

**BALSHALA NEWSLETTER** – Oct.2nd & 16th 2016

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever!” ~ Mahatma Gandhi

A fitting quote for the children and parents in Balshala. Thanks for putting your time and working with kids to make learning meaningful.

Special thanks to Srinivasan & Sundar for distribution of Prasad for all students present on Oct.2nd.

Last week Hindi class was well conducted. Attendance was lower than expected but the kids present did a fabulous job in participation. Students learned about the vowels in Hindi language and did various activities to master their understanding.

Thanks to Nibedita Mishra for bringing Prasad for the children last week.

This upcoming Sunday is regular Balshala class (replaces the originally planned Sports day event). So, please arrive at the main temple at 10:30 am sharp for morning assembly and arathi followed by group classes.

***Oct.23rd Balshala Prasad & clean-up volunteers:*** Seema Patel (m/o Adi Patel) and Meena Arun (m/o Nacha Bala Ramanathan)

**Morning Assembly –Teachers: Surekha Prasad & Anna Ramanathan**

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.

Student of the week presentation for Oct.23rd assembly: **Pratham Patel** (Yuva Group)

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

Children worked on “Ganesha sharanam” bhajan. They colored a Durga picture.

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 were reminded of previous class lesson on Ganesha and homework was checked. This class they learned about Indian leaders, mainly Gandhiji and his role in getting independence for the country. Students chanted the focus mantras as well.

Homework: Complete coloring of Mahatma Gandhi picture neatly for next class.

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

Students talked about their BalGanesh video that they saw for HW and Shristi told the story. Everyone recited 2 shlokas and 1 bhajan. They discussed about Mahatma Gandhi and his teachings of Non-violence and Satyagraha for freedom. They got to write big words :)

Homework: Students need to practice 2 Shlokas (Guru Mantra and Saraswati Mantra). They need to draw and color the Indian flag and if possible explain in the next class the meaning of colors in the flag.

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

Students learned and discussed about Mahatma Gandhi. They worked on pradakshina mantra 1. They recited the first 4 lines.

Homework: Students need to work on the memorization of the pradakshina mantra learned in class.

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

Students did a quick introduction. They reviewed what they learned about the seven sacred rivers of India. They completed reading handout on Gandhiji and learned about his philosophy of life. Students practiced the Lingashtakam and Rama namo bhajan.

Homework: Practice the Lingashtakam and Rama namo bhajan.

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

Students learned completely the first chapter of Rama namam. They also watched a small documentary on Gandhiji.

Homework: Learn the second chapter of Rama namam to be able to recite in next class.

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

Students discussed about the presentation at the morning assembly and how to be a role model in the temple to younger kids. Gita dhyanam, mantra

pushpam and Radhe radhe bhajan – first five verses of each were practiced in class.

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

Thanks,  
**Team Balshala**