



Vidya Vikas Newsletter

May, 2016

Teacher in focus



Darshana Patel has been coming to DFW temple every Sunday since 2004. She joined Vidya Vikas so her daughter and son can learn the Hindu traditions and values. Darshana's daughter is now a freshman and her son is in 10th grade. Darshana has always wanted to be involved with kids. She used to tutor kids in India all the time. Her passion for working with kids materialized at the temple when Sandhyaben asked her to substitute in Gujarati class for a few months. Darshana took this volunteering opportunity right away. Although a software engineer by training who had worked at Motorola for five years, Darshana now owns a Kumon franchise and has run a very successful center for over twelve years. She loves seeing the light on children's faces when they learn new things. Darshana is now the level 4 teacher and Gujarati language coordinator. Darshana feels that it is very important for kids to know their native language. Learning multiple languages stimulates the brain and kids develop good thinking skills. Children also learn traditions and customs through language and establish good relation with the family, especially grandparents. She requests parents to register children in their native language classes and encourages them to practice at home.

Student in focus



Utkarsh Kaniyar is a senior at Flower Mound High School. He has been coming to Vidya Vikas classes since he was five years old and has been enrolled in both religion and Kannada language classes. He is now in level 12 religion class and is the president of the DFW Temple Youth Group. Utkarsh is a very competitive person and participates in many different activities. He plays chess and basketball and is a second degree black belt. Academically, he enjoys math and plans on majoring in mechanical engineering in college. Utkarsh has been a regular participant in the Chinmaya Mission Gita chanting competition for the past 10+ years, representing Vidya Vikas and winning prizes every year. He joined the DFW Hindu Youth Group a few years ago hoping to help people and communities in need. After volunteering in many places and raising money for people who are in less fortunate circumstances than him, he realized how grateful he was for his current state. Utkarsh says that the Youth Group has given him the opportunity to give back to the community while also teaching many valuable lessons. Now he is ready to begin a new chapter in his life, and he hopes he can use everything he has been taught going forward into his college years and beyond.

Upcoming events/Important dates

April 30: Hindi speech contest (first round)

May 15: Youth Group Book Sale

May 1: Hindi speech contest final round

May 22: Last day of VV classes,

May 1: Gujarati End of year program

End of year festivities

May 8: Walk-a-thon

Registration for 2016-17: Coming Soon!