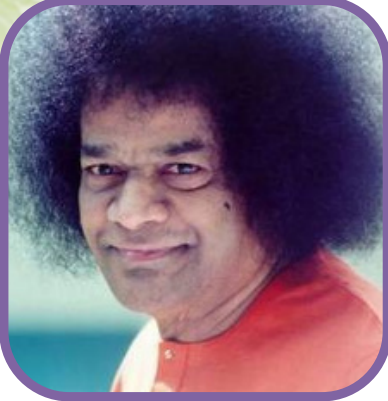




Sathya Sai School

Toronto, Canada

Parent Information Letter # 4 | Nov-Dec, 2022



“The sign of a person who has had an education is good manners.”

~Sathya Sai Baba

Visit Us On Social Media

Did you know you can now find us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Twitter**. Click on the icons below to visit our pages and make sure to **Follow**, **Like** and **Share**.



We look forward to connecting with you there.

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Sathya Sai School of Canada

www.sathyasaischool.ca

From the Principal's Desk

Revathi Chennabathni

March 23, 2023

Dear Parents and Well-wishers of Sathya Sai School,
Spring Season's Greetings to you and yours!

In February, a Parent Bulletin was launched and I trust you all liked the News Blitz to keep you current of the events and initiatives happening at the school. The Lunch Hour clubs are a definite highlight during the month of March.

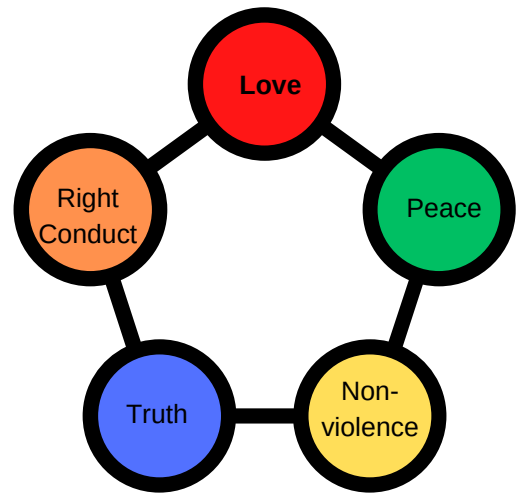
Our Open House # 1 went very well on January 26, 2023. The Open House # 2 is scheduled for Friday, March 24, 2023. The Admission interviews for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 2 parents were held on Saturday, February 25, 2023; Admission tests for Grade 3 to Grade 8 students will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Please note for the school year 2023-2024, the admissions into JK to Grade 2 will be selected by lottery.



Sincerely,
Revathi

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"Living a Life of Values: Insights from Sai Baba on Right Conduct, Love, Peace, Truth, and Non-Violence"

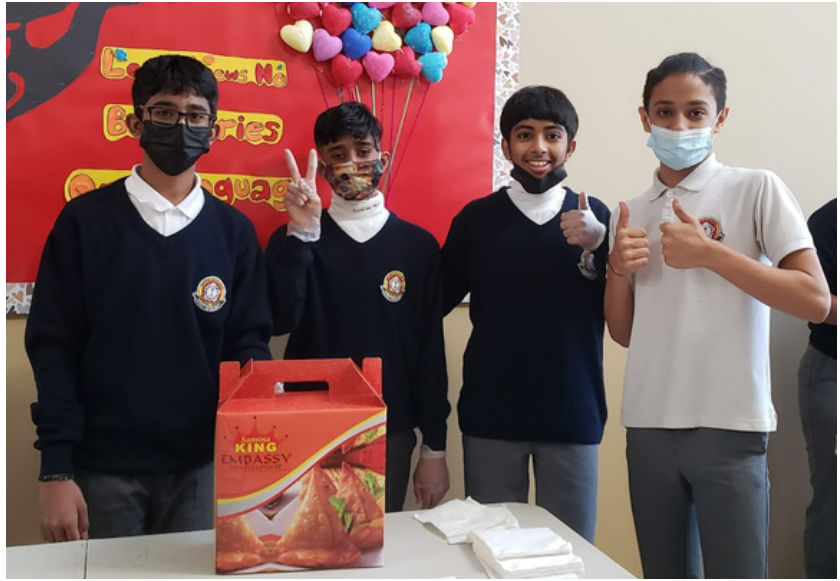
Sai Baba emphasized the importance of living a life based on values such as right conduct (dharma), love, peace, truth, and non-violence. These values are interconnected and build upon one another. For instance, right conduct involves living in accordance with moral principles and treating others with respect and kindness. Love involves showing compassion and empathy towards all beings, while peace involves cultivating a calm and tranquil mind and promoting harmony in society. Truth involves living in accordance with the truth and being honest in all one's dealings, while non-violence involves avoiding harm to oneself and others.

