



Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



Publisher – VVM

Volume Number 2

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An Expression...

Research suggests that one of the best ways to help students' increase their language proficiency is to encourage them to read, write and express extensively. When students write their experiences they gain skills that benefit them for life and tap into their feelings.

Keeping that in mind, VVM is dedicating the December Newsletter to student write-ups.

Unfortunately we cannot publish all 150 student write-ups in one issue. We have selected a few and rest will be compiled at the end of the academic year for the VVM yearbook.

We want all VVM students to believe that their writing will be respected, criticized constructively and praised appropriately because the kids enjoy seeing their by-lines, publishing their work brings out their best efforts.

The aim of this newsletter is to describe how students at VVM are responding to the Sunday classes. Specifically, it aims to describe the students' attitude towards their

culture, heritage and experience at VVM.

Phalguni Kikani

Students Corner...

We have heard the famous proverb 'School is Your Second Home' but only a few schools fit this. VVM is one of those few. I have been in the US for only one and half years and did not have many friends. When my aunt said I had to go to school on Sundays, I felt lousy and did not want to go. But now I want to go there every day. I made new friends and met new people. The classes were fun and are well taught. I was overwhelmed by the amount of erudition I received. So I thank and congratulate Phalguni Auntie and her group of volunteer teachers who have made this school our Second Home.

Hardik Shah

I like VVM because the teachers are making kids futures better since grown ups teach better about Gods, and the better that the grown ups teach, the better the kids learn

Dhruv Patel

I am proud of myself for learning my mother tongue. If French and Spanish people are able to speak their language then we should be able to speak and write Gujarati. Our teacher, Nickey auntie has taught us a lot. I am very thankful to VVM for teaching our mother tongue and our culture.

Learning about our culture makes a difference in our lives

Utsav Baxi

Every Sunday I go to VVM to learn Gujarati and Dance. My Gujarati class is very sweet. We learn new things as well as have fun. I always wanted to learn to read and write in my mother tongue, so later I will be able to write to my grandpa who lives in India.

Dance is the best class of all. We get to learn new steps taught. I am glad I have this opportunity to learn something new every week and make my parents and teachers proud.

Nikita Shah

In cooking class we learn to cook good food. I am so happy you offer cooking classes because I am only 11 years old and I get to learn how to cook at this age. In dance class we learn new steps every week, and make



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new friends. We also get exercise with the help of great teachers.

Kushal Shah

Good News....!!

VVM Website is Now Running.
Visit us at
www.vvmhouston.org

When I went to my first yoga class, I was all excited. However, I was not sure how much I would be able to exercise. That week, every move of my body reminded me of Yoga class. Yes, yoga put all my lazy muscles to work. Our teacher, Dakshaben, is always smiling. She is providing us with wealth of knowledge on health and yoga. I am thankful to VVM for bringing excellent educational opportunities for every one.

Urvashi V. Desai

I like religion because we do projects, pray, play games, do crossword puzzles, and we talk about respect.

Raj

Taking Yoga is exciting and good for our health. This class gives me time

for myself, which is great. Thank you and hope it continues for years.

Nisha

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March Goes On...

This month's write up is kept brief.

Two Basketball Systems

To be installed on *Saturday, December 2, 2006*

To be inaugurated on *Sunday, December 3, 2006*

Made possible by generous contribution from *Anish Patel Foundation*. Thank you Raj Patel and family.

Playground for Our Children - A Progress Report

Our goal: To raise \$60,000

So far we have raised \$32,000+

21 gave \$1,001 or more

9 gave \$501

19 gave \$251

Are you a parent of a VVM student, a teacher or a well-wisher? Are you one of those who has pledged? If not, shouldn't your name be there? This is for our own children and grand children. If we do not do it, who will? If not now, when?

Please support this. Give \$251 or more and help us make it happen.

Financial Help for the College-bound

Everyone needs help to meet college expenses. Help is available from many quarters.

Here is one source.

Sam Walton Community Scholarships

For information and to apply:

'www.walmartfoundation.org'

Apply by January 12, 2007

Sureshbhai Patel



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Attending the yoga class offered at VVM has been an uplifting experience for me, because it gives me a chance to improve my body's flexibility and focus on being at peace. The instructor helps us improve our postures and breathing techniques. As I continue to apply what I learn, my mind and body will benefit significantly.

Heer Parikh

I attend the Gujarati class and believe it is important for me to learn to read and write my mother tongue. I encourage others to join. Obviously it's a great experience and I am willing to stay with VVM.

Neel Patel

I have learned countless things in the Religion class. What I like best is that it isn't centered on one religion. It teaches you the meaning behind the symbols and festivals in different parts of the world. It doesn't make me feel like I'm in school, but rather I am discussing my religion.

Neelam Patel

In Religion class we have been learning about many character traits such as honesty. We learnt quotes such as "no legacy is as rich as honesty" by William Shakespeare. Religion is a great class and I think you should join the class.

Jay Shah

I like the Religion class because some of the fun things I have learned like Diwali, Navratri, symbols, and gods.

Varsha Ranganath

No Classes..
December 24th and 31st, 2006
Due to
Christmas & New Year Eve!

Today, education is the most important part of our life. However, we are so occupied with schoolwork, clubs, organizations, and other activities that we forget important things like practicing for the SATs. At times we can't decide where and how to start. I was one of them until I came to VVM and started the classes here. Each week, we are taught different subjects and we take practice

tests. As a child learns how to walk, Anil uncle taught us stepwise procedure so we could do well on the SAT.

Varun Modi

I cannot praise the Pushtimarg class enough. We learn about different aspects of Pushtimarg, Bhagvat, and Gita. Sudhir bhai has taught the theory and practice of the principles in the Gita. Student involvement and examples of daily life with a light sense of humor make the class enjoyable.

Anonymous

Workshop....
December 10, 2006 @ 1 PM
Free Workshop
Beauty and Skin Care
(Pre-packed Lunch Boxes for \$3)

Special Thanks....
Mr. Nitin Kapadia and Pradeep Gokhale
from
Merrill Lynch
For a Successful Seminar on Personal Finance



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Holiday Gift Drive

*Please Help the Homeless and
Needy during this Holiday Season.*

Holiday Gift Drive will be held at
VVM. Please bring an unwrapped
gift for around \$10. Our teacher *Ms
Neena Desai* will get the gifts to
the needy children. Ms. Desai is
involved with homeless shelters.
Pls. bring the gift before
December 16, 2006.

CPR Workshop....

January 13, Saturday 2006
10 AM – 2 PM

Will Earn Red Cross Certificate
(\$5 Registration Fee)
(Sign-up at the Front Desk)

Free Workshop

“Will and Trust”

Attorneys Jigna Dalal
&
Mayur Shah

Jan 21st, 2007

(Pls Register at the Front Desk)