

BALSHALA NEWSLETTER – Sept.11th 2016

It was a great first day start to Balshala. Given a lot changes in the Augusta population this year, our Balshala registration stays strong with 84 kids, in total, as of first day. Thanks to all for your commitment.

Special thanks to Sadhna Kingler & Nicky Sheth for distribution of Prasad for all students present last week.

This upcoming Sunday, Sept. 25th is HTS **Balshala Sports Day and Picnic event**. As emailed earlier, please make note of this calendar change!

Please have the kids wear their Balshala T-shirt if he/she has one already from last year. If your child is newly registered in Balshala, then kindly let them wear a T-shirt (preferably yellow) as the new T-shirts are being ordered currently.

Kindly arrive at the venue (Wildwood Park, Appling GA) with your child(ren) and family at 9:45 am promptly as games are planned for Balshala kids from **10 am - 12 noon** followed by lunch and awards ceremony. Please feel free to participate in the HTS Picnic that will follow after but it is optional for Bashala families.

Hope everyone has done the RSVP for the event.

Evite link:

http://www.evite.com/event/00C8Q7IZS5NY3MYT2EPGOVXQXAEKDE/rsvp?utm_campaign=send_sharable_link&utm_medium=sharable_invite&utm_source=NA

This is just an update email about last week classes. Most teachers send their class updates to class parents. Please check with your child's group teacher if you have not received one for last week as they may have missed your email id.

No Prasad volunteers for next Sunday!

Oct.2nd Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers: Sundar Krishnamurthy (f/o Sahana) and Srinivasan Thiyagarajan (f/o Tejas & Theerth)

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. 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.

Student of the week presentation for Oct.2nd assembly: **Kaavya Menon** (Yuva Group)

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

Children learned the shloka: “Om Ganapathaye namaha”. They colored a Ganesha picture.

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

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

Students were told stories about Ganesha, his parents and how he got his elephant head, what he likes, etc.

Homework: Take time to neatly color the Ganesha picture sent home. Please come prepared with the necessary supplies and printouts as requested by teachers for next class.

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

Students started with a brief introduction to get to know each other. Teachers helped to organize binders for the kids who brought them to class. Students were asked to update their Balshalabinders with printouts of shlokas and bhajans as sent in an email by group teachers. They discussed the story about Ganesha being the God of success, and also the importance of Ganesha’s big ears. They actively participated in the discussion. Students recited and practiced 1 of the focus shlokas and bhajans in class.

Homework: Watch youtube videos of Balganesha stories and discuss in next class.

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

Students learned about Lord Ganesha and had active discussion. Thanks to Balsubha for helping out in class this week.

Homework: Color any one of the Ganesha pictures from the set emailed to parents by the teacher. Complete the handout given in class.

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

Students had a brief round of introduction. They discussed three stories about Lord Ganesha. Story handouts were given to students. They practiced the Rama namo Bhajan in class.

Homework: Read handouts provided in class. Learn the names of 7 sacred Indian rivers. Find the meaning of your name and practice the bhajan learned in class.

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

After a round of introduction, students discussed about the curriculum and set goals for the year. They learned the first two verses of Rama namam. Students should take some time to look over the pooja vidha document shared via email by group teachers.

Homework: Memorize the first 8 lines of Rama namam to recite in next class meeting.

Yuva (7th Grade) – Teachers: Srinivasan Thiagarajan

Students discussed the purpose of Balshala. They did a popcorn reading about the birth of Lord Ganesha story – with focus on symbolic aspects of this popular tale. Thanks to Surekha for teaching the class this week.

Homework: Google a story on Ganesha and prepare a powerpoint/poster/ essay to share with peers next time they meet as a class. Come prepared with an organized binder with shlokas and bhajans.

Thanks,

Team Balshala