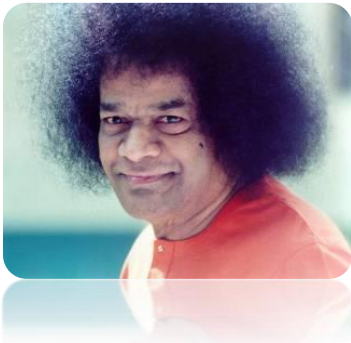




Sathya Sai School

Toronto, Canada

Parent Information Letter # 1 | Dec 18, 2020



Life is best spent in
alleviating pain,
assuaging distress, and
promoting peace and
joy.

~Sathya Sai Baba

School Restarts

JAN 4, 2021

Everyone Online

JAN 4 - 8

Hybrid Teaching

FROM JAN 11 ONWARDS

**Report Card Making
Day (No School)**

JAN 22

**Admissions for Sept
2021 03**

**Founder Chancellor's 95th
Birthday 05**

**SK & Grade 8 Virtual
Graduations 08,09**

New School Website 04



*From the Principal's Desk**Revathi Chennabathni*

December 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Well-Wishers of Sathya Sai School,

Apart from parent communiques sent in August, October, November and December, it has been a long time since we have communicated with you in the Parent Newsletter since the school reopened in September, 2020. I sincerely hope and pray that you and your families are keeping safe and healthy during these unprecedented COVID-19 times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hardworking well-wishers of our school for spending their summer months in preparing Sathya Sai School for its 20th anniversary school reopening. The school's well-wishers, in partnership with our School Directors, Pandemic Working Group members as well as Building Managers, worked behind the scenes to prepare the school to be COVID-19 ready. This effort is truly historic and will go down in the annals of the Sathya Sai School's history. We salute you and your dedication to our school that bears the name of our beloved Founder Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

We have had two successful virtual graduations – Grade 8 Graduation in June 2020 and SK Graduation on November 20, 2020. Our teachers Mrs. Menon, Mrs. Gadhavi, Mrs. Yusuf, Mrs. Asok Kumar, Mrs. Jhawar and Mrs. Sharanigan have been guides who made these graduations happen, along with IT support from Mr. Manish Rughani.

Since reopening in September, we have had several successful events: Terry Fox Run, virtual curricula nights and parent-teacher interviews. We could not have a Year-End Concert this time due to COVID-19. However, we would like to have a Spring Concert if things return to normalcy in the year 2021. Sathya Sai School teachers are the beacons of our school who are working very hard to adapt to teaching through the Hybrid model every single day, with an aim to covering their grade's curriculum. We would like to honour our teachers who are the school's frontline workers and heroes!

We are eternally grateful to Sri Sathya Sai Baba and his instruments for giving us this Temple of Learning. The students, teachers and administrative staff as well as building managers pledge to uphold our school's pristine glory for generations to come.

Sathya Sai Baba's 95th Birthday and Sathya Sai School's 20th Anniversary Celebrations were unique this time. We

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would like to thank Mr. Lojan Sivapragasam and Mrs. Spaley for the beautiful birthday décor set up in the school's gymnasium.

Parents of children attending in-school classes, please ensure that your child(ren) are properly dressed for the winter season with necessary winter gear such as winter coat, snow pants, hats, gloves and boots. Unless the temperatures are below -15° C, all students go out during lunch recess to get fresh air. Please take a note of weather vagaries during this season, in case of inclement weather. Outsourced school vehicles will not ply and chances are the school will remain closed under such conditions. Your child(ren)'s class teacher will notify you accordingly via a telephone call or posting on class blog/Google classroom. Note that in case of siblings, only the oldest child will be notified.

Please follow safety rules strictly during the Holiday Season to ensure the safety of you and your family prior to their return to the school on January 11, 2021 (if attending in-school classes).

With best Wishes for a safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year 2021.



Admissions for Sept 2021 Academic Year

Founded by Universal Teacher Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sathya Sai School of Toronto-Canada balances academic



excellence with character education. It is a unique independent school that is open to everyone, regardless of their social, religious, cultural, economic or ethnic background.

If you would like to acquaint yourself with the vision and mission of the school, and its educational philosophy, please see the school's new website at: www.sathyasaischool.ca

Open House canceled this year

Due to COVID-19, our annual Open House has been canceled for this year.

Please view the Virtual Tour that will be posted on the website, to provide you with a glimpse into life at the school during the pandemic.

Available Seats

Twenty-four students will be accepted in the Junior Kindergarten program. Children born in the year 2017 are eligible to apply for JK admission.

Applications will also be accepted for admission to Senior Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 against possible vacancies in those Grades.

Age requirements for all grades are as follows:

JK	born in 2017
SK	born in 2016
Grade 1	born in 2015
Grade 2	born in 2014
Grade 3	born in 2013
Grade 4	born in 2012
Grade 5	born in 2011
Grade 6	born in 2010
Grade 7	born in 2009
Grade 8	born in 2008

Application forms are now online and are available on the school's new website. We request all interested parties to read the Admissions section of the website, then complete the Application for Admission and submit it online. Applicants will then receive an email with further instructions to complete their application.

Application deadlines:

February 12, 2021 for JK to Grade 2

February 26, 2021 for Grades 3 to 8

Admission to the Sathya Sai School currently involves virtual parent and student interviews (for JK to Grade 2), and online placement tests (for Grades 3 to 8).

Interview date:

February 27 for JK to Grade 2

Placement Test date:

March 6, 2021 for Grades 3 to 8

Lottery Selection: This year, applicants for JK to Grade 2 will be selected by lottery. The selected students will fill vacancies in these grades, as they may arise up until the end of December 2021.

For details on Admissions, see website at:

www.sathyasaischool.ca



Sathya Sai School Plans for 2021 during COVID-19 Pandemic

1. In-School and Online Learning

January 4 to 8, 2021: there will be online learning for everyone and the school building will be closed.

January 11 onwards: the school will return to the Hybrid model (students learning both online as well as in-class).

The Directors, the Principal and the staff looked at whether to reopen the school for the Hybrid model or go completely online effective January 18, 2021. Based on the Parent survey collected on Friday, December 8, 2020, should the school need to go to the complete Online model, almost 30% of the parent population said that one of the parents would have to let go their jobs. Therefore, the Directors and the school have decided to go ahead with the Hybrid model as of Monday, January 11, 2021 (same as September to December).

The school's Board of Directors will be guided by the Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health policies and procedures for schools, to ensure that we meet all regulations, and in some cases even exceed them, to ensure the safety of the school community. Please be aware that changes in policy may be expected if there are substantial changes in Covid-19 cases in Toronto.

3-Ply Masks

TPH has mandated 3-ply masks (with a polypropylene layer sandwiched between two layers of cotton fabric) as being more effective in preventing COVID transmission. The Directors are ardently looking at and making these 3-layered masks available for all staff and students as soon as the school reopens.

Toronto Fire Officers Offer Virtual Workshops

Toronto Fire Service Officers Sherry Ballantyne and Mary Beck gave a virtual Fire Safety Workshop to students both in-school and online from JK to grade 3. This was followed with a virtual workshop by Officer Justin Law for students in grades 4 to 8.

