



# Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



Publisher – VVM

Volume Number 4

Issue Number 5

Date: May 2008

## An Expression...

As we are approaching the end of the academic year, I want to reflect back. We started our 2007/08 academic year with Shree Shree Vraj Raj Kumar shree's blessing in September. Students, teachers, and parents flocked in every Sunday and VVM continued to grow. The fall picnic, the winter senior/youth tea party, the spring carnival and finally the end of the year annual show were all very successful. The entire VVM team (teachers, parents, youth group, and administration) worked hard. The joint effort has made us shine.

I want to thank each one of you for your trust, faith and enthusiasm in VVM. VVM thrives on your support. We will be working during summer to prepare a better and improved curriculum for next academic year. VVM plans to continue offering services to children, youth and to adults in Indian culture, art, heritage, religion as well as a normal civic duties. *Swami Shantananda* said in the *Mananm series* "youth: *keeping the balance*"... "The main duties of a student, whatever

*social order he /she may belong to, are for the formation of character. In Vedic times respect and service to the teacher and contact with his exemplary life were the effective means to develop the student's moral nature. Moral and spiritual virtues do not grow without inspiration...". VVM will continue to incorporate material in the curriculum to help students develop skills and attitudes that lead to civic engagement and caring.*

*Phalguni Kikani*

### ...Important

**Last Day of Classes at VVM  
Is**

**May 18, 2008**

**Have a great summer!**

## Student's Corner...

Leaving a sacrosanct country such as India was difficult. I have relatives in this country and America supported me and my family a lot but I felt disconnected. After saying adieu to India, as I had suspected, my visits to the

temple stopped. I missed the religious mood in myself and in my whole family. Although we used to sing prayers but a temple can never be supplanted by a house.

I was excited when I heard about Vallabh Vidya Mandir (VVM). I was very happy when I saw VVM for the first time. I had a feeling that this place would make me more comfortable in America. Soon I started to take classes of religion and SAT at VVM. Sunday is now the day I am constantly waiting for throughout the week.

Till now we have learned many stories and philosophies about our Hindu gods and many new beliefs about Hinduism. And we are going to learn further more in the class. Learning about our cultures at VVM has been an enjoyable experience.

During this brief time VVM has organized many functions like Seniors Tea Party. Spending time with our elders was really fun. It felt like I was in my own country.

The elders and teenagers in VVM have also treated me like a good friend and member of the VVM



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family. VVM has always felt like home. I never realized that I was outside India. I am happy to be a part of this wonderful family - Vallabh Vidya Mandir.

*Noopur Shah*

## March Goes On..

This is the last issue of the newsletter for the 2007-2008 academic year. We hope you have enjoyed our monthly newsletters. They are designed to be informative and educational. Also in some small way, it should help improve our thinking to better ourselves.

Vallabh Vidya Mandir is a humble but noble effort to enrich the lives of our students in more ways than one can imagine. We persistently strive to improve and yet sometimes wonder whether we are achieving what we set out to do. But it is our promise to the students, parents as well as our supporters and well wishers that we will return next year with greater determination and will be persistent in continuing our task.

Please note the Registration Dates for the upcoming academic year and register in ever greater numbers. Spread the word among your friends who have young children whom they want to expose to positive learning experiences. If you know someone who wishes to volunteer their time to be a teacher, introduce that person to VVM. We need help from all the readers to grow and succeed. Good Bye.

*Sureshbhai Patel*

## Registration

*(2008-2009)*

Day 1 – August 24<sup>th</sup> - Janmashtmi

Day 2 – August 31<sup>st</sup>

First Day of School

September 7th 2008  
(Radhashtami)

## Love and Trust..

*No person is your friend who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow*

- *Alice Walker*

In ancient Greece, Socrates was reputed to hold knowledge in high esteem. One day a fellow met the great philosopher and said, "Do you know what I just heard about your friend?" "Hold on a minute," Socrates replied, "before telling me anything I'd like you to pass a small test. It's called the Triple Filter Test," he said.

"Triple Filter?" asked the fellow surprised.

"That's right," Socrates continued "before you talk to me about my friend, take a moment and filter what you're going to say. That's why I call it the Triple Filter Test.

The first filter is Truth. Are you absolutely sure what you are about to tell me is true?"

No, the man said, "actually I just heard about it and...."

"All right," said Socrates, "So you don't know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter - the filter of Goodness. Is this something good?"

"No, on the contrary..." paused the man.



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“So,” Socrates continued, “you want tell me something bad about my friend, but you’re not certain it is true. You may still pass the test though, because there’s one more filter - the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?”

“No, not really,” replied the man.

“Well,” concluded Socrates, “if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?”

Trust and friendship form the base of any relationship and are the most important aspects of loving someone. Never break somebody’s trust and be a true friend before you start essaying your role in the relation. Some damages are forever; they cannot be repaired

(Personal Compilations)

*Suresh Patel*

## VVM Annual Show.

Vallabh Vidya Mandir, the educational arm of VPSS – Haveli celebrated its 3 years in existence with an annual show on April the

27<sup>th</sup>, 2008. In keeping with the virtues, discipline and skills being taught to the students the show started and finished on – time with clockwork precision.

The multi – variety show opened with lighting of lamps to Shree Mahaprabhu ji and to Goddess Saraswati. Following this the VPSS chairman Mr. Suresh Patel and VVM principal Mrs. Phalguni Kikani addressed the audience.

The Yoga group gave a glimpse of various yoga postures; the vocal classes sang a bhajan while the music students demonstrated their skills on the keyboard. The 3-4 year olds were adorable and cute while dancing and singing a Krishna bhajan. The youth group presented skits relating to God’s omni presence and a second one relating to priorities and balance in life inspired by the motivational speaker Stephen Covey. The atmosphere got electric when a few bollywood numbers with their lilting rhythms warmed up the audience. Four separate boy’s and girl’s dance teams performed jubilantly making the audience cheer.

The show ended with the Indian national anthem. Proud students and teachers celebrated the year of achievement and the packed audience appreciated it.

Here are some pictures provided by various parents. This is not a complete set and apologies for those that did not make it. We will collect all pictures and post it on our website.

*Principal*





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