

Balvihar 1



Yuvaan Soni



Shyam Raghunathan



Advith Girish

Balvihar 2



Yash Sinha



Vivaan Soni



Jayatri Samatham



Aaria Bhuti



Riva Tanmayi Etha

Balvihar 3



Raghav Ramani



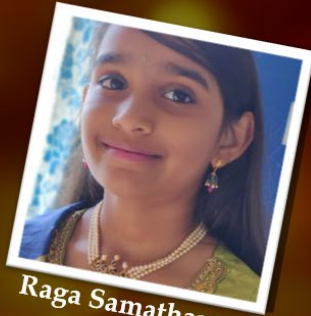
Swara Shahasane



Bhavit Girish



Hitha Shankar



Raga Samatham



Siddharth Nair



Indy Vasanth



Parv Parikh

Yuva Kendra I



Veehan Chokshi



Yatharth Poddar



Trithika Vasanth



Nav Parikh



Avani Bhuti



Anish Vaidya



Anish Melgiri

Adult Class



Girish Shiva



Shakti Vasanth



Raghu Melgiri



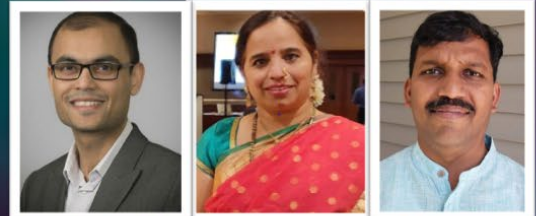
Vikrant Kela



Teachers



Hiral Chokshi & Niranjana Raghunathan
BV1



Piyush Soni, Rohini Vaidya and Ravi Viswanathan
BV2



Nidhi Poddar & Pallavi Shahasane
BV3



Meha Parikh, Monica Bhuti & Rita Ratani
YK1



Dr. Karunakaran
Adult Class

Administrators



Rama Mulpuri



Manjusha Malewar



Sudha Nallani

Along with learning Balvihar curriculum, kids participated in different festival celebrations that took place in Tri-city Hindu temple and they impressed everyone with their creativity. Few celebrations are listed below:

Diwali celebration on October 24th, 2022:

Festival of Lights remains one of the favorite festivals for Balvihar family. Diwali art, craft, and trivia along with Bhajans were an absolute hit among all kids, but Diwali is incomplete without Fireworks.



Makar Sankranti on January 15th, 2023:

Along with giving presentation on Makar Sankranti, Kids enjoyed making kites and ate Sesame seeds ladoos. So much fun!



Mahashivratri on February 18th, 2023:

Kids recited Lord Shiva's bhajans and presented symbol description skit. Those mischievous yet knowledgeable Lord Shivas and Goddess Parvatis were adorable.



Essay competition on March 12th, 2023:

Announcement of Essay competition and topic of essay is usually given one month prior which gives kids enough time to prepare. The Topics were as per the curriculum. We had a great response, and accommodation was provided for students who could not make it on the same day. Winners were declared on the day of Graduation.

Ram Navami March 26th, 2023:

One of the biggest celebrations after Diwali is Ram Navami. BV1 dressed up as Lord Ram, Goddess Sita and Lord Lakshman and chanted Bhajan together. BV2 and BV3 collaborated to narrate one of the Ramayana stories. YK1 did an excellent job dressing up like Ram Parivar and having an inclusive interview with them. It was so delightful to watch and was very educational.



Hanuman Jayanti on April 15th, 2023:

Our youngest and cutest BV1 kids dressed up as Vanar Sena and made Ram Setu and played trivia based on Lord Hanuman. BV2 recited Hanuman Chalisa. BV3 played “Kaun Banega Sabse Bada Devotee” which was nothing but a quiz show, played among the BV3 kids and questions were based on Lord Hanuman.



Gurudev's Birthday on May 14th, 2023:



We celebrated our Gurudev's birthday followed by Mother's Day.

Each student shared Gurudev's quote, chanted stotras together. The life story of our beloved Gurudev was presented as well. What a divine experience it was. We showed our gratitude and sought his blessings on his 107th birthday. He is helping us to become better human being every single day. After Gurudev's celebration, Mother's Day celebration took place with some cultural performances and followed by Lunch which was served by kids.