Sai Baba believed that practicing these five values is essential for becoming a true human being. By cultivating these values, one can develop a strong moral character and become a positive force for change in the world. These values can guide our actions and decisions, help us overcome challenges, and promote greater understanding and harmony in our relationships with others. In essence, these values are the foundation of a fulfilling and meaningful life that is dedicated to the service of others and the betterment of society.



Grade 8 Bake Sale #1

In mid-December, the Grade 8 students at Sathya Sai School organized a bake sale to collect funds for their graduation trip scheduled in June. The day was a perfect blend of sweet and savoury delights, with an array of mouth-watering treats on display, such as samosas, cookies, squares, and hot chocolate. The prices for these delectable offerings ranged from \$1-\$5, attracting students from JK-Grade 8, who couldn't resist the homemade goodness of cookies, squares, and patties.



The grade 8 boys were serving up samosas with a smile at their station.



Just a few of the happy customers who went away with a sweet treat.



With or without whip cream was the question asked at this hot chocolate stand.



Students of all grades along with teachers and staff came to purchase special treats.



Commander Paul A. Smith Pays a Visit



Photo credit: FVW

It was early October when the school received an e-mail from the Department of National Defense (DND) in Ottawa. They asked if the school would be interested in applying to have a speaker come to the school as part of the Veteran's Speakers Week series in honour of Remembrance Day. There were a number of options to choose from including having someone come in person or having a virtual speaker. After speaking to Dr. Revathi it was decided we'd apply to have someone come to the school in person since it had been two years since anyone could come to the school due to Covid restrictions.

The form was filled out and submitted and then the wait began. We waited and waited but we didn't hear any news so an inquiry was made as to the status of our application. We were told a decision had yet to be made and we would have to wait a little longer. In the meantime, the DND sent an educational package that contained colouring sheets and stories for the younger

students and more in-depth stories and research suggestions for older students. The DND also sent several YouTube links to various songs which are played during Remembrance Day ceremonies. One of the songs they sent was O Canada, performed by members of various Canadian Armed Forces Bands across Canada. (You can view the video by clicking [HERE](#).)

We were down to the final hours when we were notified that we would have an in-person speaker. Then on the morning of November 7 a tall, slim, impeccably dressed man in a Navy uniform showed up at the front door of the school. His name was Commander Paul Smith. He was the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Canadian Ship York.

Commander Smith was born in Jamaica and moved to Canada when he was 6 years old. He joined the Naval Reserve while he was in high school and began his full-time service after university. In 2014, Commander Smith took

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Commander Paul A. Smith Pays a Visit

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command of His Majesty's Canadian Ship Kingston and became the first black officer to command a ship in the Royal Canadian Navy. He now commands the largest Naval Reserve division in Canada.

As he waited patiently for the morning assembly to begin, he asked if there were any specific topics, we would like him to speak about to the students. The topic that was suggested was about wearing a uniform. Commander Smith gladly agreed. After being introduced on stage by Dr. Revathi he spoke to the students about the importance of wearing a uniform and how he felt honoured and privileged to wear his Canadian Navy uniform. He told the students he felt very proud to wear his uniform especially when he was in another country. He went on to say that the students should feel proud to wear their uniform and ensure that it is worn properly as they are representing their school.

