

## **BALSHALA NEWSLETTER** – Feb.12<sup>th</sup> 2017

On this special night of Maha Shivrathri let us try to emulate Lord Shiva himself in our daily lives.

*“Unison of mind, body and spirit (His matted hair); control our ego (serpent); suppression of evil (blue throat); everything is temporary, even our own body (ash-smearred body); control of mind, intellect and ego (trishul); ability to see with the mind’s eye beyond what’s visible (third eye); end of ignorance and dawn of knowledge and peace (Ganga).”*

~~~~~“Happy Shivrathri to everyone!”~~~~~

Our sincere thanks to Subha and Sapna for the healthy snacks provided to students after last Sunday’s Balshala class.

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

### **Reminders:**

#### 1. UPCOMING EVENTS IN BALSHALA:

\* **Sunday, Mar.12<sup>th</sup>** is Arts & Crafts Day. If you are interested to be a volunteer for this event, please email and let us know.

\* **Sunday, Mar.19<sup>th</sup>** is Balshala sponsored third Sunday Puja – All Balshala kids and families are invited! All parents are invited for this BIG day for our older kids in Balshala and the younger kids have a small role to play as well.

2. 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.

3. FOCUS SHLOKAS/BHAJANS: Your child needs to practice every day. Where to find the lyrics for the shlokas 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.

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

**February 26th Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers:** Jagruti Patel (m/o Krisha) and Sapna Patel (m/o Ava & Khaya)

### **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. We sang the birthday song in Sanskrit for all January and February born children in Balshala. Thanks to Aryan for the presentation on community service – a very apt topic for our very own Balshala :)

Student of the week presentation for Feb.26th assembly: **Siya Lal** (Guha Group)

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

Children practiced the Krishnam Vishnum bhajan and did a coloring sheet. Homework: Practice the bhajan and shloka learned in Balshala and encourage them to talk about what they learned in class. @ Parents – Please connect with your group teacher regarding EOY program ideas.

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

Students practiced the shlokas and bhajan in class. They need to keep practicing at home too. They talked about character building in class. Homework: Practice the Shanthi mantras and both bhajans taught in class. @ Parents – Please connect with your group teacher regarding EOY program ideas.

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

Students practiced the shlokas and bhajans in a group and in pairs. They did a silent meditation and worked on breathing. Kids were taught about love and friendship with stories and discussed about its morals.

Homework: Students need to keep practicing the bhajans and shlokas at home to be able to recite them independently. @ Parents – Please connect with your group teacher regarding EOY program ideas.

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

Students practiced all three pradakshina mantras in class. Teachers plan to work on bhajans in next class. Come prepared with the lyrics and listen to the audio on the website prior to Sunday.

Homework: Students need to practice the shlokas and bhajans learned in class. @ Parents – Please connect with your group teacher regarding EOY program ideas.

### **Dhruva (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades) – Teachers: Kiran Karanth & Asha Patel**

Students worked on focus shlokas and bhajans in class. They practiced the Lingashtakam, Ganesha pancharatna stotras and Pahi pahi Gajanana bhajan. They discussed the story of Daksha and birth of Subramanya. They talked about year-end prizes for best behavior, folder organization, class participation, written quiz and confident recitation of the storas.

Homework: Students need to practice the two shlokas and two bhajans learned in class. @ Parents – Please connect with your group teacher regarding EOY program ideas.

### **Guha (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades) – Teachers: Vidya Sridharan & Srinivas Akella**

Guha and Yuva classes combined together for practicing the third Sunday puja procedures. The class started with padmasana and meditation. They practiced procedures for performing the third Sunday puja. All students did a great job. Parents need to work at home with the document sent in email to help your child feel ready for that day. The class closed with Om.

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

Presentation topic assignment:

Sundara khandam: Kunsh - Feb 26<sup>th</sup>

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

Homework: Practice what you have learned in class. @ Parents – Please let us know if you can pitch in with cooking on Saturday Mar.18<sup>th</sup> for the puja on the next day. The kids will have a mock puja practice on that Saturday from 10:30-12 noon. @ Parents – Please connect with your group teacher regarding EOY program ideas.

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

Students practiced procedures for performing the third Sunday puja in March along with the Guha group. They recited Suklambaratharam, Avahana Mantra and Dyana mantra. They rehearsed the Mantra Pushpam completely and sang the Radhe Radhe bhajan and Subramanya bhajan together. All students present did a great job.

Homework: Practice what you have learned in class. @ Parents – Please let us know if you can pitch in with cooking on Saturday Mar.18<sup>th</sup> for the puja on the next day. The kids will have a mock puja practice on that Saturday from 10:30-12 noon. @ Parents – Please connect with your group teacher regarding EOY program ideas.

Thanks,

**Team Balshala**