to be. As John Dewey said, “Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”

At Outram, learning is living. We live it.