When do we become a parent? Is it when we gave birth to a child? Is it when we sent them to school? Is it when we raised them well? When is it really?

Have you ever asked yourselves why teachers are prominent for being called as “second parents” without necessarily being a mother/father? I think nobody would ever question that title of ours for we have proven to be parents to our pupils in different ways and aspects of their lives. However, I think we also have to be grateful to their parents for the opportunity they have given us to have their children as our own.

It cannot be denied that many days and nights were spent by teachers crying over their pupils whose parents were not so hands on or concerned about their own children. There were some parents who simply sent their kids to school and that’s it. Everything ends there. They thought simply sending them to school is enough and the door to a bright future will automatically open right there and then.

Yes, it is so frustrating. Every school year, we face similar problems and they all boil down to one reason: lack of parents’ involvement. In LaBahn (1995), it was discussed that parent involvement is a combination of commitment and active participation on the part of the parent to the school and to the student. We know very well that it is really difficult to work and be a parent at the same time. In fact, we are guilty also for being absent to the PTA meetings and activities of our “own” children. Thus, we have to also understand the case of other parents since according to LaBahn, there some reasons why parents lack involvement: feel unwelcomed at school, lack knowledge and education, and may not feel that education is important. With that, our role as a second parent become
vivid to the picture. So, instead of only focusing on the negative impacts of the “real” parents’ lack of involvement, we just have to perceive that as an opportunity for us to do our role: “second parents”.

We should not wait for parents to get involved. We’ll just wait for centuries to pass by if that’s what we’re thinking and planning to do. We only have a year to serve the batch. Thus, better brace ourselves and take the challenge of being a parent. Waiting for others to do his/her job is a waste of time, but waiting for ourselves to do ours is worst.

References: