



# Vidya Vikas Newsletter

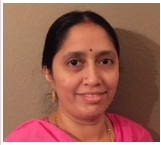
December, 2016

## Religion Teacher in focus



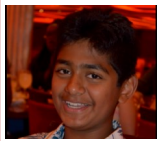
**Nitin Tanna** has been teaching at Vidya Vikas for about 15 years in various roles and currently teaches religion level 11. His wife and son are also teachers at Vidya Vikas. His daughter goes to UT and attends Gita class whenever in town. His journey started when Anilaben asked him to start religion level 7. For him, being a part of Vidya Vikas has become a good reason to stay in DFW area and considers the teaching staff like his extended family. He feels truly obligated to Dr. Shah for his vision and foundation that he laid that became a benchmark in the USA. His many conversations with him were inspiring. Nitin thinks it is hard for Hindu kids to find any relevance or connection to Hindu values (truth, non-violence, love etc.) in daily life. Teaching using innovative methods to communicate traditional values with new generation are very critical. He enjoys watching second generation kids participating in Vidya Vikas.

## Language Teacher in focus



**Ananthi Rameshbabu** has been teaching Tamil past 11 years and worked as an elementary school teacher in India. Learning language is her hobby. She spent 4 years to learn Hindi after completing her degree, which gave her ideas in how to teach language to others. She believes that teaching kids language is important as traditions and culture pass to next generations only through language. Vidya Vikas brings discipline and atmosphere similar to schools. When kids see other kids learning, they are motivated to learn without any questions. She lives in Flower Mound with her husband and 2 kids. Her daughter has attended 10 years of religion and 5 years of Tamil classes. Her son is learning language & religion for past 6 years. Her family supports her teaching. She thinks it is worth to spend half day in a week at Vidya Vikas with kids learning our religion and language. Being a part of Vidya Vikas makes her feel close to the homeland.

## Students in focus



**Jai Benegal** has been attending religion and Hindi classes from the age of nine (since 2012). The classes have helped him understand and broaden his knowledge of Hindu religion and familiarized him with Indian epics. Now Jai is more comfortable and confident in religion and language. Being in America, his parents never imagined their son reading and writing Hindi. But thanks to Vidya Vikas Hindi classes, he can speak and understand Hindi well. Jai enjoys playing soccer, basketball and listening to Hindi songs.

## Upcoming events

Hindi Speech Contest: December 11

Winter break: December 25 and January 1

## College preparation and professional talks

Public Policy: December 18, 2016

College booths: January 8, 2017

Planning for college: January 15, 2017

Cyber Security: January 22 or 29, 2017