Both workshops focused on safety measures to practice at home, such as: regular checking of smoke alarms, families drawing a Home Escape Plan, the importance of exiting from house or apartment as soon as possible if there is a fire and then calling 9-1-1 once you are safely outside, what to do if your clothes catch on fire, and how to keep smoke from entering through a door.

New School Website

After several years of development, the Sathya Sai School now has a new website, designed by one of the school's Directors, Ms. Fiona Macrae and her company Macrae Creative. Please view the beautiful design and presentation of information about the school. The website can now host videos, more photos, and Google calendars, among some of the new features.

The URL of the website remains the same: www.sathyasaischool.ca



Admissions

Due to the pandemic, the school's Admissions policies have been adapted for safety reasons. Please see previous page of this newsletter and the Admissions tab of the new website.



95th Birthday Celebration for Founder Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Founder Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 95th Birthday was celebrated at Sathya Sai School on Friday, November 20th. A special program is offered each year by students and teachers to appreciate and give gratitude for Sathya Sai Baba's life and work, and for the gift of our school. A special virtual program was prepared and presented by two grade 8 students, Ishwar Lowtan and Vanishri Sihota, under the guidance of their teacher Mrs. Nandini Menon. Their script follows:

"Good Morning ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, from the Sathya Sai School gymnasium. Today is a very important day for all of us because it celebrates our Founder Chancellor's 95th Birthday on November 23. Today marks 95 years of his blessings to the entire world, through various different projects. Today is also a very special day for us here at Sathya Sai School because it is the school's 20th anniversary. This signifies that Sai Baba's blessings are always showered on our school. Today's program consists of an introductory speech, a video on Sathya Sai Baba's projects, and his many contributions to the world, and finally a musical performance by the Grade 6 students.

"Sathya Sai Baba (born as Sathanarayana Raju) was born in Puttaparthi, a small village in South India, on November 23, 1926. As a child he always demonstrated exemplary qualities of compassion, generosity and love, just to name a few, which distinguished him from the other children of his village.

"In October 1940, at the tender age of 14, he declared to his family and to the people of his village that he

would be known as Sathya Sai Baba, and that his mission was to bring about the spiritual regeneration of humanity, by demonstrating and teaching the highest principles of Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Nonviolence, as well as the principles of Educare. He said these Human Values are already in each child; the task is to draw them out.

"A few more important facts about Sathya Sai Baba – he has created a University with three campuses:

Anantapur for women, Brindavan (near Bangalore) for men, and Prasanthi Nilayam, for men. He has developed two Super Specialty Hospitals, performing the latest heart operations, etc. and serving the poor. Sathya Sai Baba is also responsible for two major water projects, one serving over 700 villages in the state of Andhra Pradesh, and the other, bringing water to millions of people in the parched City of Chennai. All of these projects are entirely free. Students in his university and schools in India pay no tuition; the hospitals are entirely free too, yet, Sathya Sai Baba has

never solicited money from any one, and neither does the Sathya Sai International Organization."

This presentation was followed by a video showcasing Sathya Sai Baba's projects and his contribution to making the world a better place. It also showed highlights from the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in India, as it puts into practice Sai Baba's philosophy of integral education known as Educare.

The program ended with a lively piece of music using only percussion rhythms, performed by Music teacher Mr. Labrada More and the grade 6 students.



Special thanks to Mr. Lojan, Mrs. Spaley, Mrs. Menon, Mr. More, Mr. Maharaj, Dr. Revathi, and all of the other students and volunteers who helped make this special program. Thank You also to everyone who tuned in and listened to this presentation. Live streaming for all the classes (both in-school and online) was provided by Mr. Arun Maharaj, IT Support and an alumnus.

Since distribution of food is not currently allowed due to COVID-19 safety regulations, the birthday cake this year was offered by all classes in the form of drawings of the birthday cake, which were compiled by grade 8 students together with a large birthday card. Each of the in-class grade 8 students also wrote a short tribute to Sai Baba on his 95th Birthday. These can be seen beneath the lovely floral altar of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, arranged by Mr. Lojan with help from Mrs. Spaley and aided by Menon Lojan of grade 6.

The program can be viewed at:

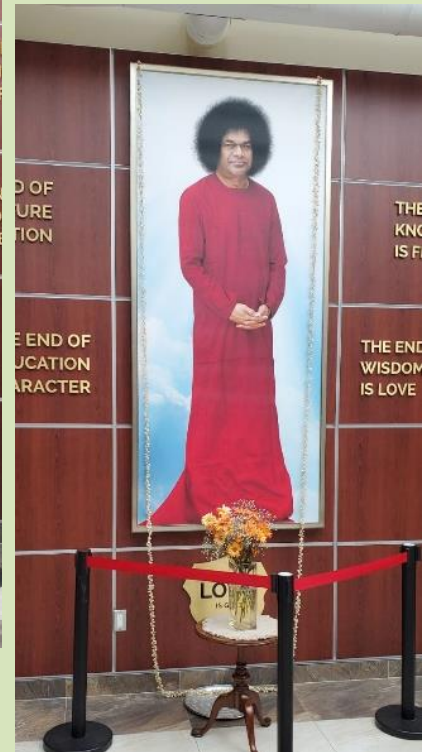
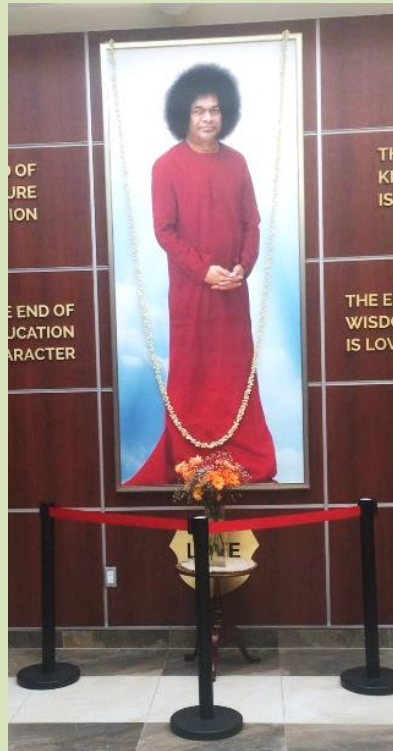
<https://youtu.be/qEpv-QLash4>



Sathya Sai Baba's service projects fall under: Socio Care, Educare, Medicare, and Enviro Care



Growing Garland Nov. 20-23



Photos taken by different people from different angles.

On November 20, 2020 there were two celebrations: one was for Founder Chancellor's 95th Birthday and one for the Senior Kindergarten Virtual Graduation. A garland was placed on the photo of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's photo which began to grow that day and continued to grow over the next week. We are eternally grateful to the Founder Chancellor for showing his presence and being our beacon of the Five Human Values.



SK Virtual Graduation, Nov. 20, 2020

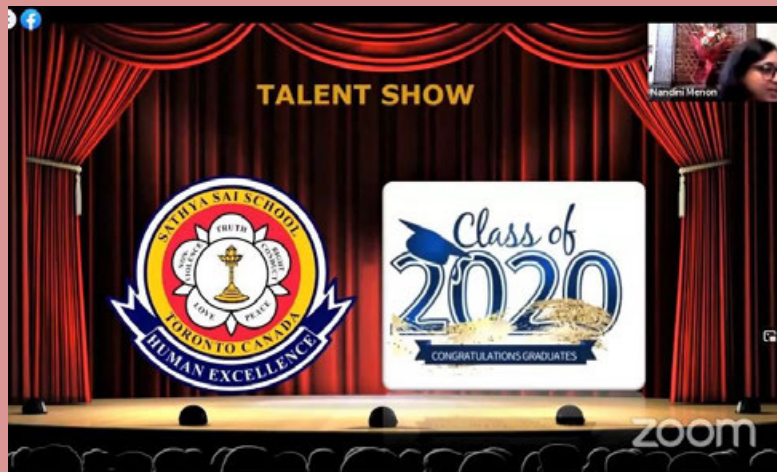


A very special Virtual Graduation Ceremony was held on Friday evening, November 20, 2020 for last year's SK Class (current grade 1s), with all the parents attending. Students had written and prepared speeches on varied topics on the subjects they enjoyed learning about and the teachers who helped them to grow and learn. The curtains opened upon each student as they "came onstage" to speak. Loving words of thanks were given to their SK classroom teachers last year: Ms. Chandni Gadhavi, Ms. Vandana Jhawar, Ms. Anita Yusuf, and also to Yoga teacher Ms. Irina Spaley, and French teacher Ms. Vimi Bungaroo. JK teacher Ms. Asha Asok Kumar was also appreciated. Ms. Sobana Sharanigan, grade 1 teacher welcomed the students upon their graduation to their first Primary Division class. The Graduation was very moving and filled the hearts of parents with pride to hear the kind and wise words flow from their young children and see how their self-confidence has blossomed.

Thanks to Dr. Revathi Chennabathni for her Welcome Remarks, to President of the Board of Directors Mr. Dayal Mirchandani for his Congratulatory Speech, and to last year's SK PC rep Mr. Anindya Som for his Vote of Thanks. Special thank you to Mr. Manish Rughani for his IT skill in creating the virtual graduation.



Grade 8 Virtual Graduation, June 26, 2020



Sathya Sai School's very first Virtual Graduation Ceremony was held on Friday evening, June 26, 2020 for last year's Grade 8 class. With all the uncertainties of the pandemic and the school being online for the first time, the students were thrilled to find out that they would have a graduation ceremony. Mrs. Nandini Menon, grade 8 teacher, spoke of the deservedness of her students, being the first grade 8 class to have faced the challenges of online learning during their last year at Sathya Sai School. She said in her invitation:

"Children are our future. They have to be given the reason to understand and believe that no matter what the situation is, we all look up to them to build a great future, that we love them, and believe in them. The theme for my Grade 8 this year is Role-Models, and they lived up to that, in spite of everything that our world is going through. They worked hard to publish the Yearbook, they did their best to submit assignments, they responded to my very challenging assignments (for which sometimes I bothered them profusely; I gave them lectures) on time to the best of their thinking and understanding. They deserve the graduation ceremony that is unique and to be remembered. Maybe to make history!"

The Ceremonies began with loving felicitations by Dr. Revathi, the President of the Board of Directors Mr. Dayal Mirchandani, and Mrs. Sarada Yogeswaran, a Director. Going down Memory Lane, many of the former teachers of these students shared loving memories of this class – of their caring, and sincerity. The Founding Principal Mr. T.R. Pillay spoke eloquently of the students' gentle wisdom and reminded them that the Five Values would carry them successfully through all life challenges. Their teacher Mrs. Menon complimented the students for their hard work, determination, and dedication, that can override disasters.

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of June 2020 !

**Reena, Aumik, Kabir, Sannjay, Parinitha, Darshan, Prishita, Nandhika,
Namaratha, Achchuthan, Palaash, Aarya, Jahnavi, Kajri, Viona**

The Graduation Awards (both character and academic) were announced for each student, followed by Valedictory speeches by Sannjay, Jahnavi, and Reena. Next, the students themselves spoke about their experiences at Sathya Sai School and their strong and loving bonds with classmates. Lastly, the student Talent Show revealed musical, vocal and dance talents for the audience to enjoy.

The Vote of Thanks was given by Grade 8 PC Rep Mrs. Renuca Sivasubramaniam. Special thank you to Mr. Manish Rughani for his IT skill in creating the school's first historic virtual graduation, and to Mrs. Revathy Mohan and Vilina Rughani for assisting the students during the graduation ceremony.



International Opportunity for Five Human Values

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust – Conferred with Special Consultative Status by United Nations (ECOSOC).

Promoting and Spreading the Five Human Values

The Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has been accorded global recognition for its humanitarian works by the United Nations and has been granted Special Consultative Status. As explained by the Managing Director of the Trust, this gives the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust "a global stage for promoting and spreading the Five Human Values given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba. It also gives us a great opportunity to expand service activities of the Sri Sathya Sai service organizations all over the world and reach the people who are in need. So we spread the love of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and love for humanity."

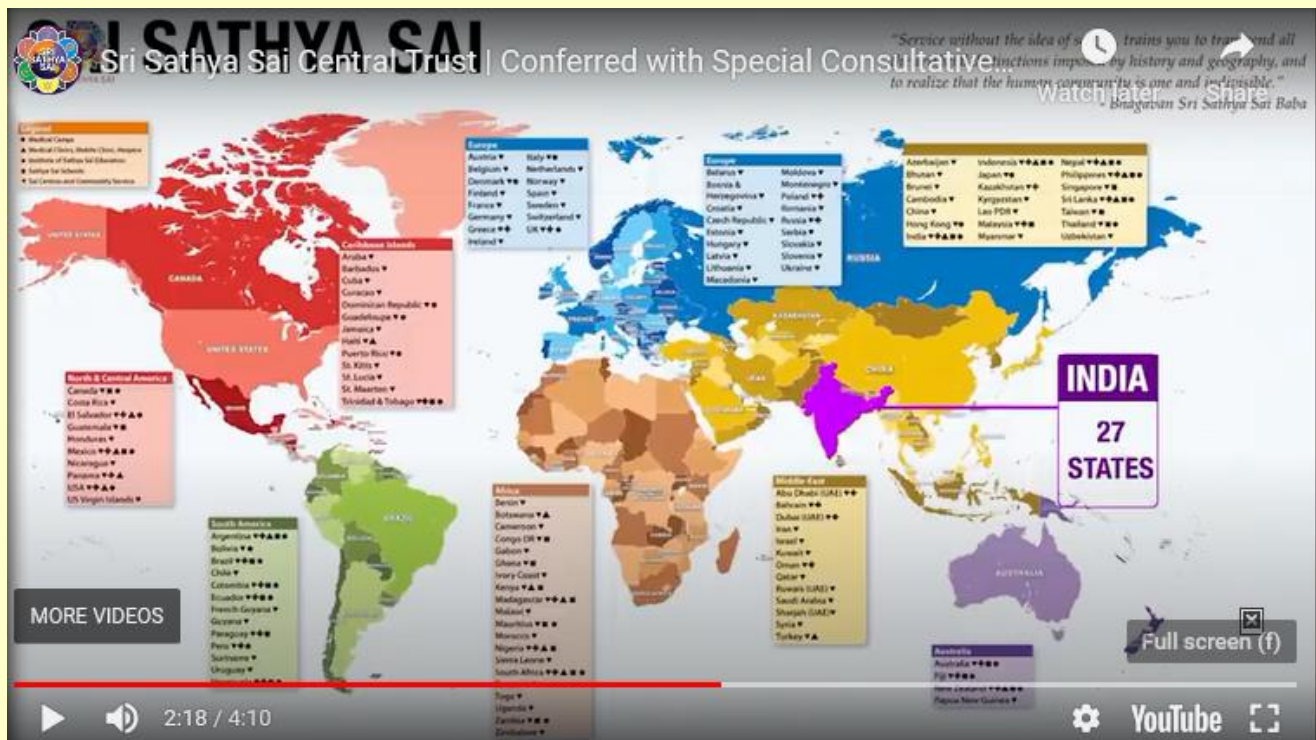
Link for this announcement:

<https://youtu.be/7vGVNEDefSg>

Progress Reports & Parent-Teacher Virtual Interviews Oct 29/30

All students received their Progress Reports on October 29, 2020. On the following day, October 30th, the mandatory Virtual Parent-Teacher Interviews took place, giving parents the opportunity to discuss their child's progress and learn how they might support their child's development.

Parent - Teacher Interviews



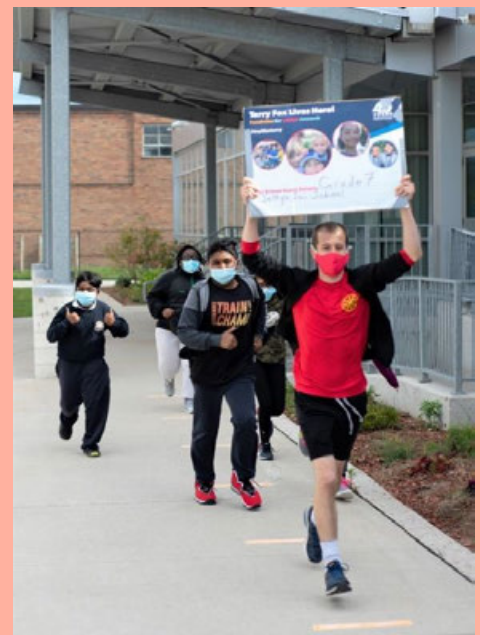
Halloween Food Drive Oct 2-30



The grade 5 students, under the supervision of their teacher Mrs. Sharma, collected, organized and tabulated the daily contributions to the Food Drive. Many thanks to all parents and school community members for your generosity, making the Halloween Food Drive successful. The food items were donated to the North York Harvest Food Bank.

Terry Fox Run Sept 30

The school hosted a staggered Terry Fox Run, organized by grade 6 teacher Mr. Kandavel. Each class walked/ran in separate time slots, in order to abide by physical distancing regulations.



In the Classes

Senior Kindergarten

For the 'David can...' bulletin board, students watched a story called 'No David'. Then the class made a list of things David could or could not do at school. Finally, students made a picture of David and wrote one thing David could do when in school, such as 'clean up', 'line up', and 'eat crackers'.



In-class
and online
work



Grade 4 – Ancient Egypt

By Ms. Foram Vora, grade 4 teacher

As a part of Social Studies, students of grade 4 learnt about some of the world's earliest societies. They found out how early societies interacted with the environment and discovered what we today can gain from their ideas. One of the early civilizations that was inquired and investigated by students was Ancient Egypt. They not only researched and gathered facts but also created a Cartouche with their own names in Hieroglyphic script. In Egyptian hieroglyphs, a cartouche is an oval with a line at one end at right angles to the oval, indicating that the text enclosed is a royal name. In addition to this, with visual arts cross curricular integration students sketched and painted the Egyptian pharaohs, various gods and goddesses, exploring various pieces of ancient art.



Grade 5

Patterns in Mathematics : The Braille Alphabet

By Ms. Seema Sharma, grade 5 teacher

Students in grade 5 are learning the unit- Patterns in Mathematics. The Braille Alphabets were introduced as

The Braille Cell

1	●	●	4
2	●	●	5
3	●	●	6

a lesson in this unit in order to understand more real-life situations where patterns would be used. The braille alphabet has a fairly logical algorithm or "pattern" to its design. The first ten letters - a through j -- only involve

dots 1,2,4, and 5. The next 10 letters -- k through t -- are constructed by adding dot 3. The final five letters of the alphabet are formed by adding dot 6. While they were learning this, we took this opportunity to bring in language and SSEHV as a cross curricular connection. Students were given an article to read, on the story of Louis Braille. After the students were done reading, they were asked to answer the following questions:

How Fortunate are we?

Read the story about Louis Braille and answer the following questions:

- Blindfold yourself and try to write a sentence on a paper. See for yourself what you could write and how did you feel for those 5 mins. Close your eyes for 2 minutes and empathize with a blind person. After you put yourself in the blind person's shoes open your eyes and write how we all take our eyes for granted.
- What do you learn from Louis Braille's life who turned the six dots into a language even though he was visually challenged?
- How will you change your life knowing that we all are very fortunate to have what we have?
- After you have answered the questions try to write your first name, last name, favourite colour, favourite food, and any word of your choice using the braille alphabets.

Here are some student exemplars:

Abisha Amalan:

Blindfold yourself and try to write a sentence on a paper. See for yourself what you could write and how did you feel for those 5 mins. Close your eyes for 2 minutes and empathize with a blind person. After you put yourself in the blind person's shoes open your eyes and write how we all take our eyes for granted.

When I blindfolded myself and wrote I could not tell what I was writing, I felt frustrated and confused. I imagined to myself how much more patience and hard work they need to do the same work as us.

We are so lucky to be able to see, write and read very easily. We all think that everyone has the ability to see the world like we do. Sometimes we don't even think about our eyes at all but truly they are so important to us in many ways.

What do you learn from Louis Braille's life who turned the six dots into a language even though he was visually challenged?

Louis Braille was a role model to many visually challenged people. He has inspired me to achieve my goals and dreams no matter how hard it gets. Louis Braille had a goal to make a language for visually challenged people and he achieved it by working tirelessly every day in his free time.

How will you change your life knowing that we all are very fortunate to have what we have?

How fortunate are we? When I heard this story, I realized that sometimes it may not be fair to all those who have to do more, to achieve the same that we would be able to do way easier. I learnt to never take what I had for granted because if I do, I may lose it. I will appreciate how hard other people work. This is how fortunate I believe we are to have all these advantages.



Aira Shyam:

- The darkness of the blindfold made me feel helpless. I was trying my best to use all my other senses to help me understand my surroundings. However, when my parents called me, I could not walk over to them. It was very challenging. I understood that I was fortunate to have my vision. I think we all take our eyes for granted because we tend not to notice that we are lucky to have them. For instance, we can all read and write easily, but blind people have to learn a separate complicated language because they have to feel the letters to comprehend. In addition, it is not easy to express their ideas on paper.
- After reading this passage I realized that you should always take initiative to solve problems even if you are challenged or there are barriers. Louis Braille was physically challenged but he came up with a solution to help all blind people.
- I will keep in mind that physical challenges are not barriers. There are always solutions to help others. In addition, it's important not to take our abilities for granted.

