

# People and Technology that work for *You...*

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## PT Connect Whitepaper

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# 1. Introduction

Aress Software and Education Technologies Pvt. Ltd. have developed an effective platform for networking and communication between Schools, Students, and Parents, through a school information management tool called **PT Connect** - facilitating the exchange of ideas and distribution of information between the major stakeholders of the School, i.e. Parents, Teachers, and other School Staff.

PT Connect meets some universal School/Parent/Student needs through a modern solution - enabling connectivity and interaction over the technology ecosystems of the 21st century. We have developed these systems using Microsoft Technologies (ASP.NET).



## 2. PT Connect

### 2.1 Introduction

PT Connect stands for Parents-Teachers Connect. PT Connect serves as an easy-to-use direct communications channel between parents and teachers as well as an information management tool designed to help parents and teachers work together seamlessly to keep on top of the logistical challenges associated with having children at school.

PT Connect is a one-stop solution for the communication requirements of the management of the school, thus facilitating speedy transmission of useful information between the users of the application. It helps the parents keep a track on their child's activities at school, with a direct access to the information passed on by the school. Also, it serves as an important time and energy saving tool for schools, focusing on detailed and quick access to all important student-related information as and when needed.

By providing parents with details on assignments due, items needed at school for activities, calendar events and other information – all on the screen of their mobile – PT Connect offers an anytime-anywhere reference and reminder that helps ensure that everything to do with their children is done in a timely manner, thereby easing their load as well as that of teachers and administrators.

Student access to information on the system is through Homework and Assignments with viewing rights accorded to their parents and full administrative control in the hands of teachers.

PT Connect is accessible via web as well as Android and iOS devices, and allows all forms of information to be generated and sent from either platform.

## 2.2 Key Features of PT Connect

- Groups
- Homework/Assignments
- Classwork
- Activities
- Attendance
- Permission Slips and Important Notices
- Messages
- Bus tracking
- Annual Calendar

### Groups

Teachers can create and form groups for every class & division. The groups can include other teachers and students. Class teachers can create separate groups for their class as well as for various activities. For example, Art Workshop Group, Reading Group etc. – and then invite appropriate students to join these groups. This allows them to share information specific to that group. Other Teachers can also be included in such groups.

Groups can be created of students from different classes who are participating in the same activity. For example, After-school clubs. Groups can be formed between teachers and parents as well.

### Homework/Assignments

This feature helps to ensure that the homework is informed about and completed on time. Homework management is one of the core functionalities of the system. PT Connect provides parents with easy access on their mobiles to information on what homework has been assigned to their children and when it is due. Teachers, in turn, can upload and edit information about homework assignments or even send attachments. Homework/assignment notifications come with due dates and reminders and can be sent to all parents in a class, parents of groups within that class or even individuals.

### Classwork

In case the child is unable to attend the school for a few days, it becomes difficult for the parents to get the respective notes once he/she is back, and a lot of time is spent on getting their kids on the same page as the other students. With PT Connect, the classwork notes are sent to the parents' mobile app daily, which means that the kids do not miss on their studies even if they miss the school for some reason.

Schools benefit a lot from this, as the teachers no longer would have to face the issue of teaching the same topic to the student/s who were absent for that previously.

### Activities

This is a tool for parents to keep on top of all the paraphernalia needed for curricular and extra-curricular activities. Parents can see the activities their children are involved in at school. As with homework, activities can be associated with all the students in a class, a year or even the whole school, as well as individual students. Even teachers can be associated with activities. This function is particularly useful because it allows parents to see what their children need to bring with them to school for the activity and to prepare accordingly.

### Attendance

This facilitates the sharing between schools and parents of information about individual child absences. Parents receive a push notification if their child is absent from school or any activity. They can also inform schools, either on the day or in advance, if their child will not be attending on a given day. It's easier for the schools as well, as it saves a lot of time for them, plus keeping a record and extracting any attendance report subject to any date becomes easier and faster.

### Permission Slips and Important Notices

This feature helps teachers and administrators maximize their day by minimizing repetitious reminders to parents.

Important messages can be sent to individuals or groups of parents. Parents can be required to indicate by return whether specific calls-to-action e.g. sending a signed permission slip via their child, have been at their side. Others, such as individual messages, can be responded to by the parent directly from their mobile.

Teachers can determine whether a response is either required or allowed. Where formal responses are indicated as being necessary, parents are given reminders on their mobiles until they respond directly or confirm through the application that the required action has been taken. Teachers and administrators can check at a glance how many responses are outstanding and who they are yet to come from.

### Messages

This is a platform for timely one-to-one and one-to-many messaging. Teachers and administrators can send messages about any subject to each other or to parents – either as an individual or as group messages. If permitted by the originator of the message, the recipient can respond directly to the sent message. The message originator can also close the message dialogue at any time. For example, when the required responses have been received.

