

Celebrating 10 Years of Anime Fandom

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"Dreams betray many, hard work betrays none" - so it came as no surprise when the founders' vision for MazeCity were realised on December 25 as a consequence of all the cumulative effort leading up to this moment. The milestone took 10 years in the making.

Maze Day Festival - powered by Knock - is more than just a celebration of how long this community has withstood the test of time. What began as a small circle of likeminded individuals in a forum, has transformed into a community of over 82,000 members who harbour a passion for Japanese animation, art form and aesthetics.

When asked about the nature of his relationship with MazeCity, a head admin, Afnan Chowdhury, confided, "I can barely believe my eyes when I gaze upon the communal atmosphere today. MazeCity to me represents a budding flower which is now in full bloom ready for the entire world to see, basking in its spring glory. I feel like a father who has seen his son live up to his potential."

Namaira Tabassum, a cosplayer, had the following opinion. "My personal space was respected, and the cosplayers



were treated with dignity. It makes me feel really happy when the people recognise the character that I'm playing and show sincere appreciation for my efforts," she said. The bands Kawaii Baka Deshu, Kryopera and White Paper Ink showed their immense satisfaction at the response of the crowd that they received after their performance.

Following the tradition of MazeCity

events, individuals were given the opportunity to perform live karaoke in front of others so they could let go of their stage fright and sing to their hearts' content. Sherly, another head admin of the community, declared, "The response we got from the community for this event was heart-warming and overwhelming, it was an honour to serve my baked goods to the guests and the feedback we received was

precious."

Individuals in the Game Zone fought for bragging rights in the competitive Naruto Ultimate Ninja Storm Tournament which was hosted by Radio Dhol, and MazeCity's own Kazi Arif Mahmud and Shahbaz Amin.

Navigating through a maze of festivities such as, but not limited to, cosplay, gaming competitions, karaoke, art exhibition and competition, and a concert, the Mazecitizens were lost in emotion, and yet found a profound sense of belonging. The founders also thanked the staff, including Aurora Salmin, Ahmed Saquib Dipto, Monirul Islam, Tauhidul Islam, Tamim Taher, Mushfik Rahman and the rest, for organising the event in such an impressive scale and managing the whole event in a proficient manner.

All of this wouldn't have been possible if the six founders Mohammad Moinul Islam, Toufik Jamal, Akib Jonayeed, Mahmud Shuvra, Nur E Elahi Shonchoy, and Shahid Wasio hadn't seen that dream of gathering people of same passion under one roof. Finally, the head founder Mohammed Moinul Islam articulated at the end of the event by announcing, "If you think this is good, just wait for the better."

TUTOR TO MENTOR

NOOHA SABANTA MAULA

Tutoring is generally a well-paid job with a certain degree of flexibility, which explains its popularity among students. This doesn't mean it's an easy one. A tutor is often also a friend or a mediator, since teaching a person also calls for understanding their problems and helping them overcome it. This requires going above and beyond the job description as a teacher.

I've taught a brilliant girl whose parents had a drug issue, requiring me to stick around during intense fighting in order to teach. The teaching part was fairly easy but it required a lot of effort in order to make her feel motivated to study while a shouting match continued in the next room.

There are many things that influence a person's ability to learn and understanding that is often the key to helping a student attain the results they are paying to see. This, however, is not an easy task, not only because it requires time, patience, and trust but also because not everyone is cut out to fulfil the role of a mentor. It is rewarding, though, particularly if someone wishes to keep tutoring that individual (for that great pay). Here's a rundown on what can be expected:

It takes time

Not only to gain the trust but also to fully understand the dimensions of the issue. It also takes time to gain a place where the tutor can have an opinion they can voice. It also takes time to see any visible impact of any changes a tutor brings. It's unlikely it'll work if either party involved is not willing to give that time lapse a chance.



Get an idea

The answers are usually a Google search away. While problems cannot be solved by putting them in a rubric all the time, having an idea of how it can be approached or the efforts furthered is always a great idea. This can also be used to try out alternative teaching methods so even if you can't help with a problem, you can at least excel at your job.

Be ready to accept failure

Some problems may be beyond the abilities of a tutor and that's okay. Parents can't always be convinced of problems. If they're part of the problem, it might be impossible to negotiate in that space. Things may have gone too far to be fixed with a little mentoring. If the scenario is very complex, the choice remains between just sticking around or finding a new student.

Don't let it affect you

It's important not to become so invested in the issue that it starts to bring the mentor down. This won't help anyone. If you find yourself struggling, talk to someone about it. In fact, if consulting might help you come up with a solution, go for it.

Even if there is a need to help out, it does not mean it is an obligation. Not everyone is cut out to be a mentor and it's also perfectly normal to not want to. It's not a personal failure. Make the move at your own will and take the liberty to step out if you see the need.

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