Ishani Punithavel:

When I closed my eyes for 2 minutes, I tried playing piano and it turned out sounding awful. It tortured my ears because when I tried to put the volume down, I accidentally put the volume up. My ears are still ringing from this experience. Just imagine doing everyday stuff and for example cooking, you could burn your hand or cut it up. When I wrote with my eyes closed for five minutes, my work looked sloppy. I understood why Louis Braille would want to make a reading and writing system for blind people. He wanted to make their lives and the teachers' lives easier.

What I learned from Louis Braille, is if you have a big problem you can work hard and solve it. For instance, Louis Braille chose to write a language for blind people to read and write even though he was blind with one eye. But he worked hard and he finally created a language for blind people to go to school and be able to keep up with the rest of their classmates. This shows if you work hard enough you can do anything.

How will you change your life knowing that we all are very fortunate to have what we have?

With these activities I learned that we take our eyes for granted, we should have gratitude for being able to see, and do things some kids cannot.

Dhruv Patel:

A1) We all take our eyes for granted. But imagine if you didn't have them! You wouldn't be able to see, read, or play out. Our eyes are the very thing that helps us with our social skills, studies, Galore. We may take our eyes for granted, but there are some people who must be crying for them.....be happy that you have eyes..... During the 5 minutes of blindfold, I felt.....blank. I couldn't see. I tried writing a sentence on some paper, but ended up with a sloppy mess. Like this: HeLO!mY fREiNd.../ I LLLIkke YoU?.,

A2) I learnt from Louis Braille that even in the worst chances of loss, there is still success and hope. He is an exemplary person...and will always be.

A3) It will change my life because now I am grateful that I have eyes and I can see and not undertake the challenges of being blind.

Anubhav Sharma:

1. Blindfold yourself and try to write a sentence on a paper. See for yourself what you could write and how you feel for those 5 mins. Close your eyes for 2 minutes and empathize with a blind person. After you put yourself in the blind person's shoes open your eyes and write how we all take our eyes for granted.

I wrote my name, but my name kept going downwards, like this: A

_____n
 _____u
 _____b
 _____h
 _____a
 _____v

We humans (with insight) disregard the pain and misery that blind people suffer because we haven't experienced the same events. For example: Blind people have suffered troubles in reading and writing, even for braille, because it takes time to make a blind person learn braille. But humans with eyesight suffer things that blind people don't, such as blurry and watery eyes, when staring at a screen or reading too much.



2. What do you learn from Louis Braille's life who turned the six dots into a language even though he was visually challenged?

Louis Braille was determined to make a language for blind people, as he himself was blind and couldn't do normal things such as playing sports where you need hand-eye coordination. I learned that we should have determination, faithfulness, intelligence, and willpower.

3. How will you change your life knowing that we all are very fortunate to have what we have?

Whenever I feel discouraged, I'll remember how blind people are not even able to do some simple things.

Anisha Gupta:

1. When I closed my eyes, I felt weird and different. Blind people must be used to it. We take our eyes for granted and don't take care of them. For example, we look closely at an electronic device for hours, which is harmful to our eyes. When I blindfolded my eyes, I could not write much and it was pretty messy. In those five minutes, I finally learned how much they struggle to do simple things we can.

2. Louis Braille never gave up because he wanted to help people who are visually impaired to feel all experiences people with eyesight can.

3. I will take care of my eyes and not take them for granted and not ruin them.

BRAILLE Alphabet

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
.	,	?	!	'	-	CAPITAL	#	0
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

pixers



Preparations for Reopening the School Sept 2020

In August 2020, Ontario's government officials declared that schools should reopen for full-time in-school learning. Parents would have the option to send their children to school or keep them home for online learning.

Guided by the Directors and sub-committees of the Sathya Sai School of Toronto-Canada, employees and volunteers worked long hours to prepare the school to meet government guidelines for safety measures.

Sincere Gratitude for Work Completed in Summer 2020 for School Reopening

Dear all:

Yesterday, the Building Management Team (BMT) completed installing the remaining Touchless Paper Towel dispensers and plexiglas. Thus, we have finished all assigned tasks for the safe reopening of the school, which included, moving and rearranging furniture, installing soap dispensers, plexiglas, hand sanitizers, securing playground areas, marking for safe distancing on the walkways and installing decals on the hallways, installing safety signages, flushing and checking water fountains, water testing, preparing isolation room, etc.

In addition, over the summer, the BMT painted whiteboards, touched up walls, repaired doors and front gate, installed bulletin boards, installed a Barre in the yoga and dance room, assisted teachers and students to pick up their belongings from school, and other tasks.

The BMT Team of Arjoon Mahadeo, Suresh Khanderia, Ramesh Kasthuri, Ramakrishna Kuntamukkala, Manish Rughani, Umesh Solanki, Vetrichelvan Kasinathan, Arulratnam Aiyadurai, Vardanathan Aiyadurai, Ranjan Nadaraj, Sudhir Mathur, Kesh Maharaj, Sukumar Balasubramaniam, Rasool Lochan, Deo Gooool and myself (Chetan Vora) take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Sathya Sai Baba for keeping us and our family healthy and safe (in this unprecedented time), giving us wisdom and strength, and providing us the opportunity to serve the school which is close to our heart.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the Supply Team (Meena Khosla, Sarada Yogeswaran, Dr. Revathi, and Edith Recht) for procuring appropriate, masks, hand gloves, sanitizers, hand soap, gel, wipes, moisturizers, batteries, etc, as well as the IT Team

(Manish Rughani, Umesh Solanki and Arun Maharaj) for procuring necessary equipment and supplies, setting up cameras, monitors, computers as well as supporting and training the teachers for remote learning.

We also express our sincere thank you to the Pandemic Working Group (PWG) and the Board of Directors for their support, wisdom, direction, and encouragement.

On a personal note, we have learned a lot from each and every one; our co-volunteers, team members, staff, and directors through their sincerity, dedication, wisdom, hard work, and self-less service. We feel inspired and motivated by them.

In these constantly changing circumstances, we know that our work will continue... We pray that Sathya Sai Baba will keep us all safe and healthy to fulfil the tasks in hand and to serve the Lord.

Thank you.

With Love,

Deo Gooool and Chetan Vora
on behalf of the BMT team

Response from the Sathya Sai School of Toronto-Canada

The school offers heartfelt gratitude to the Building Management Team, the Pandemic Working Group, the Supply Team, and the Board of Directors for their selfless service over the summer months and reopening of school in September. Preparing the school to meet health and safety standards regulated by Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education was a mammoth undertaking. It required constant research, sourcing of materials, purchases, installations, signage, special cleaning and sanitization of the school, and many hours of discussion at meetings to decide on the best course of action amidst the constantly changing health guidelines.



The school feels very blessed that so far our students and staff are keeping safe and healthy in a safe environment.

Thank you for all the help and support!