Graduation Day on June 4th, 2023:

Graduation day is all about showcasing what you have learned during the year. Every class had excellent presentations and it was great to see kids growing with cultural knowledge and spiritual wisdom. It is also their favorite day as there is always a fun element present for kids. This year, we had bounce house along with Pizza and Ice-cream. It was great treat to kick -off the Summer!

This Graduation Day was super special. First, it was In-person and secondly, we were blessed with Guest Speaker Dr. Apparao Mukkamala. Radiologist by Profession and Managing Trustee of Chinmaya Vishwa Vidyapeeth, Dr. Mukkamala is such a down-to-earth person. Listening to his Balvihar journey indeed inspired every one of us. Dr. Mukkamala shared a letter which was written by our beloved Guru ji in 1979 which explains why there was a need for Balvihar classes in India as well as abroad including USA. Culture in every community, city, state, and country is different from each other but if we do not teach our rich Indian culture to our kids, and our grandkids, very soon they will neither be Indian nor be American. Respect all and keep your own. Now, we have 28,000 Balvihar students attending Balvihar classes in the USA. USA has more Balvihar students than in India. Isn't that amazing.



Essay competition winners, Perfect attendance for the year were announced along with Graduating students.

Essay Competition Winners



BV1 Shyam Raghunathan & Advith Girish
1st place



BV2 Aaria Bhuti
1st place



BV2 Vivaan Soni
2nd place



BV3 Raga Samatham
1st place



BV3 Raghav Ramani
2nd place



YK1 Nav Parikh
1st place



YK 1 Anish Melgiri
2nd place



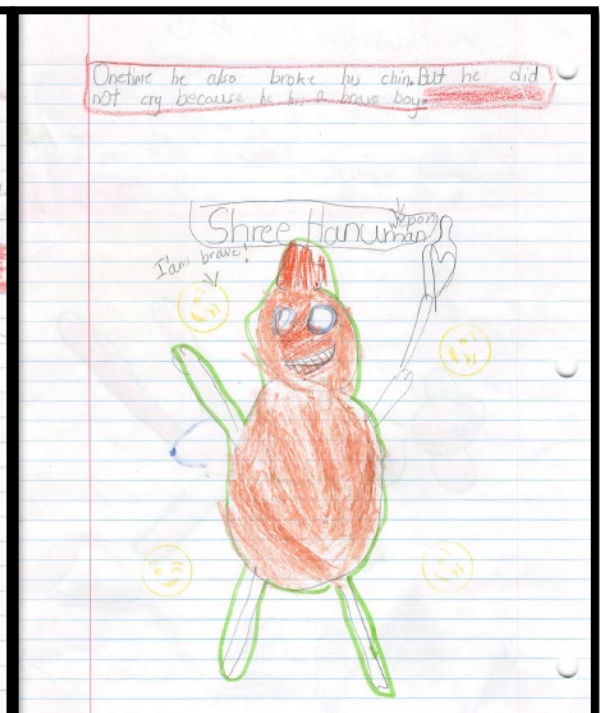
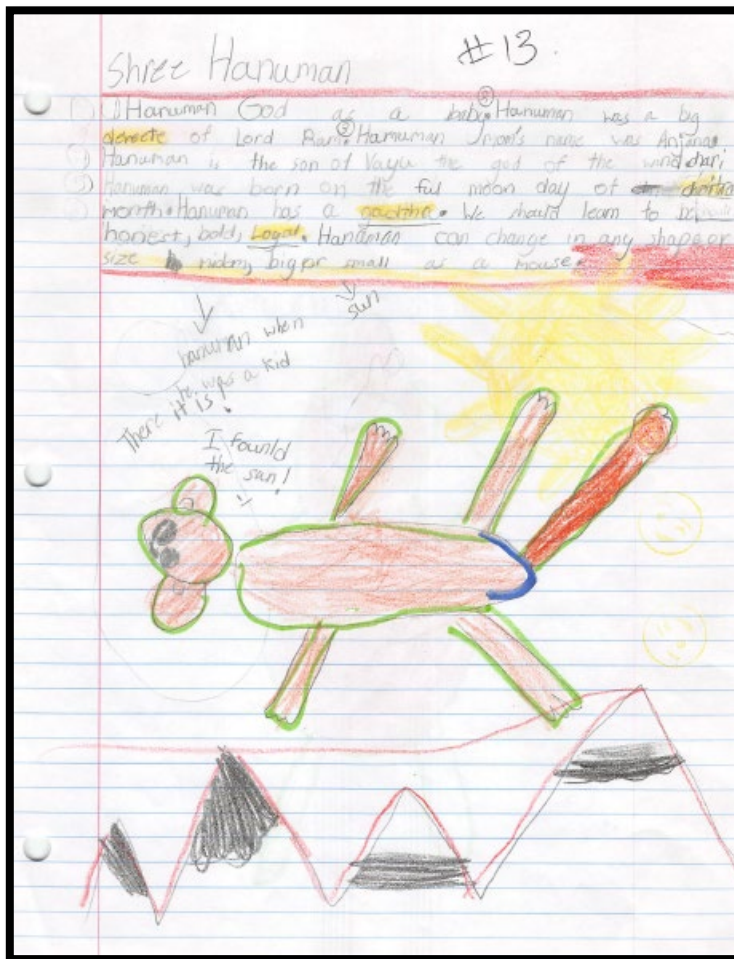
Winners' essays have been shown below:



