

## **BALSHALA NEWSLETTER** – Nov.13<sup>th</sup> 2016

Hope everyone is back to a routine after the Thanksgiving holiday break. It is only a short sprint at school or at work before the next holiday break starts. So keep your festive spirits up!

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.

Special Thanks to Seema Patel and her group of volunteers for organizing a beautiful crafts project for the Balshala children last class. Please share with us any completed projects or pictures of the peacock plate.

Our thanks to Jyoti and Vijanti for the healthy Prasad distribution for all students present on Nov.13th.

This Sunday we will have morning assembly in the main temple first and then regular Balshalaclasses with group teachers.

Homework information for each group from the Nov.6<sup>th</sup> class is shared again for your reference.

***Dec.4th Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers:*** Hiral Patel (m/o Vraj) and Sonal Patel (m/o Bhoomi)

**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. Krish's presentation on "Bhai Dhuj" was informative. We truly are blessed to have a sibling to share our happiness and sorrow with :)

Student of the week presentation for Dec.4th assembly: **Aditi Umopathy** (Guha 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 Umopathy & 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (7<sup>th</sup> 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**