



# Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



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## An Expression...

With the election fever in the air, I felt that it would be nice to cover youth and leadership in this edition. As we all notice, today's youth are becoming more influential and involved in the political process. All cultures need role models and leaders. Most of us agree that professions such as medicine, technology, education, business & industry, politics, and the arts need people who can use intelligence, creativity, and critical judgment. The role of parents and educators is critical in assisting with the development of leadership attitudes and skills in youth.

We often admire leaders and sometimes even envision ourselves in leadership roles. After all, we read about famous leaders in the paper and hear about their exceptional results all the time. But the more we read and learn about leaders and leadership the more we begin to wonder - Does My kid have what it takes to be a leader?

Parents universally hope that their children develop leadership qualities. They know that leaders

are people who are effective in what they do, are respected by others, and typically rewarded for those skills in a variety of ways.

It is in these formative years that we first see leadership as desirable and important. We look up to people around us that motivate and listen to us; people that seem like "real-life" heroes. We consider these people leaders. As we grow we begin to relate leaders to their jobs such as teachers and police officers and later Mayors and CEO's.

Preparing young people for leadership responsibility begins at home with an enriched environment that offers opportunities for children to acquire broad interests, self-esteem, and the insights and skills that characterize leaders. Parents can provide their children with support and encouragement as they participate in a wide variety of home and community activities. Parents should encourage their children to be involved in the selection, planning, execution, and evaluation of family activities ranging from a day at the zoo to a vacation overseas. Youngsters

should also be encouraged to plan, initiate, and complete a variety of self-evaluated individual projects, but these skills are not learned automatically. They must be patiently taught and modeled by parents in the home.

Discussion and debate about current events and other topics foster independent thinking and nurture leadership potential. Parents who listen openly without expecting children to embrace their social, political, and economic views are demonstrating leadership characteristics. Mutual respect, objectivity, empathy, and understanding are highly valued by young people; particularly those who need a safe place to test their ideas.

Opportunities for decision-making at an early age will help foster critical reasoning skills necessary to be an effective leader.

**..VVM Annual Show**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> 2008  
(3-5 pm)**

**Please Mark Your Calendars  
&  
Invite Friends & Family**



Inappropriate decisions by children and youth, although difficult for parents to accept, may enhance future decision-making skills when self-evaluated.

Since leadership is learned over time through involvement with others, extracurricular activities provide fertile ground for nurturing future leaders. Group participation offers unique opportunities for young people to belong, support others, and learn a variety of leadership styles. Students learn how to encourage others, create group spirit, and resolve conflict. They begin to understand diverse attitudes, skills, and talents and how to interact effectively with a diversity of people while working toward a common goal.

Leadership in extracurricular activities has been found to be correlated with adult leadership than with academic achievement. A 10-year study conducted with 515 high school student leaders revealed that almost two-thirds of them participated in out-of-school organizations and athletics and more than half participated in fine arts activities.

## .. FunFair (Carnival)

VVM Parents wish to invite you  
for a Fun-Fair  
On

*March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008  
(11 am – 3 pm)  
At VPSS Temple Premises*

*Games, Food, Activities  
Mark Your Calendars*

### What is a Leader?

A leader is a person who sees something that needs to be done, knows that they can help make it happen, and gets started.

Leadership is much more than being elected or appointed to a position. It is acquired most effectively through practice. Educators, parents, and other concerned adults who are interested in the development of leadership in youth can make a difference in the lives of these students by providing them with opportunities to realize their leadership potential

*Phalguni Kikani*

### Credits

-- Frances A. Karnes, Professor,  
University of Southern Mississippi,

Hattiesburg, and Suzanne M. Bean, Asst Professor, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus.  
-- Developing Leadership in Gifted Youth.  
-- Council for Exceptional Children, Reston, VA.  
-- "Four answers about leadership" by Kevin Eikeberry.

## The March is On..

It is not enough to do your best: you must know what to do, and then do your best.

- W. Edwards Deming

All of us know the story of "The Hare and the Tortoise". A hare and a tortoise decide to race. Seeing that he has a good lead the hare dozes off and meanwhile the tortoise wins the race. The moral: ***Slow and steady wins the race.***

Here is a continuation of the story: The hare realized he had lost only because he had been overconfident. So he challenged the tortoise again. This time, the hare ran without stopping and won by several miles. The moral: ***Fast and consistent will always beat the slow and steady.***

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## Bridging the Gap..

On February 16<sup>th</sup> VPSS & VVM's youth group hosted a senior's tea party. The event was well received "BRIDGING THE GAP" of two generations. The youth leader Mansi Mehta and Hiral Gandhi were accompanied by 15-18 other youth members. About 40 seniors attended the event that included a 45 minutes open forum and group discussion. Mr. Rashmi Desai and Mr. Kanabar took active part in the discussion on religion, faith, problems and issues, and comparing today's life versus the youth of 50 years ago.

The event was followed by Bingo game, and a sing along game. The VVM Principal Phalguni Kikani along with volunteers – Nikhil Mehta, Hina Gandhi, Mita Patel, Nisha Shah, Neena Shah, Trupti Patel, Harsha Mithani and Priti Parikh made this event successful. The above volunteers also provided the snack, tea and gifts.

*Students are encouraged to submit articles, poems, reflections and experiences for VVM Newsletter. Send to kikanis@earthlink.net*



## VVM Annual Show..

**Practice Session...** Yes! The word is out. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual VVM Show will be held on **April 27, 2008**. The teachers will be asking for your co-operation for extra practice hours. Pls work with your teachers to make this a success.

*Principal*





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The tortoise did some thinking and challenged the hare to race on a slightly different route. Again the hare ran at top speed only to be blocked by a river. Unable to swim, the hare was forced to concede defeat while tortoise swam across and finished the race. The moral: Identify your core competency and then change the playing field to suit your core competency.

The hare and the tortoise, by this time, realized that they can do much better as a team. So this

time the hare carried the tortoise to the riverbank. Then the tortoise swam across the river with the hare on his back. They reached the finishing line together and felt a greater sense of satisfaction than earlier. The moral: It is good to be individually brilliant but unless you are able to work in a team and harness each other's core competencies, you will always perform below par because there will always be situations at which you will do poorly and someone else will do well.

Agreed. It is a jungle out there, but you do not necessarily have to play prey and predator. Compete against the situation – not against an individual (read rival).

*(Personal Compilation)*

*Sureshbhai Patel*