

# Vidya Vikas Newsletter

February, 2018

### **Religion Teacher in focus**

**Dev Jivanji** is the assistant teacher for Level 2A and also the secretary for the Youth Group. He is currently a sophomore at LD Bell High School and enjoys activities such as playing his viola and volunteering outside of school. Dev feels that being a teacher gives him new insight into teachers and a greater appreciation in general for all teachers. He also feels that teaching has increased his awareness and sensitivity in challenging environments and has learned a plethora of information

he cannot wait to apply in the real world. After being a student in Vidya Vikas for eleven years, he can say that the teaching program has been a great supplement to his education and has made him mature and grow as a person. He hopes to continue teaching until graduation and having great experiences as a teacher.

## Language Teacher in focus

Lavanya Sarma has been volunteering as a Tamil teacher since 2011. She started as a parent and as her interest grew, started volunteering in Vidya Vikas. She enjoyed it so much, which motivated her to become a Tamil Teacher. She has been teaching various Tamil level classes. She lives in Valley Ranch with her husband and two kids. Both her daughter and son are Vidya Vikas students, learning Religion and Tamil, and also are active Youth group members. Her daughter, Varshni, graduated in Tamil from Vidya Vikas and is attending religion Level 10 and SAT class. Her son, Badri, is attending Religion Level 6 and Tamil level 5 classes. Her husband, Karthik, also volunteers in Vidya Vikas. She loves playing Violin, singing, cooking and gardening. Lavanya feels blessed and glad that serving as a volunteer in Vidya Vikas has given an opportunity to give back to the society.

#### Students in focus

**Rucha Mehta** is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student and has been coming to Vidya Vikas for 6 years. She is very smart and just got an award for top 5 science fair projects for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She attends Level 5 religion class, Level 3 Gujrati class and Bhajan class. She participates in Karate, Bharatnatayam, and plays the harmonium. Her hobbies include soccer and dancing. Rucha takes part in the Rangoli competition every year and has won 2 times. She has also dressed up as various Gods for mandir's celebrations. Vidya Vikas has helped her learn more about our religion and increased her creativity. She wants to become a teacher at Vidya Vikas in future.

#### **Upcoming events**

Careers in Teaching: Feb. 18, 2018 Youth Group Yard Sale: Feb. 18

Anand Bazar: March 4, 2018 Careers Speaker Series: March 18, 2018

Goal Setting for the Youth: March 25, 2018

Hindi Final Exam: April 1, 2018

Hindi Annual Function: May 5, 2018