



Vidya Vikas Newsletter

November, 2017

SAT Teacher in focus



Al Somanath was born and educated in Bangalore. He earned M. Tech. from Indian Institute of Technology in Madras and joined Indian Institute of Science. Although the National Aeronautical Laboratory offered him a permanent position, he always wanted to come to United States for higher studies. Fortunately he received admission in Aerospace Engineering at University of Texas at Austin. For last 38 years his career has been in Aerospace field. He has worked for Lockheed Martin, Bell Helicopter, Gulfstream Aircraft, General Dynamics, Boeing and worked on several airplane, helicopter, and missile programs including Boeing 737, 747, 777, 787, F16 fighter, F-35 Joint strike Fighter, and many other commercial and military helicopter projects. Al has been actively involved in temple volunteer work for more than 20 years and has been a SAT instructor for last 15 years. His wife Viji is a biologist and actively involved in temple activities and teaches Bhajan class. He has a son and a daughter. Keerthan completed Doctor of Medicine at UT south western medical school. Sowmya is pursuing music career in Austin.

Language Teacher in focus



Raju Nagrecha grew up in Africa. Teaching is sharing and has been in his family going back to his grandparents from both sides. It makes him a better person every time especially sharing his culture and language with children growing up in the western world. He joined Vidya Vikas 10-12 years ago to teach Gujarati. Raju is a CPA by profession. He is thankful to Ekta Mandir for providing this great opportunity to his family attending Sunday prayers, volunteering preparing Mahaprasad/Vidya Vikas for more than 20 years. He is very proud that Vidya Vikas enabled his daughters Aneri and Pooja to learn Gujarati language, religion and Bharatnatyam/Kuchipudi/Bollywood dances and build network of friends. Vidya Vikas has given inspiration and confidence to his daughters to teach and lead dance performances. Raju feels that his life has been enriched by working with children growing up in a totally different environment than the one he grew up in. Raju cannot thank Vidya Vikas and Ekta Mandir enough for their facilities and these unique opportunities for himself and his family. He is looking forward to many more years to doing the same or better!

Students in focus



Naman Satwah (age 12, grade 7) and **Nimit Satwah** (age 10, grade 5) have been attending Hindi and religion classes at Vidya Vikas since 2015. Since taking classes at Vidya Vikas they have been able to relate and connect with their culture and roots more. They now feel more informed and confident talking about their religion at school or amongst their peers. Both Naman and Nimit enjoy swimming and playing the piano. Naman enjoys science and conducting experiments while Nimit enjoys reading. Naman and Nimit are both in STEM in their school and are thriving in the challenging educational environment. They are exceptional kids who strive to do their best in and out of class.

Upcoming events

Vidya Vikas FunFest: November 11, 2017

Careers in Computer Engineering: November 12, 2017

Hindi Mela: November 19, 2017

Youth Group Meetings: Every Sunday