

BALSHALA NEWSLETTER – Nov.6th 2016

A lot of surprises not only happened in the financial front of India and in the politics of U.S this past week, many things happened in Balshala too :)

Balshala T-shirts were distributed out to students who attended class. If your child was absent, please make sure to collect their shirt from me at the end of Balshala this week.

Balshala website (www.balshala.com) has got a new look now! Binder material content is up on the website to enable printing at home. The snack volunteer schedule has been updated too. Watch out for more information on the website in the coming weeks!

Thanks to Surekha Prasad as she works on adding more content to the sub-pages.

Balshala calendar update: Please note that there is NO Hindi class on **Sunday, Nov.20th** due to the week-long Thanksgiving break holidays in our county schools.

Special thanks to Meghna and Pushpa for the healthy Prasad distribution for all students present on Nov.6th.

This Sunday we will have morning assembly in the main temple first and then Arts & Crafts in the cultural center as a group session.

NOTE: **Vanara and Bala group kids will need assistance from their parent.** So please stay seated with your child during the craft session. Thanks!

Nov.13th Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers: Jyoti Gotam (m/o Srishti) and Vijanthi Khianni (m/o Ahaana)

Morning Assembly –Teachers: Surekha Prasad & Anna Ramanathan

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. Anand's presentation on "Why we need to pray to God" was well delivered. We surely need to pray AND play hard :)

Student of the week presentation for Nov.13th assembly: **Krish Mathur** (Yuva Group)

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

Children worked on "Krishnam Vishnum" bhajan. They colored a Hanuman picture.

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 chanted the Shanthi mantras together. They also talked about Diwali and learned about Goddess Lakshmi. Thanks to Pushpa Kumar for helping out in class.

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

Lava (1st Grade) – Teachers: Hetal Acharekar & Falguni Patel

Students practiced shlokas and bhajans three times each. The class discussed about Lord Rama and how to celebrate Diwali. They also learned about Goddess Lakshmi and Durga worship on Diwali day.

Homework: Students need to write five good qualities about Lord Rama or Goddess Lakshmi.

Kusha (2nd Grade) – Teachers: Neha Gupta & Mukti Patel

Students discussed the importance of Lakshmi and Durga, They also learned about the festivals that we celebrate related to them.

Homework: Students need to practice the shlokas learned in class. They also need to draw (or print and color) a picture of Goddess Lakshmi and provide one fact that was not discussed in class.

Dhruva (3rd & 4th Grades) – Teachers: Kiran Karanth & Asha Patel

Students learned and discussed about seven rishis and seven swaras in Indian music. They discussed the story of Mahishasura. They practiced the Rama namo bhajan and learned the Pahi Pahi Gajanana. They also chanted the Lingashtakam.

Homework: Students need to read the handout on Durga and practice the Pahi pahi gajanana bhajan.

Guha (5th & 6th Grades) – Teachers: Vidya Sridharan & Srinivas Akella

Students practiced the Rama namam rigorously in class again. They have completed the Balakhandam, Ayodhyakhandam, Aranyakhandam and Kishkindakhandam. They concluded with singing the bhajans "Aise Raghunandana ko hamara bhi pranam hai" and "Anajaneya veera Hanumantha sura".

Homework: Practice the Aranyakhandam, kishkindakhandam and sundarakhandam.

Yuva (7th Grade) – Teachers: Srinivasan Thiagarajan

Students discussed about the presentation at the morning assembly and reflected on its glows and grows. Gita dhyanam first, second and fifth verses were rehearsed and practiced. Mantra Pushpam –first three verses and Radhe Radhe bhajan – completely were repeated, rehearsed and practiced.

Homework: Practice the shlokas and bhajans learned in class along with your daily prayers. Try to memorize them before next class. Prayer monitoring sheet needs to be signed by parents daily. Cash reward awaits them for best recital and successful completion of prayer monitoring sheet.

Thanks,

Team Balshala