

**BALSHALA NEWSLETTER** – Dec.4<sup>th</sup> 2016

“It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” – Mother Teresa

Let us keep such thought in mind during this festive month (and beyond) to bring out the true spirit of Christmas.

A second reminder:

Balshala website ([www.balshala.com](http://www.balshala.com)) is being moved to [www.balshala.org](http://www.balshala.org). So the .com will be redirected to .org for the time being and then it will get phased out next year. Binder material content is up on the website to enable printing at home. The snack volunteer schedule has been updated too.

Note: Mozilla Firefox or Internet Explorer are the preferred web browsers for viewing the Volunteer snack schedule.

Our thanks to Hiral & Sonal for the healthy Prasad distribution for all students present on Dec.4th.

This Sunday we will have morning assembly in the main temple first and then regular Balshala classes with group teachers. This will be the last Balshala class for the year 2016...Wait! No worries...We will resume classes in 2017 starting Jan.8<sup>th</sup> :)

Homework information for each group from the last Balshala class is shared below for your reference.

***Dec.11th Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers:*** Sunita Patel (m/o Nand & Krishna) and Nilam Patel (m/o Om and Krish)

**Morning Assembly –Teachers: Surekha Prasad & Meena Arun**

Reminders: Please arrive on time for the assembly at 10:30am. Students who arrive late need to quietly and quickly find their groups and be seated with them. Teachers will be seated with their classes. Parents of the Vanara group (Pre-K) are requested to be seated with their children. All parents who are not teachers are kindly requested to be seated in the back. The prayers and Aarti procedures will be perfected in the upcoming weeks. Upon arrival, please remember to put your footwear neatly on the metal racks on the side of the temple building. Aditi's presentation on "Hindu culture" was informative. The rituals we follow at times blindly were well explained.

Student of the week presentation for Dec.11th assembly: **Kunsh Sharma**(Guha Group)

**Vanara (Pre-K) – Teachers: Nandi Shetty, Girija Subramanian, Jagruti Patel**

Children worked on "Krishnam Vishnum" bhajan. They colored a picture of the symbol Om and listened to a story of Krishna.

Homework: Practice the bhajan and shloka learned in Balshala and encourage them to talk about what they learned in class.

**Bala (Kindergarten) – Teachers: Shobha Umapathy & Amisha Amin**

The class discussed about Lord Hanuman and listened to a panchatantra story based on friendship. They also practiced all three Shanthi mantras in class.

Homework: Complete coloring of Hanuman picture neatly and practice the Shanthi mantras.

**Lava (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) – Teachers: Hetal Acharekar & Falguni Patel**

Students learned importance on sharing and not being greedy by listening to 'The Slaying of Kabandha' story. They also played a game that showed the importance of teamwork in meeting a goal. Children practiced their focus shlokas and bhajans. Thanks to Anna Ramanathan and Sapna Patel for conducting the class.

Homework: Students need to keep practicing the bhajans and shlokas learned in class.

### **Kusha (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) – Teachers: Neha Gupta & Mukti Patel**

Students learned briefly about Mahabharat. They also read a story about the elephant and mouse. Later they practiced the bhajan and shloka in class

Homework: Students need to practice the shlokas and bhajans learned in class.

### **Dhruva (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades) – Teachers: Kiran Karanth & Asha Patel**

Students reviewed previous class discussion. They practiced the Lingashtakam and second stanza of Ganesha Pancharatna stotram. They also received a quiz on Ramayanam to get an understanding on Ramayana.

Homework: Students need to complete the 12-questions quiz handout on Ramayana. They also need to practice the Lingashtakam and Ganesha Pancharatna stotram.

### **Guha (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades) – Teachers: Vidya Sridharan & Srinivas Akella**

The class started with padmasana, meditation and techniques of proper breathing. They discussed about proper body postures while sitting and standing. They practiced sundara khandam and kishkinda khandam. The class concluded with Aise Raghunandana ko.... All guha group students have been assigned projects. The project is to make presentation of the assigned chapter from Ramayana as a ppt /poster.

Hridaya and Maya stepped up to be the first ones to present on Dec 11.

Presentation topics :

Bala khandam: Maya & Hridaya- Dec 11th

Ayodhya Khandam: Tejas- Jan 8th

Aranya Khandam : Aaryan -Jan 22nd

Kishkunda khandam: Siya&Nidhi - Feb 5th

Sundara khandam: Khunsh - Feb 12th

Yuddha Khandam: Aditi&Nacha-Feb 26<sup>th</sup>

Homework: Practice the Aranyakhandam, kishkindakhandam and sundarakhandam.

**Yuva (7<sup>th</sup> Grade) – Teachers: Srinivasan Thiagarajan**

Gita dhyanam first and fifth verses were rehearsed and practiced along with Mantra Pushpam first three verses. Radhe Radhe bhajan – completely were repeated, rehearsed and practiced. Subramanyam - First four lines were rehearsed and practiced.

Homework: Practice the shlokas and bhajans learned in class along with your daily prayers. Try to memorize them before next class.

Thanks,

**Team Balshala**