BALSHALA NEWSLETTER – Jan.22nd 2017

"Flying colors" – a phrase that would aptly describe the HTS Kite festival. Both Vayu and Varuna devas were kind to us last Sunday :)…BIG thanks to ALL the parents who volunteered from Balshala to make the event a memorable one for the children.

We would like to thank Samta and Krina for the healthy snacks provided to students on the prior Sunday's Balshala class.

Reminders:

* THIS SUNDAY: We will have regular Balshala classes preceded by morning assembly. So, please encourage your child to attend.

* 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.

* FOCUS SHLOKAS/BHAJANS: Your child needs to practice everyday. Where to find the lyrics for the sholkas 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.

* <u>THIRD SUNDAY PUJA</u> - March 19th: This year Balshala Guha and Yuva group kids will be presenting what they have learned in class and conducting a part of the third Sunday puja. An exciting moment for them! So, please plan to attend and encourage the kids.

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

Feb.5th Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers: Payal Doshi (m/o Om & Arya) and Shama Kumari (m/o Aditya Kumar)

Morning Assembly –Teachers: Surekha Prasad & Meena Arun

<u>Reminders:</u> 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. We had a sweet and short assembly on January 29th with the kids present. It was exciting to see the children share with all their mastery of shlokas. The kids learned how to sing the birthday song in Sanskrit – the first two verses. They will complete learning it in the upcoming assembly. Student presentations will begin from Feb.12th again.

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

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

Children watched a video on Hanuman Chalisa. They colored a picture of Shri Ram.
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. They talked about the Indian flag and had a discussion on it.
Homework: Practice the Shanthi mantras and bhajan taught in class. Draw the Indian flag and color it for homework.

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

Kids practised Shlokas and bhajans. Audio for Yaa Kundendu Tushara Hara (Saraswathi Stotram) was played while children practiced the same following in their binder. There was very little time to learn new subject hindu traditions which covered the basis of traditions. Parents please check binders for Lava group shlokas and Bhajans or can print from the balashala website

http://www.balshala.org/lava------1st-grade.html

Shristi and Adway did their H.W from last class.

Homework: Students have written their HW on paper: draw and color any 3 symbols of Hinduism; Practice and memorize Sarawathi stotram and watch the audio/video on youtube.

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

Students learned about Navagraha Gods and practiced the pradakshina mantras.

Homework: Students need to practice the shlokas and bhajans learned in class. They have a test on Pradakshina mantras-1 and 2 tomorrow.

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

Students learned about Makar Sankaranthi. They practiced the Ganesha pancharatna and Lingashtakam in class.

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

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

Yuva and Guha groups combined for a group session last Sunday. The class started with padmasana and meditation. They discussed how to conduct the third Sunday puja in March and roles were assigned to students present. Parents need to work at home with the document sent in email to help your child feel ready for that day.

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

Presentation topic assignment:

Ayodhya Khandam: Tejas - (moved to Jan.22nd)
Aranya Khandam : Aaryan - Jan 22nd
Kishkunda khandam: Siya & Nidhi - Feb 5th
Sundara khandam: Kunsh - Feb 12th
Yuddha Khandam: Aditi & Nacha-Feb 26th

Homework: Practice what you have learned in class.

Yuva (7th Grade) – Teachers: Srinivasan Thiagarajan

Yuva group combined class with Guha group last class. So, please see the Guha group update.

Homework: Practice the shlokas and bhajans learned in class along with your daily prayers. Try to memorize them before next class. Mantra pushpam is going to be recited by Yuva group students at the third Sunday puja in March. So, practice well.

Thanks,

Team Balshala