



# Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



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Date: Sept 2008

## An Expression...

I find something wonderfully energizing about September as nostalgic and lazy summer days come to an end. Travel and picnics, 4<sup>th</sup> of July & 15<sup>th</sup> of August Independence day fireworks and celebrations become a distant past.

This is because I am delighted to **welcome** you back to the VVM campus, or to **welcome** you to VVM for the very first time. In the past weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet new members of our faculty and staff. The enthusiasm, the intellectual curiosity, and the diversity of culture of the new members of our team inspire me, just as our current faculty and students have done in the past.

I want to invite you to a VVM assembly that will be on **Sunday, Sept.7th, at 9:00 AM** in Vallabh hall. This address will provide me with an opportunity to talk to you and to welcome you. The leadership of VVM has expressed its commitment to the academic excellence of the institution—not only in maintaining it, but also in

moving us to ever greater aspirations and accomplishments. I begin this academic year with a renewal of that commitment, and with deep pride that reflects the brilliance of the new students and faculty members who have chosen to join VVM.

Knowing that our institutional capacity depends so much on the qualities and contributions of the people among us I want to assure that VVM staff is working hard to bring the best education for our community. Our faith in God, in hard work, in sincerity and bringing up kids with high moral value is core of our curriculum. As in Bhagwad gita, *Chapter 4 – verse 33, Shri Krishna* tells Arjun –

*“Sreyan dravyama-yad yajnaj  
jnana-yajnah paramtapa  
sarvam karma 'khilam partha  
jnane pari-samapyate”*

**“O chastiser of the enemy, the sacrifice of knowledge is greater than the sacrifice of material possessions. ...**

VVM team is approaching the new school year with renewed optimism and idealism about their work as educators. They are making

resolutions about teaching, and learning. They have started some terrific discussions about how to engage students within and across the disciplines.

Watching the recent Olympics, all of us have learned the need for hard work, diligence and faith. I hope that we as VVM team (parents & teachers) will carry the torch forward with faith in our hearts and strength in our minds.

*Phalguni Kikani*

## Announcement

First Day of Classes

**September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

*(Pls arrive on time  
For classes)*

## The March is On..

Embarking upon the fourth academic year gives us great joy and makes us proud. Being able to impart useful education to our students brings joy and inner



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satisfaction. Being able to survive and grow under skepticism in some quarters gives us pride. But we are humble and appreciative of the collective efforts of our administrators, teachers and staff who gladly volunteer to give what it takes.

We look forward to the coming year with anticipation. We have made a good start with robust student registration in spite of not being able to offer some classes due to inability of finding qualified volunteer teachers

## VVM Picnic....

Kitty Hollow Park  
9555 Hwy 6 South  
Missouri City, TX 77459

**Saturday Oct 11, 11am - 4 pm**

*For details contact Priti Parikh -  
[pparikh@gardenridge.com](mailto:pparikh@gardenridge.com) or  
call 281-277-0903*

At the suggestion of spiritual leaders we have made one religion class mandatory for all students in the coming year. Most of the parents and students have welcomed and accepted this as a good move. They understand its

importance. But in a free thinking environment we will always find some who may not agree with this decision. Following is our response to those good souls who may have some questions about the new enrollment policy.

Our religion classes are designed to make students aware of the importance of religion in our lives. The classes will expose students to the rich cultural heritage of India. They will learn about the great epics and derive moral lessons from them. Ramayan, Mahabharat, Gita and Shikshapatra will give them values which they may not get otherwise. These classes will help build strong moral foundation and help our students become better human beings. Our program does not teach one to be a fanatic nor does it try to narrow the vision and focus of a student. Without question, religion classes will be very productive. Those parents who disagree, we urge them to be patient and cooperative. Those students who find this boring or useless, we need to explain to them that choosing an easy path is not always wise in the long run.

*Sureshbhai Patel*

## ..Important

If you are not receiving my e-mail, please send an e-mail to

[kikanis@earthlink.net](mailto:kikanis@earthlink.net)

This is the best way to communicate with me

*Phalguni Kikani*

## Facility Improvements..

During the summer vacation period more improvements were made to further help the teachers. In the Library Room which is used as a classroom, we installed a new Marker Board on the north wall. It has a cork board rail at the top for teacher to attach posters etc. New classroom arrangement will also make it easier for the teacher to face the students while teaching.

We have assigned the South Green Room in Vallbah Hall as a Pre-K classroom and furnished it with marker board, cork board and colorful furniture to make it a very

*Students are encouraged to submit articles, poems, reflections and experiences for VVM Newsletter.  
Send to [kikanis@earthlink.net](mailto:kikanis@earthlink.net)*



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inviting class. We hope our teachers and students like them. We have also converted and furnished North Green Room into a badly needed classroom.

In Classroom No. 2 we have built nice wooden cabinets with two computer stations. All the cabinet doors have locks. Those teachers who need to store their teaching materials and supplies will be assigned appropriate space in these cabinets. Please contact me if you need to make use of these cabinets.

Since many prospective users of Vallabh Hall are given tour of the facility, we urge teachers that all classroom furniture be neatly arranged and classrooms kept clean and presentable at all times. It projects much better image of

VVM and Vallabh Hall in which we all have stake.

Sureshbhai Patel

## Special Thanks..

Our special thanks and sincere appreciation to Hina Gandhi and rest of the Registration Staff – Priti Parikh, Mita Patel, Nisha Shah, Rulan Patel, Bina Shah, Ragini Mistry and Mamta Mistry.

## New Academic Year..

VVM staff gathered for their first 2008-2009 academic year meeting – full of enthusiasm, ideas and a will to make a difference. Here are a few pictures to kick-off the year.

