

BALSHALA NEWSLETTER – Jan.8th 2017

Balshala had their second Hindi class for the year last Sunday. The teachers revised the vowels and taught the first two rows of consonants, their sounds and with examples. Children had a quiz on what they learned for the day. The Powerpoint for the class will be available on the website in the next few days.

Our thanks to Puja Sharma for the healthy Prasad distribution for all students who attended the Hindia class We also would like to thank Srinivas and Hiral for the healthy snacks provided to students on the prior Sunday's Balshala class.

This Sunday we will have regular Balshala classes with morning assembly first in the main temple.

With rainy weather again for this weekend, Kite festival has been moved from this Sunday to **January 29th**. It is still planned from 11am to 3pm at the Reddy gardens. If the weather cooperates and the festival happens as planned, we will wrap up Balshala with morning assembly at 11am after which the children can directly attend the event with their parents.

However, if the weather is not good, then we will do the Balshala Yoga day as marked in the calendar after the morning assembly. So, we will update you all next week with the confirmed plans. The kite festival committee is still on the lookout for more parent volunteers. Please contact Hiren (hiren-patel@msn.com) / (803)292-6356) or Mohan (Wakade@gmail.com) / (706)589-4171) if you are interested to be a volunteer at the event.

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

Jan.22nd Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers: Samta Shetty (m/o Jay and Dev) and Krina Patel (m/o Mahi)

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. Upon arrival, please remember to put your footwear neatly on the metal racks on the side of the temple building. Thanks to Tejas for talking about the festival, Makar

Sankaranthi and how it is celebrated in various parts of India. The quiz-time was the highlight of his presentation. We also sang the birthday song in Sanskrit for all the December-born students in Balshala.

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

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

Children worked on “Krishnam Vishnum” bhajan. They colored a picture of Aum symbol.

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 Pongal festival and reviewed the Shanthi mantras. They were asked to draw and discuss about their New Year holiday break activities/trip.

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

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

Students learned the different symbols in Hinduism and their significance. Kids also performed yoga postures and learned the names in English and Sanskrit.

Homework: Students need to keep practicing the bhajans and shlokas learned in class. They need to draw and color the Shankh, bhagva dhvaj and lotus.

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

There was only one student present in class. A lesson on Pongal was given and a pongal-related picture was colored in class.

Homework: Students need to practice the shlokas and bhajans learned in class.

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

Students completed the Mahabharath quiz in class. They talked about stories in Mahabharath.

Homework: Students need to read the handouts on Sankaranthi provided in class.

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

The class started with padmasana. They talked about respect and gestures. Students practiced from Bala khandam to Yuddha khandam in class. 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

Students shared their thoughts on Makara Sankaranthi and the festival significance was discussed. Gita dhyanam first, second and fifth verses were rehearsed and practiced. Krsish spent time to memorize these two verses. Mantra Pushpam first three verses were rehearsed and memorized. The meaning of the shloka was their popcorn reading for the day. 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. Mantra pushpam is going to be recited by Yuva group students at the third Sunday puja in March. So, practice well.

Thanks,

Team Balshala