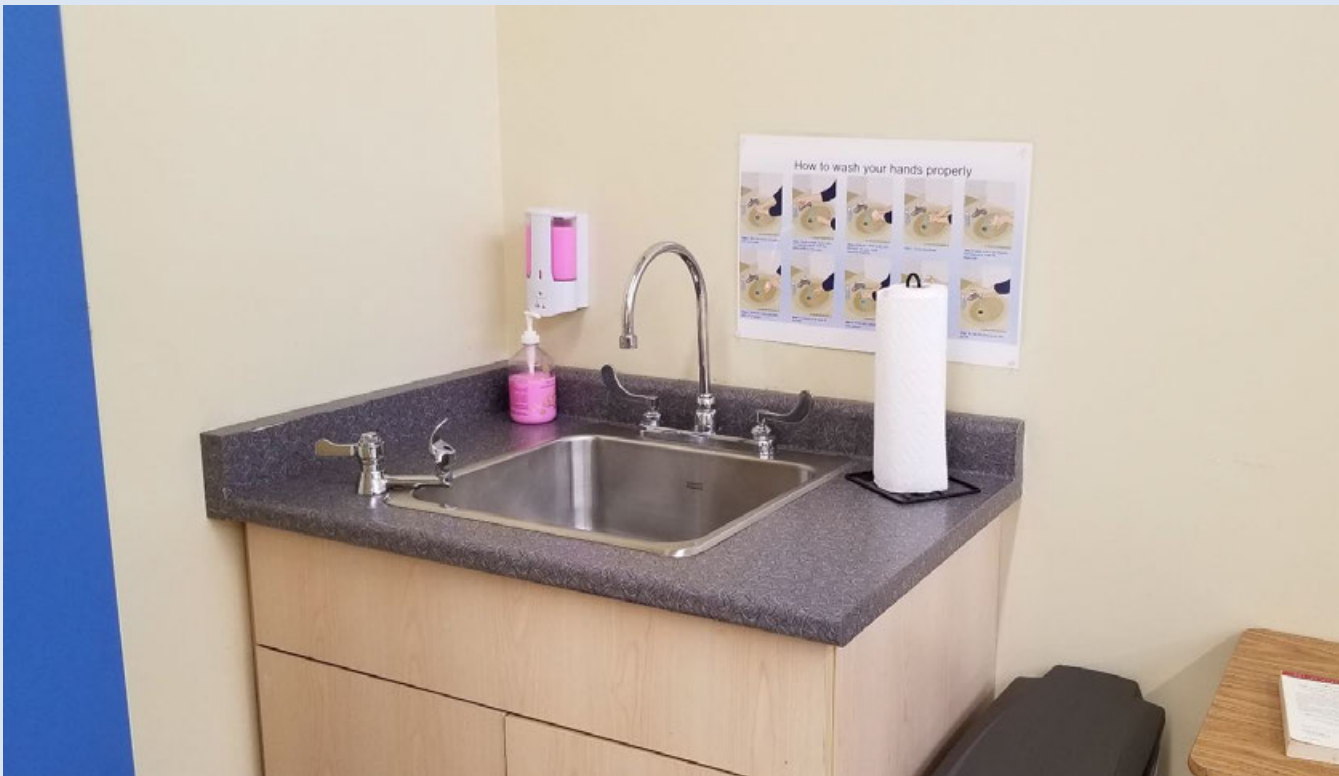
Sept 8 Sathya Sai School Reopens

On September 8th, Sathya Sai School of Toronto-Canada opened its doors, with full safety measures in place, PPEs distributed to students and staff, and physical distancing enforced. Teachers are providing Synchronous Learning: teaching students in-class and simultaneously online to students at home. The figures are 43% in-school and 57% online. While most school boards hired additional teachers to handle the online students, Sathya Sai School's dedicated and talented teachers are meeting the challenge of teaching both in-school and online students.

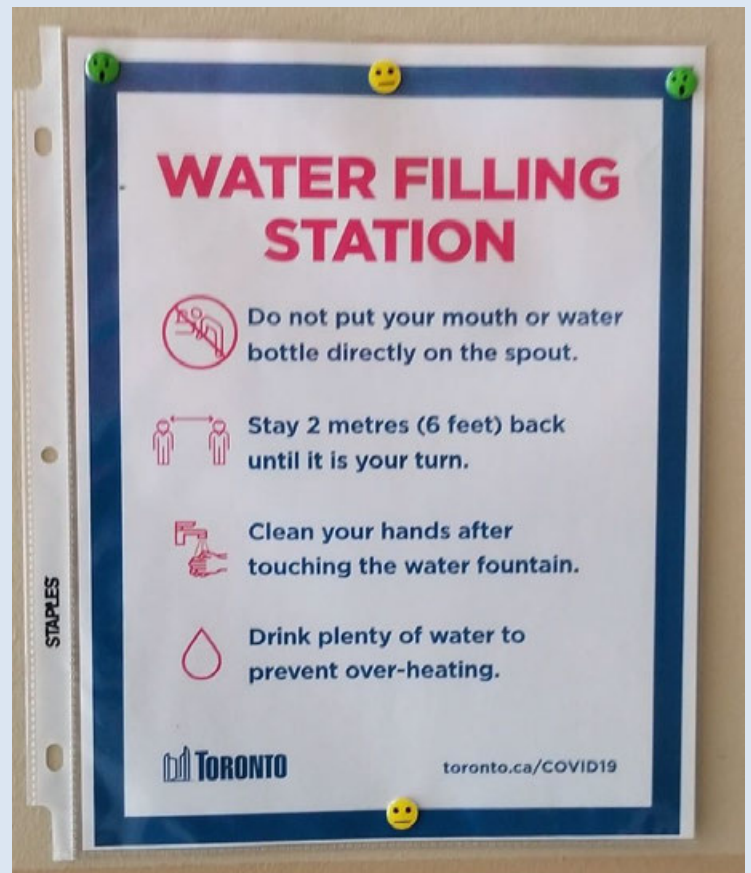
With the cooperation of all parents filling out Daily Health Check forms and keeping students at home who show any signs of cold or flu, the Sathya Sai School community has so far been successful in protecting the health of its students and staff.

