



Value of Vidya Vikas: Discussion Forum

Vidya Vikas has been a staple in the lives of many young Indians finding their path in an American world. However, the true importance of what the program teaches doesn't seem to be felt until after students depart, embarking on their own journeys with the lessons taught throughout their earlier Sunday school experiences. On December 16th, a group of Vidya Vikas alumni held a discussion forum to convey this experience to the current generation of kids and their parents, going through the program. Each alumni spoke of their own experiences, and how it was contextualized in what they went through growing under Vidya Vikas. During Q&A session, several topics were discussed: Hindu values in a modern western society, cultural values going far from home, the priority of religion in academic life, and the future of Hinduism among a generation who holds diversity as a greater priority than any who came before it. While the subjects themselves were obviously interesting, the prevalent theme became the connection between the older generation of parents, many of whom have their own kids growing through Vidya Vikas, and this younger generation before them, who are growing under their own mixture of unique cultural and academic values. The differences in opinion were valuable to either side, seeing how each interacted with similar topics and could thus discuss them cordially and openly. There's a general mentality in Indian community about the need to be strict and education-focused. However, actively talking about these topics openly and directly, between both generations, has values and aspects for either side to learn from each other. This event was a small door into that reality, but it is one each of us should strive for in our own lives. (Write up provided by Jayesh Sharma)

Language Teacher in Focus



Sanjana Shelar has been teaching Marathi level 3 since 2018. She really enjoys teaching Marathi to the 2019-20 batch of students. As a home maker, she is helping create conscientious members of the society. Sanjana loves to travel and lives in Coppell with her husband who is a Solution Architect. They have 2 kids. Sanjana's older son is 14 years old and attends SAT and religion level 10 classes. Her daughter is 11 years old and is enrolled in Marathi level 3 and religion level 7 classes. Vidya Vikas is very special to her and has become as family since 2011. Her family really appreciate all the dedicated team members for running Vidya Vikas so efficiently. Sanjana likes volunteering. She has been involved in her kids' school since her son was in kindergarten. She has been Chairperson in Lakeside Elementary's Carnival committee for 3 years. She is Advancement Team committee member in Boy Scout Troop 840 & 844 since 2017.

Student in Focus



Prathyuktha Venkadesan has been coming to Vidya Vikas since 2019. She is enrolled in Hindi level 2 and Religion level 5. Prathyuktha is an active and a creative child. She is very interested in chess and has won a few tournaments under 800 level. She likes swimming, roller skating, drawing and art. She has done a few piano recitals as well. She is also interested in learning yoga. Prathyuktha likes playing with friends, watching English animation movies and laughing up and down on the chair.

Upcoming events

January 12, 2020: **Youth Group Meeting**

January 19, 2020: **Hindi Speech Contest (1 PM)**

January 26, 2020: **Youth Group Visit to Senior Center (Ashford Hall)**

January 26, 2020: **"Something to Think About" Discussion Forum**