



# Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



Publisher – VVM

Volume Number 5

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Date: May 2009

## An Expression...

This is the final newsletter issue for this academic year! Wow, what a year! A more apt statement is - what a GREAT year! We have covered a lot of ground and participated in many fun and exciting projects. We started to develop skills needed for our academic, spiritual and over all excellence. We made many new friends along the way too.

Each of your children has brought much joy and happiness to our classroom. I am so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of children at VVM. My friends and family often laugh at me when I refer to your children as “my kids”. They are like my own children. They all have touched my life in very positive and rewarding ways. I hope they continue to attend VVM. I encourage and welcome correspondence from you and your children.

VVM has been able to finish another successful year and has met it's goals. We know there is a lot of hard work ahead of us in reaching other goals, but if we

continue to work together, we can make that a reality.

I will continue to meet with teachers during the summer to work on next year's curriculum. I understand that parents and community members want stronger instruction in the basics of religion, culture, language and discipline. Some of our children will return next year and some will be moving to college life.

It has been my pleasure getting to know not only your child, but you as well. Having parental support and open lines of communication is an essential part of any successful school. The success of our children depends not only on the teachers and principals in our school system, but also on you – the parents. As we close out this year, I want to thank you for this extraordinary opportunity to work with and for your children.

As you and your child enjoy summer vacation, there are some important things you can do to help them succeed.

- Engage in meaningful conversations with your child everyday.
- Take time (if only a few minutes a day) to really listen to what they have to say.
- Read to and listen to your child read,
- help them develop a sense of working and solving problems independently.
- Talk and practice ways to get and stay organized.
- Encourage your child to write often! Writing stories, letters, journal entries, are great ways to get thoughts organized and put on paper.

These little things will lead to big successes next year. Again, thank you for a wonderful year. Have a fantastic summer and see you in the fall!

*Phalguni Kikani*

## VVM Annual Show

**Sunday May 17, 2009  
(3:00 pm to 5:00 pm)**

**Open to Public**

**Location: VPSS Vallabh Hall**



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## Thank You...

*VVM Staff would like to thank our parents for all the support and help they have given to our school. In particular, we would like to thank the following parents and adults for their leadership:*

*Manish Parikh; Ashish Vyas; Bijal Shah; Rajiv Shah; Nayna Dalal; Shikha Mundra; Pragna Bharla and Priti Parikh.*

## The March is On..

It has been four years since Vallabh Vidya Mandir (VVM) opened its doors and embarked upon a challenging task of providing education geared towards maintaining our cultural heritage. It has been difficult at times but it has also been rewarding. Let us review the history and talk about the future.

What have we accomplished so far?

1 Formed legal entity, wrote by-laws and organized it

- 2 Obtained not-for-profit 501 (c ) (3) tax exempt ruling from IRS
- 3 Obtained tax exempt status from State of Texas
- 4 Developed procedures for smooth operation of the organization.
- 5 Developed curriculum commensurate with our goals and offered many useful classes.
- 6 Motivated many to join as volunteer teachers or support staff. Motivated many highly qualified and committed individuals to join in teaching and to bring diversity.
- 7 Furnished the class rooms with proper furniture, fixtures, equipment and supplies
- 8 Grew the student body to a respectable size
- 9 Maintained low cost of education
- 10 Got approved by major corporations like American Express, BP, Chevron, IBM and Tenet Health Care for Matching Grants and raised substantial funds via corporate grants

- 11 Conducted many activities on annual basis, such as, picnic, fun fair, senior tea party and annual show
- 12 Raised funds and installed high quality, modern, safe and secured playground for 2-12 years old children
- 13 Raised funds and installed high quality basket ball and volley ball court
- 14 Timely and uninterrupted publication of a monthly news letter during school year
- 15 Designed and activated an informative Web site ([www.vvmhouston.org](http://www.vvmhouston.org))
- 16 Conduct many useful workshops
- 17 Helped Nepalese refugees in several ways to help settle in USA
- 18 Maintained financial integrity, paid all bills in

## New School Year

2009-2010 Academic Year begins on **Sept 13, 2009**

**Registration Dates – Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> & Aug 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Mark your Calendars**

More Details To Be Announced



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- timely manner, maintained accounts and filed all Income Tax Returns in timely manner
- 19 Conducted monthly meetings to keep teachers and staff informed about VVM happenings
- 20 Diligently tried to earn support of teachers and other volunteers and trust of parents and financial supporters

All of the above was accomplished with vision, leadership, skill, perseverance, commitment and dedication. Since Phalguniben joined VVM at my request, she and I have worked harmoniously as a team. Though many are entitled to share the credit, most of us recognize and believe, her leadership role as our Principal is the singular reason for VVM's success.

But we must ask ourselves: What if Phalguniben is not there? What if I retire? What if either or both of us move or are unable to provide our services in the future? Should VVM fail? Will it close its doors? Should we let it happen?

Like any organization wishing to serve the community for the long term, VVM should not depend on one or two individuals for its survival, success or growth. It must have succession plan in place. The way to accomplish this is:

There are many talented individuals in VVM's sphere of influence. I urge some of them to come forward to offer their time and talent, to learn what has been done, to prepare themselves for operating VVM and assuming leadership. Will it be easy? No. Is it doable? Yes. Will you be alone? No. What it takes is your desire to do something, willingness to make personal sacrifice and ability to learn to do the things. New individuals will have different styles and different ways to do the things. But with proper indoctrination one can do it and our organization will survive and grow.

So please come forward, offer yourself and get ready to lead this organization in near future. We will help you every step of the way until you feel confident. You can start with one task at a time, master it and then move to next task until you master all of them. My friends, it may seem daunting

or difficult, but it is doable. Are you willing to do it?

*Sureshbhai Patel*

## ..Final Day

The Last Day of School is

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

*No classes in the morning*

**All Students must be at VVM by  
2 PM**

## New Arrival..

VVM's website commander Pranav Shah and his wife Rachana Shah has a new addition in their family! They are blessed with a baby girl.

“Lipi” was born on 11th March and weighed 5.2 lbs at the time of birth. Pranav and Rachana also have a 2-year-old son, Ameya.

Pranav, an independent IT consultant is the person behind VVM's website. He has been diligently managing it.