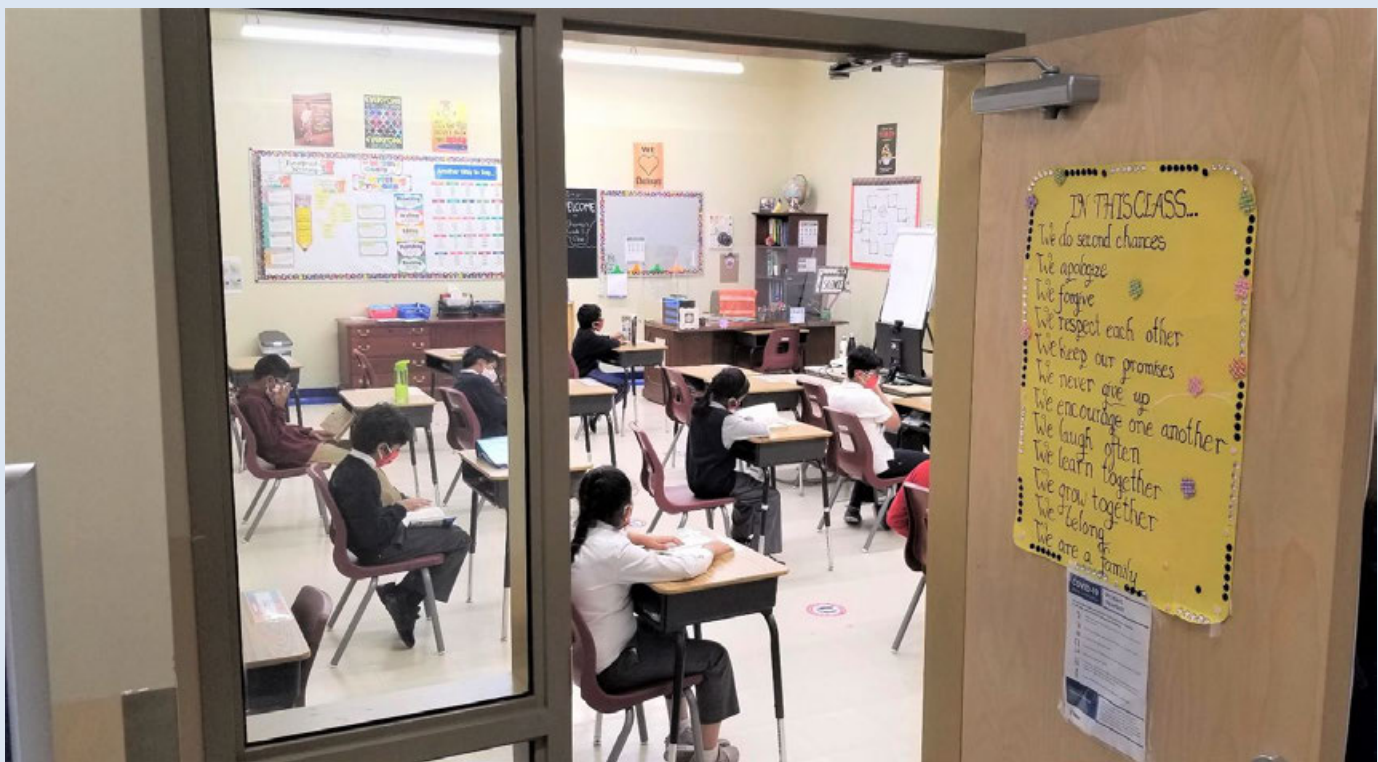
COVID-19 Safety Measures











Toronto Public Health Nurse Inspection

Toronto Public Health has been undertaking onsite visits of both public and private schools, to ensure that they are following safety mitigation measures for COVID-19. On December 10, 2020, our school was inspected by Ms. Luxshana Premachandran, RN, Public Health Nurse, following a detailed assessment checklist. She gave a positive report about Sathya Sai School's preparedness for COVID-19. Here are some of the safety measures our school has taken to meet TPH requirements:

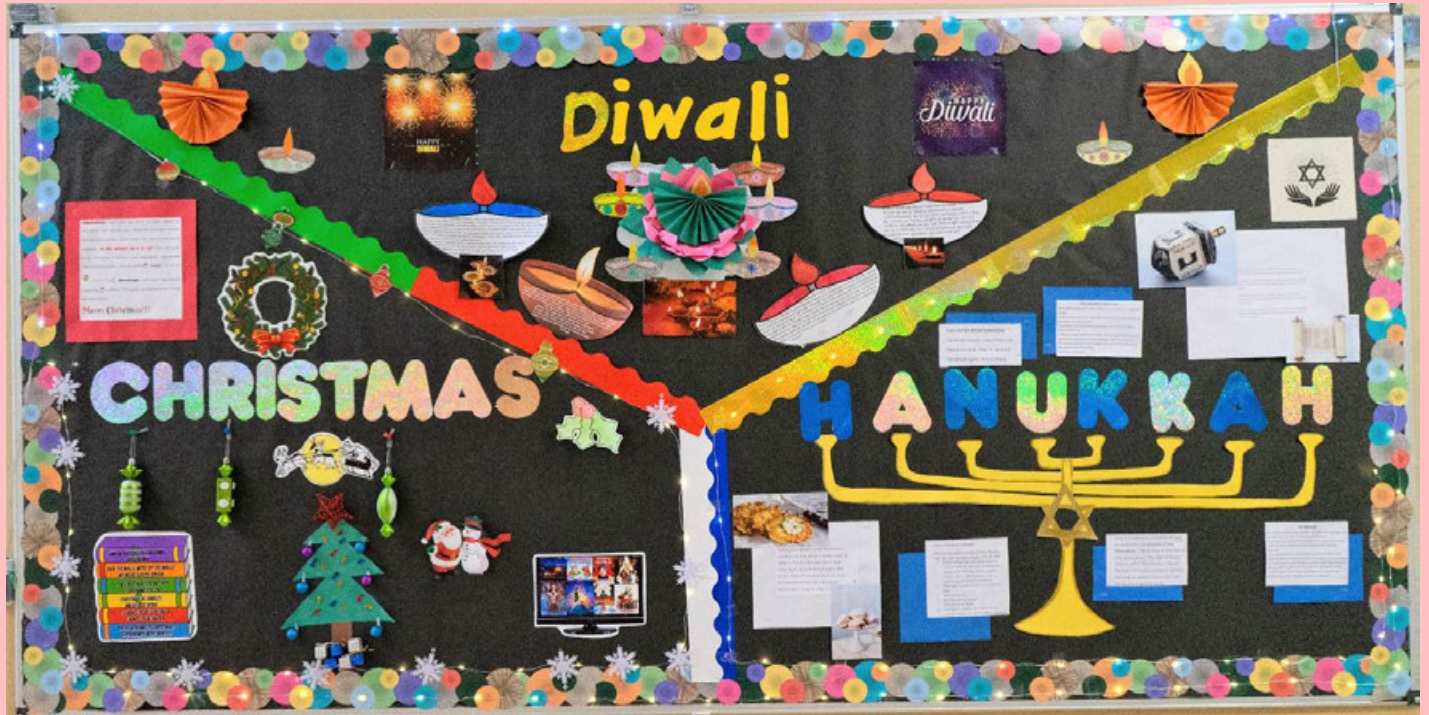
- 5 entrance/exit points designated by groups of grade levels. Screening poster on each door. Sanitization table provided for compulsory hand hygiene before entering school premise.
- All signage re: COVID-19 healthy behaviours including handwashing, protective measures and mask wearing posted visibly on hallways, doors, and in classrooms near sinks and frequently touched surfaces.
- Main entrance screening station for visitors assessed. Hand sanitizer available. Paper screening form to be filled and handed to main office upon arrival. QR code available for electronic screening form – contactless delivery.
- Visual markers/cues spaced 2 metres apart in hallways – visible and clear.
- All classrooms have students seated in designated table and chair, physically 1-2 m distanced and facing forward
- Water fountains have been sealed off as a cue to avoid direct contact.
- Visual markers for one-way routes implemented throughout school.
- An isolation room allocated at the main entrance of school across main office.
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols have been discussed. Frequent touch points and general cleaning and disinfection are being completed by Head Custodian using Lysol wipes. Fogging machine has been ordered. Night Caretaker staff perform cleaning and disinfection of facility using bleach (concentration 1:50)
- Staff wear double ply cotton masks (consisting of two layers of spun bonded thermal polypropylene microfibers) and face shields. Medical masks are in stock in each classroom to use in case of any contact with a symptomatic individual.
- PHN, Principal and Board of Directors discussed about mask-wearing factors including comfort, safety and protection. Confirmed that triple ply masks have been arranged for staff members to use. *(Note: triple ply masks will be available for students in January 2021.)*
- All students from K-Grade 8 have been provided with five doubly ply cloth masks each that are worn on rotation. 100% compliance from students.
- Mask breaks are provided during recess and/or snack breaks. Students maintain physical distancing while masks are taken off for eating.
- Masks are instructed to be washed each day. Ample supply provided to students via school efforts to ensure students are wearing clean and dry masks to school each day.
- Visual cues on floors and signage on posters visible to remind staff and students about physical distancing.
- Staggered periods for students to use washroom. Lunch and snack breaks are provided in designated classroom. No crowds in hallways witnessed at time of visit.
- Students demonstrated waving and personal greeting (while social distancing) to greet PHN during visit.
- Each student has their own cubby and box to keep personal items in. Disinfected and cleaned by caretaker staff.
- Age appropriate – kid friendly – posters and signage available to inform students of COVID-19 healthy behaviours including hand washing and respiratory etiquette.
- Virtual staff training provided regularly.

