



Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



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An Expression...

Creativity is a pathway to the sacred. All the world's religions give credence to the idea that art pleases God and that creativity fuels our spiritual journey. In a radio interview, Desmond Tutu, Anglican archbishop of South Africa, suggests that our creativity should be used to enhance our world. *" We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy beautiful sunsets, to enjoy looking at the billows of the sea and to be thrilled with a rose that is bedecked with dew...Human beings are actually created for the transcendent, for the sublime, for the beautiful, for the truthful....and all of us are given the task of trying to make this world a little more hospitable to these beautiful things."* [edited]

Parents can encourage creativity by providing a stimulating environment. Encouraging the child to experiment with unique and unusual ideas is necessary. Listening to the child's questions and comments about their experiences and observations opens the door for creativity. Parents must enjoy the creative

process with the child. Parents who set an example of the enjoyment of life experiences and the willingness to appreciate novel thinking process, shares own artistic, scientific, creative occupation or hobby with the child is doing the right thing.

Your child displays creativity when she/he shakes a tambourine or bangs a drum to the beat of the dishwasher or makes something from nothing -- a drawing, a finger painting, and a clay animal. Creative children also are at work when they put on your old shoes and play house, insist that you set a place for an imaginary friend at the dinner table, or beg you to get rid of the monsters that inhabit the bedroom closet.

Nurturing your child's creative abilities involves a bit of a paradox. You need to let go a little, to back off and leave artistic and inventive decisions up to her. However, you can trigger imagination by asking thought-provoking questions concerning the whys, how's, and what's of objects and situations. It's very important that you be available to provide reassurance when creative ventures don't go

right and praise for trying as well as finishing.

Keeping creativity alive in teenagers can be different. Teenagers are fickle people. It can be a full time job to keep up with their latest interests and desires since they are changing so fast. Teenagers grow in these monumental leaps and yet hang onto childhood dreams well into adulthood. For a parent trying to keep their kid busy with fun and interesting activities, the challenge can be quite impressive.

It's always a good idea to encourage creativity to suppress boredom. Television is not the best source of entertainment for them. For some reason, most teenagers don't find unstructured creativity enticing. Structured creativity, however, goes a long way in the adolescent world. Learning a little bit of various sports can keep them active and charged up.

..VVM Annual Show

**April 27th 2008
(3-5 pm)**

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



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Not all adolescents are athletically inclined. Some teenagers are content locked away in their room playing video games. This can be a highly consuming interest that can lead to anti social behavior as well as obesity and eventual loneliness. To assist in this, youth groups and clubs offer a variety of activities. Youth groups can be church/temple oriented or can have a non-denominational association. These groups offer camping trips, public services, real life education, and self-fulfilling challenges. Teaching social responsibility as well as teaching younger generation that there actions can have a positive impact on the world is the basic mission of youth groups and clubs.

Being part of a youth group or club that encourages young people to take part in bettering their community can boost a teenager's self esteem and empower him/her for a lifetime of positive action.

As we have seen, creativity contains elements of beauty, transformation, presence, and play. Creativity is the ability to see things in a new way, to see problems that no one else may

even realize exist, and then come up with new, unique, and effective solution to these problems. Standard intelligence tests measure convergent thinking—the ability to come up with a single correct answer. But creativity involves divergent thinking—the ability to come up with new and unusual answers (*Papalia and Olds, 1993*).

Phalguni Kikani

... Chess Club

Classes on Apr 13 and Apr 20

Contact Neelay at 713-723-5892

**Bring your own Chess Board
Free for VVM Students
(Ages 8 & Up)**

The Four Wives..

Work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed.

- *Vaclav Havel*

Do not waste yourself in rejection, nor bark against the bad, but chant the beauty of good.

- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

A rich merchant had four wives. He loved the fourth wife the most and gave her nothing but the best. He was very proud of third wife for her beauty but was always in great fear that she might run away with another man. His second wife was his confidante. His first wife was a very loyal partner and looked after his business as well as the household. However, the merchant hardly took notice of her.

When death neared he told himself, "when I die, I will be alone. I will take one wife to keep me company!" He asked the fourth wife, "I have loved you most. Now that I am dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No way!" she replied. The third wife also refused as she sought to remarry after his death. The second one, his confidante, replied that she could ensure a decent funeral for him. Heart broken the man waited for death. Just then his first wife came and said, "I will follow you no matter where you go." Remorseful, he said, "I should have taken much much better care of you while I could have."

Fourth wife is our body. No matter how much we pamper, it will leave us when we die. The third wife is



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our material assets; they go to others when we die. The second is our family and friends. No matter how close, they will stay by us only up to the crematorium. The first wife is our soul, often neglected in our pursuit of material wealth but it follows us wherever we go. So cultivate it with good deeds and strengthen it now rather than lament on your deathbed.

(Personal Compilations)

Suresh Patel

Funfair (Carnival)..

It was a gorgeous spring day on March 22nd when VVM and Youth Group volunteers yet again showed their creativity and enthusiasm by putting together a Funfair for children and adults. Weeks of frantic activity and preparations led to a well organized Carnival.

The atmosphere was vibrant, kids were enjoying the colorful chicks at the petting zoo or the train ride while the youth were showing their prowess shooting hoops, or conquering the steep rock climbing slopes and sliding down.

Corn and bhel were hot at the eating stalls while the cheese and chips and cotton candy were the relish for the children.

The Carnival was made possible with support from Suresh bhai and Rajendra bhai by providing the facilities. Financial support was provided by Bijal Shah, Hina Gandhi, Manish Parikh, Rajiv Shah, Dinesh Kadakia, Bimal Parikh, Ashish Vyas, Jitendra Kikani, Nikhil Mehta, Anil Shah, Nayna Dalal, and Hansa Patel. The proceeds went to VVM.

Special thanks to Priti Parikh, Bijal Shah, Aashish Vyas, Manish Parikh, Krishna Parikh and Rajiv Shah and all the volunteers and donors who made this event a smashing hit. Our incredible volunteers were: Rupal Shah, Kavita Shah, Rachna Shah, Rulan Patel, Naina Kadakia, Nisha Shah, Paresha Parikh, Sanjay Shah, Anita Kadakia, Naina Dalal, Bharat Dalal, Falguni Dharia, Sapna Shah, Roma Patel, Shreya Patel, Hansini Vyas, Jyotsna Ved, Trupti Patel, Dinesh Kadakia, Bina Shah, Naina Kadakia, Judi Gandhi, Yash Patel, Kush Parikh, Harsh, Shreena Parikh, Mansi Mehta, Hardik Shah, Varun Modi, Juhil Parikh, Milan

Doshi, Shivani Doshi, Shivani Patel, Lata Desai and Gaurav Ved. Sorry if I missed any names. VVM is very thankful to each individual.

Principal





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