Commander Smith also talked about his career and that he had started his career at the bottom ranks of cleaning ships but with hard work and determination he had worked his way up to Commander and he was very proud to be the first black man in the Canadian Navy to achieve that level.

He spoke to the students about his career and told them he had traveled the world. He had worked in Europe and in the Arctic. He asked the students, by show of hands how many of you have ever visited the Arctic? It was a surprise the number of the younger student's whose hands shot up to say they had been to the Arctic. A smile came to his face, as he encouraged those that had yet to visit the area to do so if given the opportunity, that it would be worth the visit.

Another area he had been deployed during his career was the Caribbean. He explained that although one might wonder how the navy would be protecting Canada while on a ship in the Caribbean, he explained that they stopped boats carrying drugs that were often headed towards Canada.

Commander Smith finished his talk by telling the students about one group of veterans that have often been forgotten. They are the men of the No. 2 Black Battalion. He wanted students to remember those men. Commander Smith explained that many Asian and Black men were told that they could not enlist but that did not deter them because they were determined to help and therefore formed the No. 2 Black Battalion. He explained the important role these men played and asked the students to remember them. (To read more about the No. 2 Black Battalion click [HERE](#).)

Now some speakers may have finished their first talk and been on their way but not Commander Smith. He agreed to stay through the skit the grade 4 class was performing that day and to give his speech again to the old students during the second assembly.

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Commander Smith talks to the Grade 8 students and Alumni about future career choices.

Photo credit: FVW



Commander Paul A. Smith Pays a Visit

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At the end of the two assemblies, he gladly took photos with all the classes and staff. When he heard there were former students there that day that had come to volunteer, he asked to speak to them. They along with the grade 8 students joined him in the gym to talk about what they had planned for their futures. When they told him of their areas of interest such as medicine and engineering, he explained to them how they could take those interests and have a very fulfilling and rewarding career while serving the country in the navy, army, or air force. He strongly encouraged them to explore the possibility.

Before Commander Smith left that day the students presented him with a lightbox that they had made. He was very touched by the gift and said he would use it when he got home. It was a few days later when we received this message from him.

Good evening,

I just wanted to say thank you for the gift. We had friends over this evening, and they commented on the lantern. It led me to talk about your students and your wonderful school. Thanks again!

-Paul



Photo credit: Commander Smith

The beautiful Lightbox presented to Commander Smith from the students.

Commander Smith's visit had a profound effect on all of us at the school that day. A few of the students were so moved by him that they came up with the idea of having each class create a card for the veterans.

On the following page, you can see just a few of the cards that the students created. On Thursday, November 10 the cards were dropped off at Canadian Legion Branch 617 on Warden Avenue just north of Eglinton where they were warmly received and displayed for the veterans on Remembrance Day.

Commander Smith was very impressed with Mrs. Vora's Grade 4 class who put on two performances of their skit during the assembly.

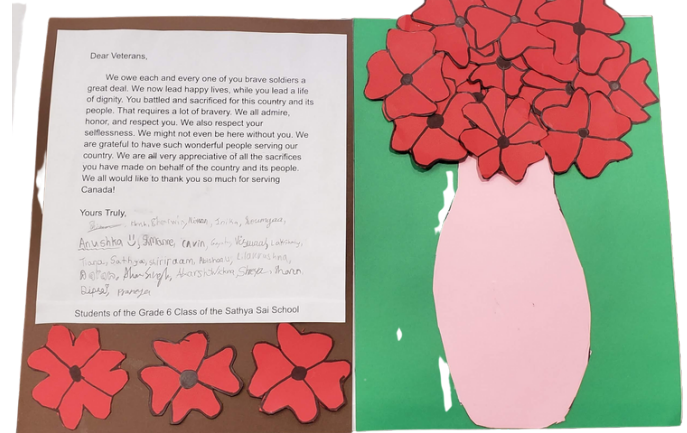


Photo credit: FWM



Cards for the Veterans

Students put a lot of effort and creativity into designing their Remembrance Day cards. The fact that each card included a heartfelt message and the students signed their names shows the thought and care they put into their work.



Grade 6

Some students used traditional symbols of remembrance, such as poppies or the Canadian flag, in their designs. Others chose to incorporate images or symbols that were meaningful to them or specific battles that they had learned about in their history lessons.

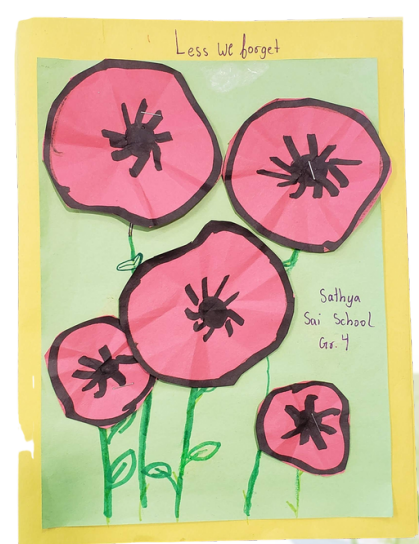
Grade 3



Grade 8



Grade 4

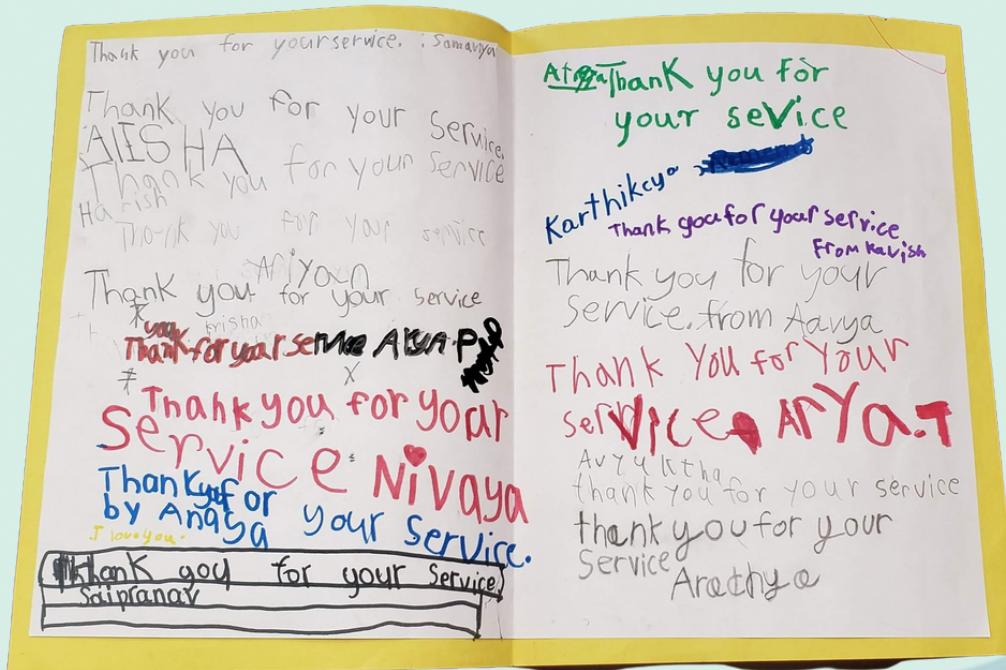
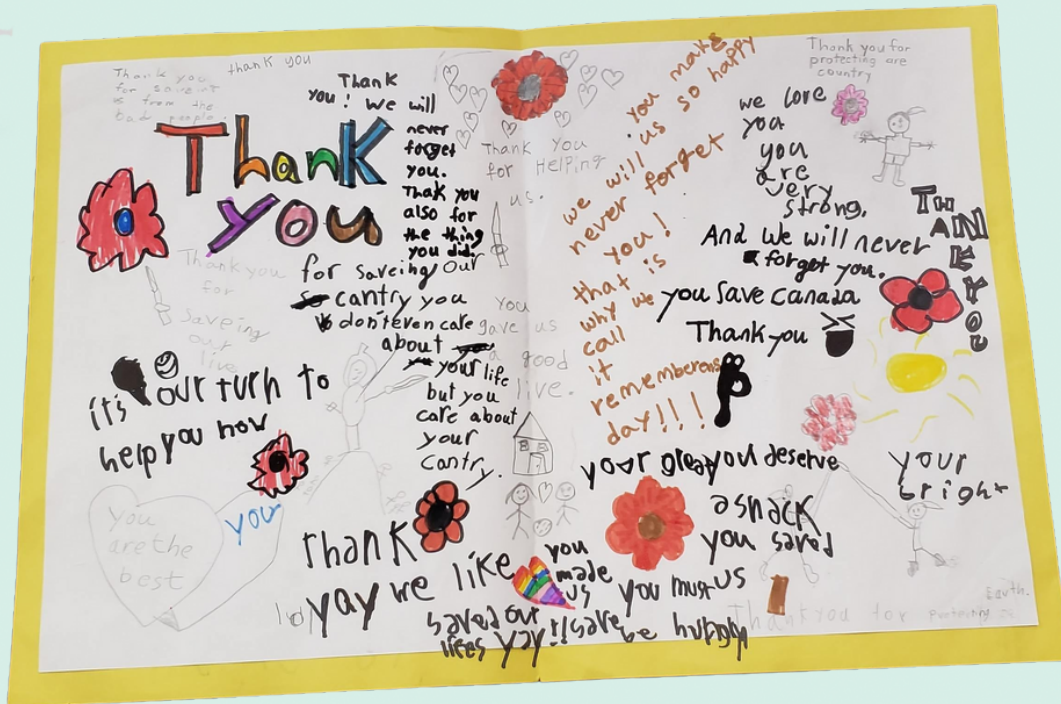