1st place-Shyam Raghunathan
BV1



1st place-Advith Girish
BV1



1st place-Aaria Bhuti
BV2

Hanuman

#14.

today I Will teach you
a few Qualities of Hanuman Gee.

1. He is Very brave. For example
he Jumped over a ocean to get
to Lanka and tell Sita gee that Ram is
coming. Hanuman gee also took a ring
from Ram in his mouth to prove to
Sita gee he was not a demon from
Lanka. Another Quality of Hanuman gee
is determination, for example when he only
had 8 hours to get a medicine called
Sandeewani to Wake Lakshman up after
a arrow hit him. But... after he reached
the mountain that had the Sandeewani
he couldn't find the Sandeewani plant,
but he did **not** give up and he brought
the whole mountain with him!!!

A 3rd Quality of Hanuman gee is
is loyal to Ram gee. for example when
he asked Sita gee why she had a red
tilak she said "Ram gee likes it"
40 minutes later Hanuman gee was
covered in tilak! One last quality
of Hanuman gee is kind. As you
saw in all the stories above Hanuman
gee was kind. hope you

hope you learned something
new. bye!



2nd place-Vivaan Soni
BV2

Python

#6.

Adopted from the 11th Chapter of the *dagavatam*, My 24 teachers is an essential key to living brought into the world by sage Dattameya. In this curriculum, we are taught that anyone and anything can be a teacher if we have the right attitude. The teacher I like the most is Python. Python teaches us to be content with whatever comes our way.

The Python never moves about for it's food it is content with whatever comes it's way. A good example of contentment in my life is one time someone was passing out cookies. Everyone swarmed around him but I sat in my seat. I was content with what I had brought from home.

Another example I would like to mention is in our trip to India we saw a lake. We decided to stop and take some pictures. We noticed 2 beggar kids who lived in a small hut made of coconut leaves and sticks. It made me realize how much I have and how lucky I am. As a very wise person has once said "contentment is not fulfilling your want but realizing what you already have."

#6

In Chapter 4 Verse 22 of the *dagavatam* *gelta lara krishna sara padrichcha idbha santushio* *krandratito vimat saroha*. Which means "content comes of its own accord free from gain and free from envy."

In conclusion Python teaches us to be satisfied with what you have. So to sum in Alfred Nobel words "contentment is the only real wealth" So next time we have any temptations let us remember your python's lessons. Thank you and hari om.

1st place-Raga Samatham
BV3

#2

The sun

The sun is a star and takes 98% percent of our system.

All of the planets depend on the sun for light and energy. The sun teaches us to take care of our dependents and be dependable.

The sun gives us heat and light that we turn into electricity. And in the Hindu story Ramayana, Lord Rama prays to the sun god Surya and Surya gives power and energy to defeat the demon king Ravana. And he said Aditya Hrudayam.

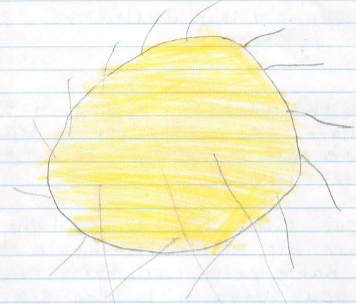
We rely on the sun to give us heat and light. The sun teaches us to be able to be reliable.

The sun treats us all equally. It does not discriminate the planets. The sun teaches us to treat everyone fair and equal.

The sun is bright and shining. The sun teaches us to be bright, keep hope, and cheer up friends and family.