### Bus tracking

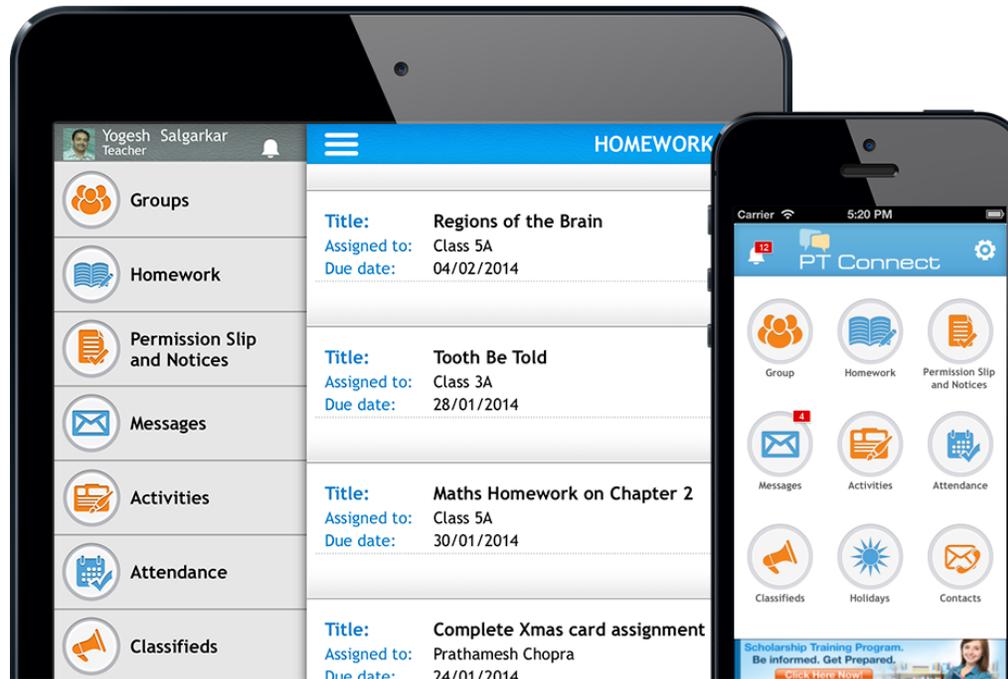
With the assistance of real-time GPS (provided the school buses are equipped with GPS tracking devices), parents can keep a track of the school bus's route and time required by it to reach the appropriate location. Once the child has been assigned a specific bus, the parent is notified on their device and the feature gets activated. Therefore, they can use this feature to keep track of the bus in which their child is traveling.

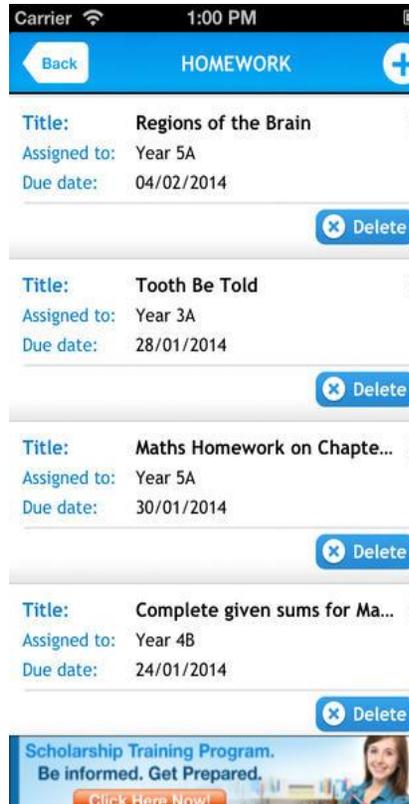
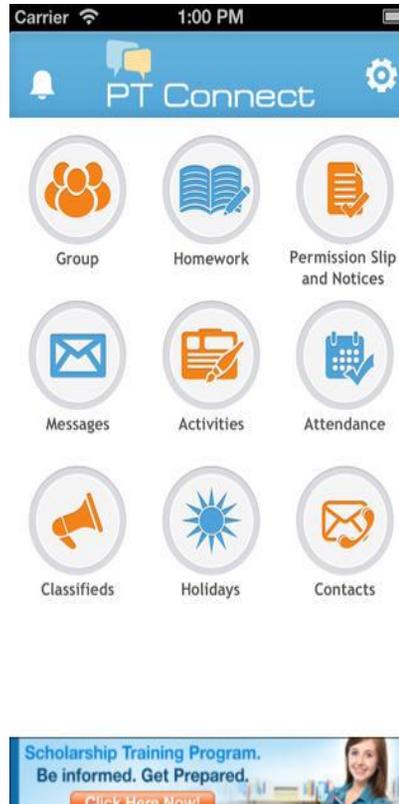
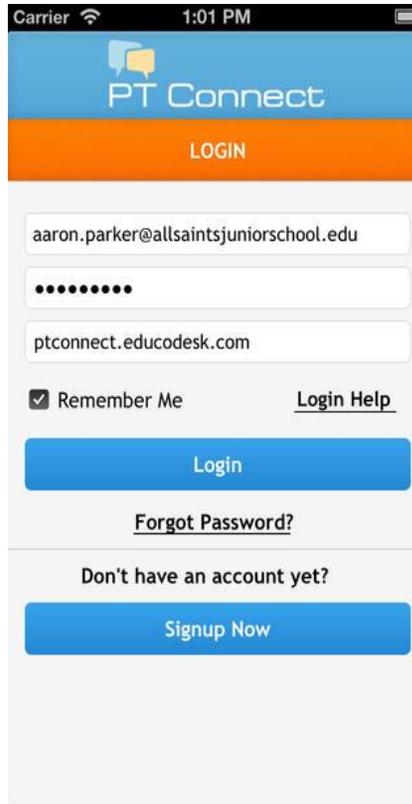
Parents are well informed in advance in case of the unavailability of the school bus at any point of time, thus avoiding the end moment worry and hassle.