Whatever the designs may have looked like, it is clear that the students were committed to showing their respect and gratitude for those who had served their country. Overall, the students showed great creativity, empathy, and respect through their efforts to honor our veterans.



Cards for the Veterans

Although the younger students may lack the vocabulary to compose a letter, their gratitude for the Veterans was unmistakable and evident through the cards they made.



Year End Concert Spectacular

The Sustainability theme was the central focus of the 2022 Year End Concert, with all songs and plays incorporating this message. After a two-year hiatus, the YEC returned to the school's gymnasium stage, and parents were invited to attend. The concert was split into two performances: one on December 16 for JK to Grade 3 students, and another on December 22 for Grades 4 to 8. Both shows were filled with fun and festive entertainment, including singing, dancing, and theatre performances that were suitable for all audiences.

In preparation for the concert, the students rehearsed tirelessly for weeks to ensure a flawless performance. It wasn't just the students who contributed to the success of the show, as the teachers, volunteers, and parents also worked tirelessly to make both evenings a triumph. A big shoutout goes to Mrs. Khambhla, whose unique expertise was invaluable in bringing everything together for the initial concert, and to Dr. Jha Mishra, who delivered a memorable introduction on the second evening.



JK students dressed in their white top and blue tutus dance to *Mother Earth*.

The concert began with the adorable JK students dressed in white tops and blue pants for the boys, and lovely light blue tutus for the girls. They all wore white headbands, and the girls' were

trimmed with a ring of light blue flowers. They started with their dance *Mother Earth*, succeeded by the rendition of *We Are Family*. Afterward, SK students sang the *Mother Earth* song and grooved to *Jingle Bell Rock*. The Grade One class presented *Let's See How We Can Keep the Earth Clean*, followed by the Grade Two students' *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* performance. Finally, the Grade Three students culminated the event with their performance of *The Drum*, an Indian Folklore.



Reduce, reuse, recycle is the message the Grade 2's are sending.

A second concert took place for the Grade 4 to 8 students on Thursday, December 22. The evening commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Revathi and continued with Grade 4 students' impressive performance in *Hope to Save the Earth*, aimed at raising awareness about plastic pollution. This was followed by Grade 5 students' captivating performance, *A Dream I Had...* The Grade 6 class then took the stage and delivered an outstanding performance of *How Litter Harms*. The night wrapped up on a high note with two fantastic performances by the Grade 7 and 8 students. *If Only the Phones Could Talk* and *Wilma Wonka's Chocolate Factory* were both captivating and left the audience feeling upbeat and entertained.

