

The Vidyalaya Times

Raj Kansara and Surya Karthik - January 2018



Why I Love Vidyalaya - Poojita Yanamandra (3rd Grade)

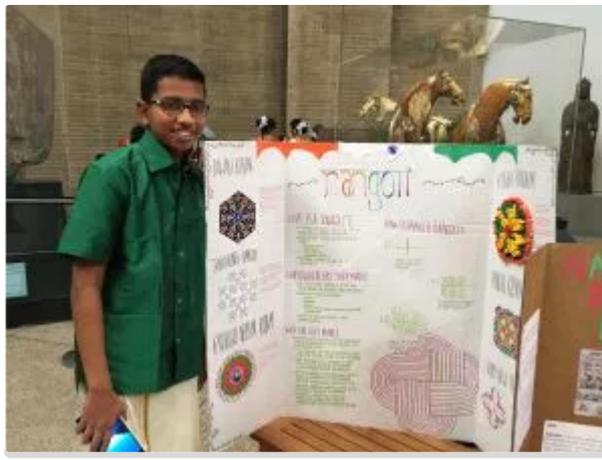
Every Sunday, we wake up early and get ready to get to school. School on a Sunday? Yes - it's our favorite school, Bharatiya Vidyalaya of course! Some people do not like getting up early on Sundays, but for others it is simply a joy.

My favorite thing about Vidyalaya is that I can learn about our Indian culture, religion and language. There are also lots of events, festivals, and dances to participate in so I do not get bored. It's from kindergarten to 12th grade so everyone can join. Every teacher is nice and they give us candy but you have to be good. I wake up every Sunday early because I live in New Jersey and the Vidyalaya is in Pennsylvania. Even if I live far away I still go to the Vidyalaya because it is such a great place to learn and I have lots of fun. Vidyalaya makes birthdays really special. Sometimes we have ice cream, pizza, or pasta for lunch and other times we have rice, puri, or noodles for lunch. This is why I love the Vidyalaya.

Bharatiya Vidyalaya @ Penn Museum - Surya Karthik (9th Grade)

On Dec 3, 2017, Vidyalaya students presented Indian Culture at Penn Museum, University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The students presented about different Indian festivals such as Diwali, Rangoli, Navaratri, etc. Students from Vidyalaya also participated in dances. Visitors were awed by the rich and colorful traditions of India. Several students from Vidyalaya were interviewed by CBS Philly.

As shown below, Surya Karthik (who also happens to be the co-author for this newsletter) is standing beside his amazing poster explaining the art of the Rangoli. For more information, visit the *CBS Philly* website using the link below.



"Penn Museum Celebrates Holidays Around The World"

Click on "Penn Museum Celebrates Holidays Around the World" for the link.

Ganesh Festival - Poojitha Medi (4th Grade) and Abhinav Medi (3rd Grade)

Every year we look forward to Ganesh Festival, especially as we make our own Ganesha with clay at our house and decorate for the festival. We also look forward to the Philadelphia Ganesh Festival because the Bharatiya Temple is very nicely decorated and it creates a festive atmosphere for the community. The procession of Lord Ganesh is the best part of the whole festival. This year we came to the Temple almost everyday. We like coming to the temple to help in different committees and play with our friends. We also like participating in the PGF by singing Bhajans and dancing during the processions. The IndiaFest is also a great opportunity for others in the community to come and learn about Indian culture and food. We also helped with Bharatiya Vidyalaya Stall during the IndiaFest this year.



Ganesha Procession -
Poojitha Medi (4th
Grade) and Abhinav
Medi (3rd Grade)



Poojitha Medi (4th
Grade)



Home made Lord
Ganesha Idol - Poojitha
Medi (4th Grade)



I am writing this article to highlight how learning Geeta is necessary for us to live our life more effectively. In order to highlight its importance, I first examine some commonly held misconceptions, which lead people to think that Geeta is not meant for young students.

The word 'Bhagavad' means God or The Supreme Lord, Bhagavan in Sanskrit; 'Geeta' means song. Thus, Bhagavad Geeta means the Song of God or the Sacred Song, because it was sung by Lord Krishna himself. The most basic principle of Hinduism is *Ahimsa* (non violence) and that all lives, human or nonhuman, are sacred. Therefore, when Lord Krishna advises Arjuna to get up and fight, it may confuse us about the principle of Ahimsa if we do not keep in mind the background of the war of Mahabharata. This spiritual talk between the Supreme Lord, Krishna, and Arjuna, did not occur in a temple, school, home, or on a mountaintop, but it was in the battlefield on the day of the war.

The Geeta, as everybody knows, is a sacred book of the Hindus. The verses of Geeta are used while performing a few rituals.

Bhagavad Geeta contains 700 verses written in Sanskrit. Geeta is actually based on the dialogue between Arjuna and Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna was Arjuna's charioteer. During the war of Kurukshetra, Arjuna was guided by Lord Krishna and the knowledge that he provided to Arjuna is the subject matter of the Geeta.

Bhagavad Geeta teaches the values of life; it explains the different ways to remain in the vicinity of God. The excerpts from Bhagavad Geeta have many incidents where there are stories of moral struggles of human life. There are solutions how to win the moral struggles and take the right decisions in the end. Lord Krishna advised Arjuna to do his work without expecting any results. He also taught about selfless actions.

This will be helpful for kids. While growing up, kids face many problems in life. If they have knowledge of Geeta, it will give them the strength to work through problems.

Beautiful Artistry

Art is common in many forms. In this segment, Sanaya and Sudiksha show us beautiful works of art. Sanaya portrays a well-crafted hand drawn Rangoli with intricate style and lotus shaped design. Sudiksha created a painting inspired from the Bala Ramayana book. The painting displays the precision and choice of colors very well. Good job Sudiksha and Sanaya!



Sudiksha Padala (1st Grade)



Sanaya Sinharoy (5th Grade)

About the Newsletter Staff...

Raj Kansara - Student Editor

Hari Om! My name is Raj Kansara. I am 14 years old and I am in the 9th Grade. This is my first year at the Vidyalaya. I love sketching and creating gadgets. This experience gives me a whole new spectrum of knowledge to consider and this gives me the chance of a lifetime. I enjoy coming to the Vidyalaya and learning about different topics that are not taught at a regular school.

Surya Karthik - Student Editor

Hari Om everyone! My name is Surya Karthik and I am in 9th grade. This is my first year attending Vidyalaya. I am really happy for having an opportunity to attend. Vidyalaya teaches me many life lessons and now making my life decisions seems much easier. Thank You and Happy Holidays.

About Us

Bharatiya Vidyalaya vision is to teach, foster, and preserve Indian cultural and spiritual values for the benefit of the children. Our goal is to develop awareness of Indian cultural heritage, traditions, values, and develop basic reading, writing, and communication skills in various Indian languages.

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