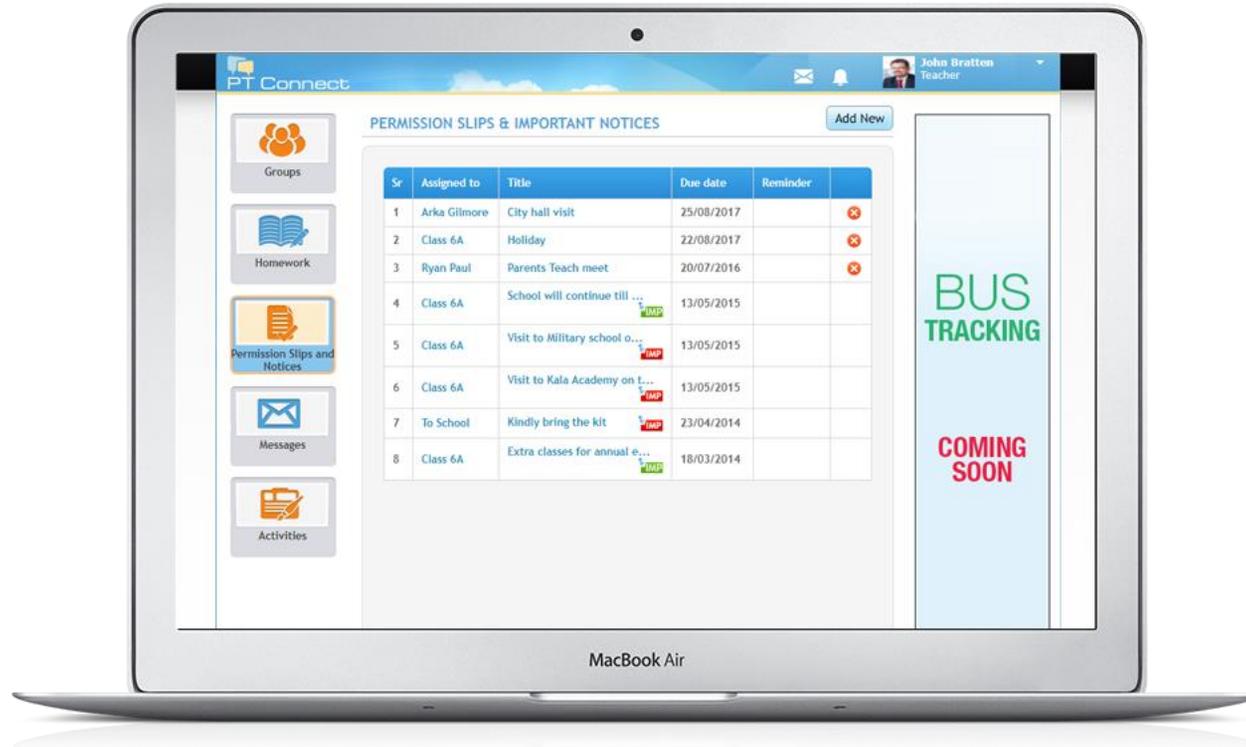
### Annual Calendar

The parents get the whole year's academic calendar on their mobile app, including details of the various events and functions that would be organized in the school for the said academic year. Parents receive all updates regarding the events via push notifications, may it be the Semester test, Annual day, Sports day or the Annual school holidays.

Schools can now upload the whole year's academic calendar on the PT Connect portal, which saves a lot of time and cost for them, and helps the school to Go Green.







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