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Year End Concert Spectacular



Grade 3 students perform the Indian folklore, *The Drum*.

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Throughout the two evenings, the audience witnessed the hard work and dedication of the students. However, what may have gone unnoticed was the immense effort put in by the team behind the scenes to bring it all together. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to this remarkable production.

First and foremost, we would like to express our appreciation to the parents of the students who performed over the two nights. Without your unwavering support, this event would not have been possible. Our special thanks go to Mrs. Khambhla for her role in coordinating all the many moving parts and to Dr. Jha Mishra for her introduction on the second evening.

We would also like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Mr. Mistry, Mr. Rughani, and Mr. Maharaj for sound and lights, Mr. Rughani, Mr. Maharaj, Mr. Patel, Mr. Sukumar, Mr. Wong, and Mr. Solanki for their work as Technical Managers, and Ms. Srivastava as the Stage Manager. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to Ms. Srivastava and Mrs. Spaley for the Choreography.

We must also give a big shout-out to Ms. Ameri for the music, and Mr. Rughani and Mr. Wong for creating the Live Streaming and Video. The parents and students from Grades 4-8 also deserve recognition for their hard work on the Backdrops, Props, and Costumes. Finally, but certainly not least, we sincerely thank Mr. Samuel from Custodial Services.

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Year End Concert Spectacular



Eighth-grade students captivate the audience with their performance of "*Willa Wonka*".

Trimming the Christmas Tree



Grade 8 students took charge of trimming the tree in the atrium with a little help from Mr. Pooran.



In the News

A Proud Sathya Sai School Alumni - Geertika Jeyaganesha





Geertika Jeyaganesha is a proud Sathya Sai School Alumni (Class of 2019), who graduated as Valedictorian. She is now in her final year of highschool, eager to achieve her professional goals while fostering the values she learnt. Geertika founded Nurtured Youth Community in August 2022 with an ignition to fight for social change. Nurtured Youth Community is an organization that bridges the gap between minors experiencing unsupportive relationships with parents/guardians and helpful resources to assist in supporting their situation.

Fuelled with an urge to help thousands in similar situations to her friend, Geertika began messaging industry professionals such as MD candidates, emotional coaches and therapists on LinkedIn. Geertika's mission is to connect minors to experts through free, accessible ZOOM meetings all over Canada because she believes nobody's mental health should be left up to the question of their circumstance. Through relentless pursuit, persuasion

and persistence, Geertika was able to secure a roster of professionals who joined her mission. She has successfully held numerous sessions with attendees all over Canada.

The SSEHV class in Sathya Sai School was the building block to Geertika's journey to service. It left a lasting impact on her, acknowledging that one's privilege should be used to help others and make an impact on the world. Geertika is grateful for the support provided by the Sathya Sai School community during her time there, as well as the core morals it has ingrained in her. During her service journey she constantly recalls Baba's quote, "Start small, grow big" to stay determined. She says Sathya Sai School has opened her heart to an empathic approach. The values are something she always resorts to when making decisions, and serving others. Geertika believes this mentality is an important part of the development of all youth.



In October of 2022, her organization won the Grand OXY prize out of the top six changemaking organizations in Canada through a worldwide voting process. She has had five interviews with CBC and spoke on the "Be the Change" Podcast about how change ultimately requires effort. In February 2023, she had an interview for National Television at Sathya Sai School to come back to her roots and give thanks to where it all began. Service is the heart of Geertika's work, and it will continue to be. To follow her journey, check out [@nurturedyouthcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/nurturedyouthcommunity) on Instagram and LinkedIn or her website at www.nurturedyouthcommunity.com. Click the icons to visit her page.  

Yours truly,

Ms. Faith Van Wart, Admin. Asst.

Dr. Revathi, Principal

