

*September
Birthdays*

*May His Blessings
Be Upon You
Always!*

ESHAN KALRA

MIRA BANSAL

AARYAN BINJRAJKA

ASHA MAHAJANI

SWATI KUMAR

Gurudev Says . . .

*"Whatever the man of Realization does constitutes the moral code for us to follow.
The qualities of his actions are the standards by which the world determines its sense of righteousness,
its concept of dharma."*

Sunday 9:15 AM to 12:00 PM
Kids World Learning Center, 2051 North Arizona Avenue, Chandler, Arizona 85225
Tel: 480-759-1541

Bala Vihar
Motto

*"To help children
learn
Values with fun
To delight like the
moon"
And shine like the
sun."*

Hari Om - Welcome Back!

Chinmaya Mission Phoenix Bala Vihar classes are back in session for the 2009-2010 school year. Teachers have been busy preparing lessons based upon the nationally established curriculum. In doing so, the children will continue to excel in their study of our Hindu culture through stories and activities, including games, crafts, and song.

Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Hindi classes are also off to a wonderful start. At the Basic level, children are learning their alphabets (recognition and pronunciation) and short poems. The focus of the Intermediate Hindi class continues to be on the development of vocabulary and sentences, as the Advanced Hindi class moves on to conversation and comprehension.

While the children are in classes, parents continue to be actively engaged in adult study group sessions. "Logic of Spirituality" is the topic during the first hour of study; which will later be followed by Geeta Chapter 9. During the second hour, new members have begun the text "Self-Unfoldment," while returning members continue with the text "Bhaja Govindam."

Members are encouraged to actively participate during the study group sessions, and to further reflect upon discussions throughout the week. And, equally important, be sure to talk to your children about their classes; they are each studying a text, too! In this way, each will receive the maximum benefit from their studies. *Hari Om!*

Pre-Kindergarten Bala Vihar

Praveena Menon - Hari OM! It was a pleasure to see a lot of sunshine faces in the Pre-K class. Although these tiny tots have just learnt to say "Hari Om", they will be soon reciting the opening prayer in the assembly along with others.

They have started practicing writing in their "OM" journals. For craft activities, we suggest that parents send 4-6 crayons in for the kids to share with each other - kids look forward to doing so. Usually, rhyme time follows the craft segment of class. This is the time we learn new prayers. Learning happens

only with all your support at home, please practice with your children - start with opening prayer. The last few weeks we recited "Hari OM" in the tune of "Are you sleeping?" So, you should be hearing a lot of singing at home, too. Please encourage this, as children gain confidence. Of course, we save the best for last, story-time at the end of the hour. Through stories we learn values. The values that we instill at this age stay with us.

During August and September all our activities are pertaining to Lord Siva, Parvati, Ganesh and Karthikeyan.

Kindergarten Bala Vihar

Aparna Waghray- and Shilpa Chandra - Hari Om! We are very excited to start a new year with a bunch of adorable faces in our classroom. The children will be learning the vedic alphabets this year. The objective is to teach the kids simple values and discipline through the English alphabet. We also plan to teach the

meaning, message, and values imparted in the Chinmaya Mission pledge during the latter part of the year. The kids have completed the values of Aspiration and Brotherhood, so far. The kids are also working to learn recitation of the Sri Ganesa prayer (Ekadantam Mahakayam).

Mission Statement

"To provide to individuals from any background the wisdom of Vedanta and the practical means for spiritual growth and happiness, enabling them to become positive contributors to society."



1st Grade Bala Vihar

Hari OM! We, Kalpana Mahajani & Dipti Gunderia, are the teachers of the 1st grade balavihar class. This year, we are going to cover the Ramayana. Our goals are to tell the story of Rama and to inspire the children to be like Rama. We will also chant and learn the Guru Stotram and Dainikprarthanah (Daily prayers).

So far, we have learned about Ayodhya and have been introduced to King Dashratha and his queens. The Yajna has been performed and the princes have been born. We will continue with the story with the killing of the demons,

the saving of Ahalya, Rama marrying Sita and will reach the point of Rama being exiled by the end of September.

Occasionally, we may quiz the children and may send home sheets to be colored. Please look for those pages, encourage your child to complete the work neatly and to return the page the following Sunday. We urge you to talk to your child about what they have learned in class during the week so that the story and the values we want them to learn will take root. As always, we are available by phone and e-mail if you have any questions.

2nd and 3rd Grade Bala Vihar

Nandita Verma - Hari Om! This year our 2nd and 3rd graders will be learning Bhagvatam. During the month of August, we reviewed the concept of an avatar. The literal meaning of the term is "coming down." The kids have reflected on why Lord Vishnu might have needed to come down to earth - ask them what they thought.

The children have also been busy working on their Dasavatar mobiles and handbooks for their homes. Each which will enable the children to reflect upon discussions throughout the week. Through these activities, the kids are

learning to recognize the various avatars of Lord Vishnu. Thereafter, the stories depicted in the Bhagvatam will be brought to life.

In September, the children will also begin learning the verses of Sri Gurustotram and Dasavatarastotram. "Om namo bhagavate vasudevaya" will be introduced as the focus for likhita japa. Allow them the opportunity to express these lessons at home.

