

## **BALSHALA NEWSLETTER** – Dec.11<sup>th</sup> 2016

Happy new year to each and every one of you!

Hope 2017 is off to a good start. May you be blessed with all 16 forms of wealth: *Knowledge, intelligence, strength, valor, beauty, victory, fame, ambition, morality, gold and other wealth, food grains, bliss, happiness, health and longevity, and virtuous offspring.*

Our thanks to Sunitha and Nilam Patel for the healthy Prasad distribution for all students present on Dec.11th.

With snow predictions this Saturday, Kite festival has been moved from January 8<sup>th</sup> to **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. It will start at 11am at the Reddy gardens but with Balshala on that day, we again encourage the children to participate after noon in the Kite festival.

Now onto the BIG question.....**Do we have Balshala this Sunday?**

We plan to have Balshala classes as long as the weather cooperates and the roads are cleared for safe commute to the temple. \*\*\***So, please check your email on Sunday morning to know what the Balshala decision is\*\*\***

(However, parents are encouraged to use their best judgment to bring their child to class if the decision made is to have Balshala on Sunday.)

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

***Jan.8th Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers:*** Hinal Karia (m/o Bela & Sara) and Prabha Akella (m/o Pranita)

### **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. Thanks to Nacha for stepping up to do the morning assembly presentation in the very last minute. Nacha's presentation on "Yoga" was informative and interactive. The children (and adults present in

the assembly) enjoyed trying the tree pose or Vrikshasana and hopefully discovered their balance :)

Student of the week presentation for Jan.8th assembly: **Tejas Srinivasan** (Guha Group)

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

Children worked on “Krishnam Vishnum” bhajan. They colored a picture of Ganesha. They also had an interactive story time on Lord Krishna and Ganesha.

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 talked about Seva/service. They had an interesting discussion on how the children are planning to help their parents as part of service :). They listened to a panchatantra story as conclusion.

Homework: Practice the Shanthi mantras and bhajan taught in class.

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

Students learned the six basic principles: Sathya (truth), dharma (righteousness), shanthi (peace), prema (love), ahimsa (non-violence) and seva (service). Children practiced their focus shlokas and bhajans. Thanks to Jyoti Gotam for helping out with class today.

Homework: Students need to keep practicing the bhajans and shlokas learned in class. Students will need to share with the class about any selfless seva that they have done and how they applied the six principles over the holidays.

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

Students talked about Interfaith/Seva. They read a story about being kind and practiced the focus bhajan 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 the Ramayana quiz taken in the previous class. They recited the Lingashtakam and learned the third stanza of Ganesha pancharatnam. They worked on the Mahabharat quiz in class.

Homework: Students need to complete the Mahabharat quiz, practice Lingashtakam and work on memorizing the first 3 stanzas of Ganesha pancharatnam.

## **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 learned the chakrasana and practiced from Bala khandam to Yuddha khandam in class. Maya and Hridaya presented Bala Khandam as part of their project and did a fantastic job. The class concluded by singing 'Aise Raghunandana ko' bhajan. Project involves making a presentation of the assigned chapter from Ramayana as a powerpoint/poster.

Presentation topic assignment:

Ayodhya Khandam: Tejas- Jan 8th

Aranya Khandam : Aaryan -Jan 22nd

Kishkunda khandam: Siya & Nidhi - Feb 5th

Sundara khandam: Kunsh - Feb 12th

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

Homework: Practice what you have learned in class.

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

Attendance has been very low in Yuva group. Krish was the only student present today. So, kindly encourage your child to attend class as regularity is the key to learning! Gita dhyanam first and second verses were rehearsed and practiced. Krsish spent time to memorize these two verses.

Mantra Pushpam first three verses were rehearsed and practiced with Nimita Aunty. Radhe Radhe bhajan was practiced in class.

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

Thanks,

**Team Balshala**