



Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



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An Expression

...“knowledge, love and constant effort are the three legs on which life stands. If one of the legs of a tripod is broken, it cannot stand, since all the three legs are needed. This is also the condition of life. Even if we logically distinguish between devotion (Bhakti), knowledge (Gyana), and action (Karma), we cannot divide them in experience. The three together make up one great entity....”

Similarly the universe presents countless objects to our eyes. We can divide them into three classes. As the devotee wakes up in the morning, his mind first goes to the Lord. Then he makes preparation for His worship. What remains is the rest of the creation, which is the means for worship. The Lord supreme gives us means which are endlessly new and wonderful, and He take from us service which springs from Love. Giving us all sorts of things, He lets us play. If only we can develop this attitude in life, what happiness would be ours?”

Acharya Vinoba Bhavae

The great spiritual teachers, in their deep investigations into the nature and function of devotion (Bhakti) and knowledge (Gyana), detected that there is a mutual relationship between the two. Without any devotion one cannot gather any knowledge. It is equally true that when understanding and knowledge grows to be clearer and deeper, our devotion for it will also expand and heighten. According to our GURUS’ - Bhakti and Gyana are not two different things. Bhakti is the attitude of the mind; Gyana is the attitude of the intellect - both flowing toward the Lord.

At *Vallabh Vidya Mandir* we are working together to have a better understanding and a chastened knowledge of the supreme. This will help increase devotion in our hearts, leading to knowledge discovery and growth. The acquired knowledge and devotion can help all of us create a loving atmosphere, and the service we will perform in our society will be our offering to the Lord.

Phalguni Kikani

...VVM Update

At VVM all of the classes are back on track after a small turbulence of attendance during Navratri nights. We appreciate all the students and the teachers WHO ATTENDED SUNDAY CLASSES AFTER LATE GARBA NIGHTS!! It speaks volume about their enthusiasm and dedication. Students, “..you deserve an extra pat on your back..”! We are proud of you.

The Religion classes were deep in thought about Hinduism as the Arts and Crafts students were busy making gift bags and candle holder for Diwali. Cooking class continues to feed our hungry palettes. We enjoyed the beautiful creations of fruit/vegetable carvings to make pretty centerpieces. The Dance class girls dance like Gopikas with the rhythm, while Keyboard kids are getting their fingers adjusted on the proper keys. Some of the kids are ready to make “DHUN”. Great progress! Moral Science students are having fun with folklores and writing their own stories. Bhajan class students are coming out from their shyness and

ready to hit the notes. They have been getting some basic knowledge of ragas, tal and sur too. Tabla students are getting the hang of all the terminology of the classical instrument. Some of the students are waiting for their Tablas to arrive. Gujarati language students are close to graduating from alphabets to small sentences and improving their Gujarati vocabulary along the way. SAT class has grown rapidly and kids are learning the skills to do better on their tests. Adult English students are astonished to find that reading can be fun and it is not that hard if we put our mind to it. By doing so they find a new world being opened up! Yoga class is helping the students stay fit, and realize how flexible one’s body can become.

It is obvious that our dedicated teachers are staying focused and passing on great skills to our students. We expect all our students to put effort to make each subject and class a success as well as making VVM a fun learning place.

Phalguni Kikani

Announcements

- We are starting PRE-K classes for ages 3 ½ to 5 years from *November 6th* starting at *11:00AM*.
- We are starting Classical dance class - Bharat-Natyam from *November 13th* at *12:00*

Please Register with –
Phalguni Kikani



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March is on...

Vallabh Vidya Mandir has taken aggressive and progressive steps to implement a productive education program. The variety of courses we offer are designed with great thought and deliberation. The basic purpose of these classes is not only to provide useful education to strengthen one's abilities and help acquire skills but is designed to pass on pride and appreciation of our cultural heritage and our way of life. If we succeed in instilling that through *Bhasha* (Language), *Bhusha* (Dressing), *Bhojan* (Food) and *Bhajan* (Worship) we would have accomplished our goal. If our students master Gujarati language and are able to read, write and speak, if they will take pride in wearing Indian dresses, if they will learn to appreciate and enjoy Indian foods and learn how to cook them, and if they will learn to worship through Bhajans accompanied with appropriate musical instruments, one would think we have succeeded. But that is not all. In Sanskrit language there is a verse: "*Vidya Vinayen Shobhate*".

That is, *Vinay* (humility and politeness) makes *Vidya* (knowledge) shine.

It means it is the duty of all the teachers (*Gurus*) to instill *Vinay* in their students. But teachers can only instill it, if they themselves have it. That is why it is very important that in order to accomplish our goals, we display *Vinay* ourselves. Then only our teaching will have truly succeeded.

Sureshbhai Patel

Special Thanks...

- To Vikki for her creative attributes in the *Arts and Craft* class.
- To Sohani ben Shah, Palavi ben Shah, Amita ben Patel, and Bina ben Shah in our *Cooking* class

Up Coming Events

Family dinner night –
January 21, 2006

VVM Annual Program –
April 22, 2006

Attention:

- Parents NOT allowed in classroom during session
- No kids under age 10 in Yoga Class
- Regular attendance required

Important....

THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES ON
NOVEMBER 27th



Happy Diwali &

Saal Mubarak

- The VVM Family



VVM Website is Under
Construction. Please be Patient