The sun gives us a lot of things and we thank it by festivals like Pongal. The sun teaches us to be thankful. Gayatri Mantra is associated with the sun. The sun teaches us to keep a calm mind and stay focused.

#2



2nd place-Raghav Ramani
BV3

Ancient India's contributions # 7.

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1) Universities

Ancient India created the concept of a university, or a place of higher education. The first university was called Takshila.

a) Takshila

Takshila was ancient India's and the world's first university. Takshila had great mind learn and teach (such as Panini, a great and renowned Sanskrit teacher).

Takshila was the first university, but not the greatest of its time. That award goes to Nalanda.

b) Nalanda

Nalanda was the greatest university of its time, and still is one of the greatest. With over sixty majoring subjects and ten thousand five hundred students.

2) Astronomy

Ancient India made great contributions to astronomy. One of the biggest contributions was the speed of light.

a) The speed of light

The speed of light was a contribution

from India to the rest of the world as the speed of light has become a basic in astronomy. The speed of light would be first mentioned by Rikveda, to whom (referring to light) travels two thousand two hundred and two Yojana* in half a second.

Although the speed of exact speed of light was a revolutionary achievement, it wasn't the biggest. That goes to Aryabhatta* who figured out the Earth was round.

b) The Earth is round

Ancient India was the first nation to denounce that the Earth was round. This would only be accepted by the western world in the fifteenth century.

3) Mathematics

India made such contributions to math it is thought that India invented math. The greatest contribution to math was the concept** of zero.

a) The concept of zero

Ancient India created the concept of zero. It was talked about in the Vedas and Upanishads. The invention of zero led to negative numbers.

although India most prized mathematical contribution was zero, there is one more that needs to be talked about

7

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b) The decimal system

Ancient India created* the idea of numbers between zero and one. At first it stated as halves only, but slowly evolved.

Conclusion

Ancient India had many contributions like the decimal system, the speed of light [2202 Yojana in half a second], and many others. It is clear that the modern world couldn't have become what it is without India.

1st place-Nav Parikh

YK1

Contributions of Ancient India.

3/12/23

#8.

Ancient India is a mysterious country, today, we will explore the following topics: Math, food, clothing, and games.

Ancient India contributed a lot to math, like the 0, or the concept of negative numbers. Aryabhata, an Indian mathematician, added on to the concept algebra, trigonometry, and geometry in 500 CE.

The Indian cuisine has a variety of yummy food. Spices are a prominent part of the Indian cuisine, like cumin seeds, or mustard seeds. Wheat was a very important part of food, they used wheat for naan, or chapathi, it was a prominent source of protein.

Indian clothing is like none other. Indians use silk and cotton from china to make different types of textiles. India has different types of clothing like a sari, or a tunic that falls below your waist and has a silk fabric that falls below your neck.

Ancient Indian games all had a purpose either its for strength, or strategy, it only made your brain sharper. Kho-Kho, your using your agility to move and

your strategy to catch the other person. Whoever has the most points in the end wins.

In conclusion, Ancient India has lots of contributions to the modern world like math, or spices. Overall, Ancient India is like none other.

2nd place-Anish Melgiri
YK1

Perfect Attendance



Swara Shahasane
BV3



Shyam Raghunathan
BV1



Nav Parikh
YK1



Graduating Students



Advith Girish & Shyam Raghunathan
BV1



Aaria Bhuti & Vivaan Soni
BV2



Siddharth Nair
BV3



Anish Vaidya, Veehan Choksi & Yatharth Poddar
YK1



Tanvi Malewar
YK2



BV3 student Raga Samatham recited 30 shlokas from Geeta chapter three. Extraordinary! Thank you Bhargavi ji for coaching her for the last two years.

Nihal Nallani, one of the ex-graduating students of Balvihar shared his experience and spoke about how Balvihar is helping him on various stages of his life.

We took an opportunity to bid farewell to Meha Parikh, who will be moving out of Michigan. Thank you for your dedication to Balvihar. You will be totally missed! Best wishes for your future endeavors.



Time flies and one more year has successfully passed. We thank all our teachers, parent and kids for their devotion and commitment towards learning and gaining the knowledge of our rich Indian culture and Vedanta. Thank you, Chinmaya Mission Flint-Tapovanam and Chinmaya West for providing all the support and help needed!

Hari Om!