Ms. Premachandran was also extremely happy about our spacious Isolation Room and our stock of PPE required to tide us through these unprecedented times.

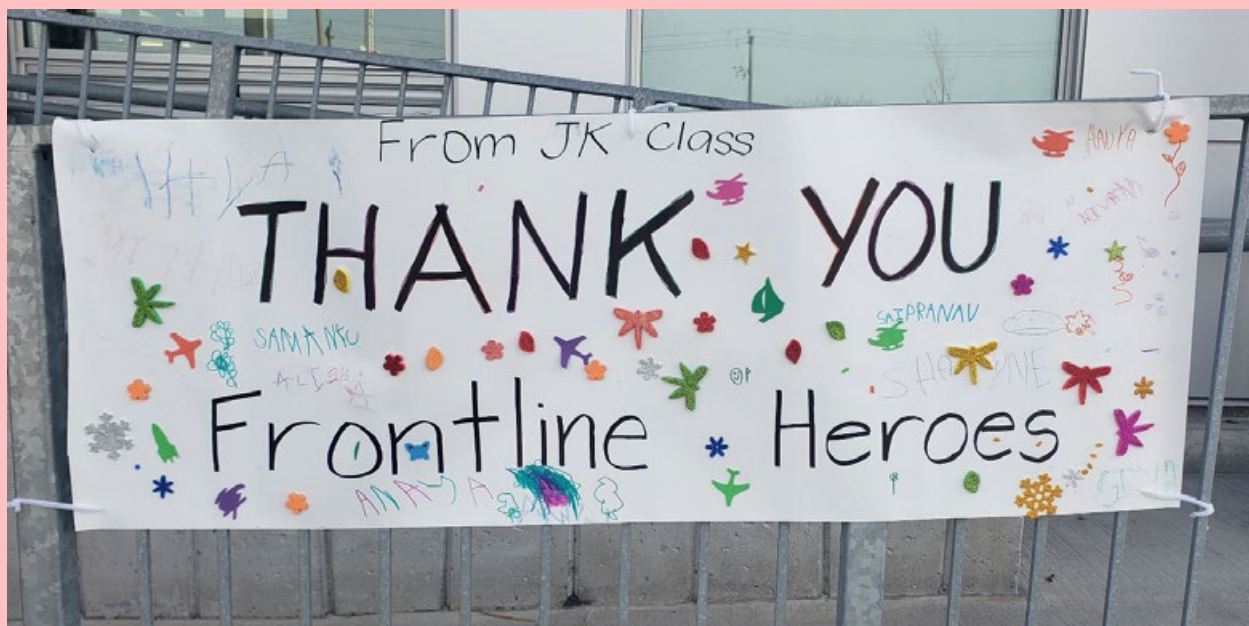


Student Displays

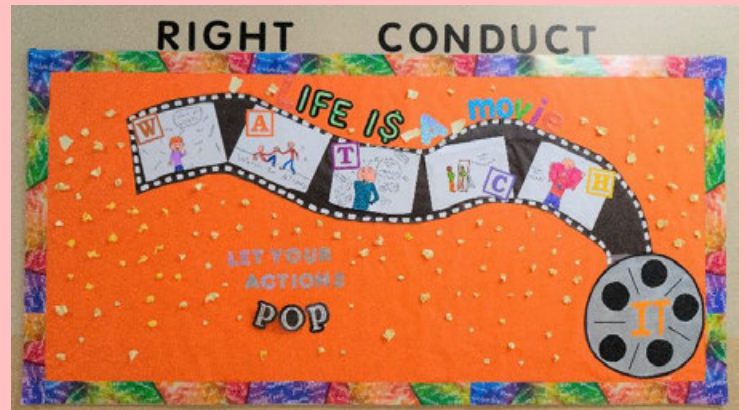
Festivals of Light



JK Appreciation



Five Human Values



Founder Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Baba to Students

Patience, essential for becoming entitled to wisdom

In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna describes the 20 virtues essential for becoming entitled to wisdom:

4. Patience, fortitude. "The fourth is patience or fortitude. It means that you should consider as unreal the evil others do unto you, the loss you suffer through them, the hatred they evince toward you. Treat these as you treat a mirage. That is to say, you must develop that degree of patience or fortitude. It is not the helpless putting up with the evil that others do because you are powerless to retaliate. It is the expression of the peace that reigns in the heart, this outer behaviour."

It is true that many people put up with the injury that others inflict because they lack physical, economic, or popular support; this suffering cannot be honoured as real fortitude.

- *Sathya Sai Baba, Gita Vahini, Ch. XXIII, p.103.*



Human Value for Nov/Dec PEACE

PEACE

Calmness

Patience

Self-
Regulation

Mindfulness

"If you are depressed you are living in the past, if you are anxious you are living in the future, if you are at peace, you are living in the present."

~ LAO TZU



Happy Holidays & Christmas Blessings



Nativity and gifts made by Grade 5 students



Multi-Faith Festivals around the world

Jan 1

Gantan-sai (Shinto)



Jan 5

Guru Gobind Singh Birthday (Sikh)



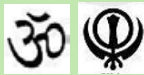
Jan 6

Epiphany (Christian)



Jan 13/14

MakarSankranti/Lohri/Pongal,
Maghi (Hindu, Sikh)



Jan 17

World Religion Day (Baha'i)



Jan 20

Bodhi Day (Buddhist)



Jan 20

Guru Gobind Singh Birthday (Sikh)



Jan 28

Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)



Jan 28

Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)



Uniform Note

Due to COVID-19, the wearing of the school's uniform has been temporarily suspended.

Important Dates: Jan/Feb 2021

Jan 4 School Restarts

Jan 4-8 Entire school is Online

Jan 11 School returns to Hybrid learning
both In-school and Online

Jan 22 Report Card Making Day
(No School for students)

Feb 10 1st Report Cards go home

Feb 11 P.D. Day (No School for students)

Feb 11 Virtual Parent-Teacher Interviews
(mandatory for all parents)

Feb 15 Family Day Holiday (No school)

Yours truly,
Ms. Recht, Admin.Asst.
Dr. Revathi, Principal

Wishing you and your families a safe and COVID-free Winter Break. Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year 2021.