And, of course, no bala vihar class is complete without bhajans - in fact, the kids are encouraged to share their own!

4th and 5th Grade Bala Vihar

Hari Om! Parents! My name is Ramani Koka and I am the teacher for 4-5 graders. This will be my fourth year of teaching at Balvihar. I enjoy teaching and I look forward for Sundays to share and learn from my Chinmaya Family. This year's syllabus for 4-5 graders is to study the second part of Ramayana and to learn various virtues and qualities of Sri Hanuman.

Our class format is as follows: Opening prayer, Rama Dhyana Sloka, Rama Stuti, Ramayana Story, Hanuman Chalisa Sloka and meaning, activity related to sloka, Coloring/Quiz and Closing prayer. For month of Aug. and Sep., we plan to cover Kishinkinda Kanda and start on Sundar Kanda of Ramayana. We will also be learning first 10 verses of Hanuman Chalisa.

Sanskrit Letters of the Month

s as s in sit
as sh in shut
as sh in show

Chinmaya Mission Motto

*"To provide maximum
happiness to the
maximum number of
people for the maximum
amount of time."*

6th and 7th Grade Bala Vihar

Ranju Vatsa - Hari Om! I will be teaching the 6th-7th grade Bal Vihar class this year. I have been a member of Chinmaya Mission for over nine years. I have 2 kids, Raj and Divya, who have been attending Bal Vihar since they were 3 years old. I have served as a Bal Vihar teacher for three years now.

The 6th-7th Grade Bal Vihar class will be learning about the 24 gurus and saints of India. 24 gurus was adopted from the eleventh chapter of Bhagvatam. It is popularly known as Avadhuta Gita. The goal is to introduce kids to the saints and 24 gurus found in nature, describe what we can learn from them, and apply lessons to our lives. We will play

Kaun Banega Guruji several times during the school year to review our lessons. Some of the class time will also be devoted to artwork, projects and bhajans. The projects will be displayed at the end of the school year. I will assign homework each week so that students can come prepared to the class and we can have a productive session.

In the month of August, we began our study of the following gurus: Mother Earth, Air, Space, and Water. We also started learning the verse on Sri Gurugevah. In September, we will learn about the following gurus: Fire, Moon, Sun, Pigeon, and Python. We will also begin learning a bhajan on Gurudev.

8th and 9th Grade Bala Vihar

Venkatesh Bagrodia and Sharda Mangal - We are excited to share our rich culture with impressionable minds. Our course of study for the year is based on the book titled "Hindu Culture: An Introduction" by Swami Tejomayananda. The topics range from What is Hinduism, What is Culture, Vedas and their sub-division, the need for symbols, the Shastras, the Essence of Dharma including the 10 values of life, Vegetarianism, the 4 stages of life, the 4 castes, and the two Epics - the Itihasas and Puranas.

In August, we covered the 16 steps of Puja in preparation for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. On that day, Rajet Vatsa led the assembly of children and parents through the 16 steps of Ganesh Puja. An excellent way for the class to apply what they had just learned in class.

We have also dived into the need for religious symbols. We discussed how pictures, idols and temples help us to remember and focus on the theme of "God is all-pervading". We drew a parallel between how the temple represents the human body. We talked about the significance of going to the temple, lighting a camphor -light to see the Lord, and putting the hands over the flame and touching the eyes. We explained how in Hinduism the various forms of the Lord are for meditation and for each form there is an accompanying verse called a "Dhyan Shlok". We picked a famous "Dhyan Shlok" associated with Lord Vishnu and Lord Ram and reviewed the meaning of each word in detail. The class also got to write the "Dhyan Shlok" in their Japa Book.

In September, we plan to introduce the Vedas, with the definition of Culture, contrast between Prakrti and Vikrti, the need to refine our behavior, and to illustrate the two kinds of culture. We will then move on to the basis of Culture and the source of cultural values and tie the link between the Vedas and Culture.

Kids Corner

Peda Prasadam

by Alisha Goyal

Ingredients:

2 cups Instant Dry Milk
14 oz. Sweetened Condensed Milk
4 oz. Unsalted Butter

1. On stove, melt butter.
2. Combine remaining ingredients and mix well.
3. Cook on medium heat for 3-4 minutes, stirring very well after every minute.
4. After the 3-4 minutes, mix and leave aside to cool down.
5. Once the mixture has cooled down, grease your hands and make balls.
6. Gently press the balls and flatten them to shape...round and flat.
7. Decorate them with chocolate chips, colored sugar, M & Ms, or nuts.
8. Let the pedas set and cool down.
9. For a pretty presentation, place them in baking cups.
Makes 25-30 pedas.



Basic Hindi

Puja Agarwal, Meera Bagrodia, Shweta Chopra, Rahul Poddar - Hari Om, Parents! The last several weeks we have focused on A Aa, E Ee. Check out the kids notebooks. Not only are the kids tracing and writing, we are practicing words with the sounds of A Aa, E Ee. The children are also enjoying the poem, Machhli Jal Ki Rani, and stories in their Hindi book.

