

## **BALSHALA NEWSLETTER** – Feb.5<sup>th</sup> 2017

*“There are hundreds of paths up the mountain, all leading to the same place, so it doesn’t matter which path you take. The only person wasting time is the one who runs around the mountain, telling everyone that his or her path is wrong.” ~ A Hindu proverb*

I hope this saying enriches our thought process, gives new dimensions to our perspectives, and helps us embrace the people we come across in the world. Rise up!

Our sincere thanks to Payal and Shama for the healthy snacks provided to students after last Sunday’s Balshala class.

This Sunday we will have regular Balshala classes with morning assembly first in the main temple.

### **Reminders:**

1. CALENDAR UPDATE: Sunday, Feb.19<sup>th</sup> was Hindi class in our Balshala calendar. However, with that weekend being the winter break for Columbia county schools, we have decided to cancel Balshala that day. So, please make note of the calendar change. Thanks!

2. GUHA & YUVA GROUP PARENTS MEETING: This Sunday we will have a brief meeting in the **main temple @ 12:00 noon**. Please plan to attend as it is regarding the Balshala third Sunday puja performed by our children in March.

3. EOY Program: Please communicate to your child’s group teachers if you are interested to help out with the cultural performance part of the End-of-year program. Teachers will be preparing your child to exhibit mastery of shlokas and bhajans in class. However, adding a dance/skit element will involve your willingness to lead volunteer and help think creatively with the teachers. Like last year, it will need to be in line with what they are learning in Balshala.

4. FOCUS SHLOKAS/BHAJANS: Your child needs to practice every day. Where to find the lyrics for the shlokas and bhajans? Your child should have a printout in his/her binder. If you are unable to find it, please please please print a copy of it from the Balshala website.

<http://www.balshala.org/groups---content.html>

Below the printable version buttons, there are links with audio files to help your child practice the pronunciation correctly as well. Also, if you click on your child's group, it will provide the links to print your child's group shlokas and bhajans lyrics only.

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

**February 12th Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers:** Balsubha Paregi (m/o Aman and Ayaan) and Sapna Shah (m/o Saiyan)

### **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. Upon arrival, please remember to put your footwear neatly on the metal racks on the side of the temple building. The kids learned how to sing the birthday song in Sanskrit - all verses. Get ready with your singing voices for next assembly :)

Student of the week presentation for Feb.12th assembly: **Aryan Gupta** (Guha Group)

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

Children practiced the Krishnam Vishnum bhajan. They colored a picture of Goddess Saraswati.

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**

Students practiced the shlokas and bhajan in class. The teachers wish to encourage your child to practice at home as many are not yet comfortable with the bhajan. They talked about Goddess Saraswati - the mother of knowledge and listened to a Panchatantra story as conclusion.

Homework: Practice the Shanthi mantras and bhajan taught in class. Finish your coloring sheet for class next Sunday.

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

Students practiced the shlokas two times with their teachers. They learned about Vasant Panchami and how it is celebrated with the Saraswati Puja.

Homework: Students need to memorize the shlokas learned in class. They will need to recite it independently next class.

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

Students practiced all three pradakshina mantras in class. Teachers plan to test the kids on their ability to recite it on their own next class.

Homework: Students need to practice the shlokas and bhajans learned in class. Prepare well for a test on all three Pradakshina mantras next class.

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

Students worked on focus shlokas and bhajans in class. They have been actively working in class at memorization, correct pronunciation and understanding the meaning of the Ganesha pancharatna and Lingashtakam.

Homework: Students need to practice their shlokas and bhajan learned in class.

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

The class started with padmasana and meditation. They practiced procedures for performing the third Sunday puja. All students did a great job. Parents need to work at home with the document sent in email to help your child feel ready for that day. The class closed with Om.

Guha group student presentations in class continue. Project involves making a presentation of the assigned chapter from Ramayana as a powerpoint/poster.

Presentation topic assignment:

Aranya Khandam : Aaryan – Feb.12th

Kishkunda khandam: Siya & Nidhi - Feb 12th

Sundara khandam: Kunsh - Feb 26th

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

Homework: Practice what you have learned in class. @ Parents – Please plan to attend the brief meeting this Sunday at 12 noon in the main temple. It is in regards to the March third Sunday puja planning.

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

Students practiced procedures for performing the third Sunday puja in March. They recited Suklambaratharam, Avahana Mantra and Dyana mantra. They rehearsed the Mantra Pushpam completely and sang the Radhe Radhe bhajan and Subramanya bhajan together. All students present did a great job.

Homework: Practice what you have learned in class. @ Parents – Please plan to attend the brief meeting this Sunday at 12 noon in the main temple. It is in regards to the March third Sunday puja planning.

Thanks,

**Team Balshala**