

## **BALSHALA NEWSLETTER** – Feb.28th 2017

The term “March madness” is coined for a reason, I suppose. Balshala has its effect as well. So, kindly stay organized, help your child be organized, work with your child at home on what they are learning in class and last but not the least please “bring” your child to Balshala everyday on time as we approach the end of the year – the only way your child can receive the FULL benefit of the program.

Our sincere thanks to Jagu 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. However, please note that due to conflict with Ramakrishna Jayanthi puja at the main temple, we will conduct the morning assembly in the cultural center and group lessons will follow right after. So please drop your child off at 10:30a.m sharp in the **cultural center!**

### **Reminders:**

#### 1. UPCOMING EVENTS IN BALSHALA:

\* **Sunday, Mar.12<sup>th</sup>** is Arts & Crafts Day (followed by Holi celebrations hosted by youth group in the Reddy gardens at noon)

\* **Sunday, Mar.19<sup>th</sup>** is Balshala sponsored third Sunday Puja – All Balshala kids and families are invited! Please be part of 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.

***Mar.5th Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers:*** Shobha Umapathy (m/o Aditi) and Hinal Karia (m/o Sara & Bela)

### **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. Starting March the kids will independently chant the dhyana mantras with the older kids will be seated up front group-wise each week. Thanks to Siya for the lovely lesson on being happy with one's identity – it was story-telling with great confidence. Well done!

Student of the week presentation for Mar.5th assembly: Maya Patel (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. Teachers observed that children do not have their materials still printed out and placed in binders. Please print the lyrics for the Bala group off the website as we approach the end of the year. They need to keep practicing the bhajans and shlokas at home too. They talked about Lord Shiva in class and concluded with a panchtantra story.

Homework: Practice the Shanthi mantras and both bhajans taught in class. Complete homework sheet sent home. @ 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 groups of 2's and 4's. They learned about Mah Shivratri and Lord Shiva.

Homework: Students need to keep practicing the bhajans and shlokas at home to be able to recite them independently. Trace a picture of Lord Shiva and color it. @ 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 and bhajans in class. They learned about Lord Shiva and had related discussion.

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 practiced the Lingashtakam and Ganesha pancharatna stotras. They reviewed homework and discussed on 'how knowledge is transferred from generation to generation'. They read and discussed material about Lord Shiva.

Homework: Students need to read the handout on Shiva. Practice the two shlokas and bhajans learned in class. Answer the question: "Why do yogis sit on tiger skin while doing meditation?" @ 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 three Om's and meditation. They practiced procedures for performing the third Sunday puja. All students did a great job. Please try to memorize your lines before next class. They watched a video on Maha Shivratri and shared significance of this special night. 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 – Mar.5th

Yuddha Khandam: Aditi & Nacha-Mar.5th

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**

Please see Guha group update. Thanks to Srinivasan for taking both classes together!

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**