Please ensure that your children have all of the books required for class, in addition to writing utensils. Also, encourage them to speak in Hindi at home. Be sure to help your child finish and review their homework - any tracing left from class - so that they are able to earn their reward sticker. Discuss new words that correlate to the letters learned in class, if possible.

Our goals for September are to finish learning to read, pronounce correctly, and write 5 more vowels (total of 8)...reaching up to "A"...as in Ek (do, teen, char...). Kids in Grade 2+ may finish 3 more vowels up to Au....as in Aurat, and they may also learn to write their first names in Hindi. We will also learn 2 or more simple words in Hindi for each vowel along with their meaning. The children will finish learning to recite Machhli Jal Ki Rani Hai, with correct pronunciations and understanding of what the key Hindi words mean in English. And, the bonus for the month - the kids will start learning to say "please, sorry, and thank you" in Hindi. Please feel free to contact any of us with your questions - we look forward to hearing from you.

Intermediate Hindi

Rajani Bansal, Kailas Maneparambil, Aruna Raju - Hindi Intermediate started this year with all of our 2008 students returning, and new additions. The children have been reviewing matras, colors, parts of the body, animals, and the like - from last year.

We will begin with Gunjan1 and move on to Gunjan2 textbooks with emphasis on reading, comprehension, and expanding vocabulary. In September, we will introduce pronouns, some verbs, and construction of short sentences using present tense.

The kids will have a quiz and homework every week to reinforce lessons of the previous week. Chinmaya Bucks are given to students who earn a perfect score on quizzes. Parents are requested to check the quiz and homework every week.

Advanced Hindi

Welcome to another great year at Phoenix Chinmaya Mission! I am Rupali Goyal, the volunteer teacher for advanced Hindi class. I started teaching advanced Hindi class last year and am so privileged to work with these children. My basic philosophy is to encourage each child to reach his/her greatest potential. Students play an active role in decisions. I work with students rather than doing things to or for them, and the learners' interests and questions drive much of the curriculum.

In order to continue to build on the skills from last year, we started our first class with setting goals for the year. This year's focus areas will be to extend the students knowledge of Hindi in the areas of vocabulary, comprehension and oral & writing skills. I am so excited to report that all my children volunteered to add a half-hour of homework every week to help us achieve our goals. We started our first homework with finding web sites in Hindi for news, music, sports, etc.

This year an award system is introduced - Chinmaya Rupee. Students will earn "Rupees" throughout the year and will be able redeem them for an award in May. I am really looking forward to another exciting year, and to see these students "fly" during 2009-10 year.

August's Bhajan of the Month

Ganapati Ganapati
Ganapati Ganapati
Ganapati Ganapati (6)
Palayamam

Ganapati Gunapati
Gajapati Mamapathi
Varapathi Surapathi
Palayamam

Ganapati Ganapati
Ganapati Ganapati
Ganapati Ganapati (6)
Palayamam

Ganapati Gunapati
Gajapati Mamapathi
Varapathi Surapathi
Palayamam

Ganapati
Bala Ganapati
Ghambhir Ganapati,
Gyana Ganapati
Narthana Ganapati

Repeat chorus



Chinmaya Mission Phoenix 2009 - 2010 Calendar	
9-Aug-09	Gurudev's Mahasamadhi Observance
16-Aug-09	Janmashtami Celebration
23-Aug-09	Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration
30-Aug-09	Regular Session
6-Sep-09	Labor Day Holiday
13-Sep-09	Regular Session
20-Sep-09	Regular Session
27-Sep-09	Navratri Celebration
4-Oct-09	Gandhi Jayanti
11-Oct-09	Fall Break Holiday
16-Oct-09	Diwali Celebration Dinner
25-Oct-09	Food Drive Begins
1-Nov-09	Guru Nanak Jayanti
8-Nov-09	Regular Session
15-Nov-09	Regular Session
22-Nov-09	Food Drive Ends
Thanksgiving Weekend	
26-29-Nov-09	Swami Ishwaranandaji's Discourse
6-Dec-09	Regular Session
13-Dec-09	Regular Session
20-Dec-09	Winter Break Holiday
27-Dec-09	Winter Break Holiday
3-Jan-10	Regular Session
10-Jan-10	Sankranti Celebration
17-Jan-10	Regular Session
24-Jan-10	Regular Session
31-Jan-10	"Festivals of India" Children's Day Camp
7-Feb-10	Regular Session
14-Feb-10	Maha Shivratri Celebration
21-Feb-10	Regular Session
28-Feb-10	Holi Celebration
7-Mar-10	Regular Session
14-Mar-10	Spring Break Holiday
21-Mar-10	Ramnavami and Hanuman Jayanti
28-Mar-10	Regular Session
Good Friday/Easter Weekend	
1-4-Apr-10	Swami Shantanandaji's Discourse
11-Apr-10	Regular Session
18-Apr-10	Regular Session
25-Apr-10	Regular Session
1-May-10	Gita Chanting Competition
9-May-10	Mother's Day Pooja / Class Pictures/Annual Day Rehearsal
16-May-10	Annual Day Program