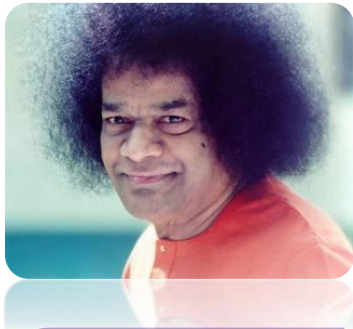




Sathya Sai School

Toronto, Canada

Parent Information Letter # 1 | Sept 12, 2022



Curiosity, the longing to know, is another quality which must be used to know the Reality which appears as many and momentary. This knowledge can be attained only when the consciousness is purified, by the grace of God.

~Sathya Sai Baba

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From the Principal's Desk

Revathi Chennabathni

October 11, 2022

Dear Parents and Well-wishers of Sathya Sai School,

Welcome to the School year 2022-2023 for in-person learning for all students and teachers. The Junior Kindergarten students had a staggered entry for the first four days of the school year. This year marks the 23rd anniversary of the school.

We bade farewell to Ms. Edith Recht who served the school from 2000-2003 and 2009 to 2022. We wish her all the best on her spiritual journey as she continues to spread human values along her path.

We have a few members added to our staff list. Our new staff members are Ms. Faith Van Wart the new Administrative Assistant and Ms. Bahareh Ameri the new Music teacher. The Board of Directors and the Sathya Sai School Staff members welcome both Ms. Van Wart and Ms. Ameri on board and wish them all the success in their new positions at the school.

Trusting you all enjoyed this year's in-person Curriculum week held from September 12th to September 16th, 2022. Thank you for your participation in the Terry Fox run event followed by Sports Day. Your voluntary services, coupled with staff involvement were crucial in making Sports Day a successful event, despite the weather vagaries. We look forward to your active participation in other upcoming school events.

We look forward to continue working as a TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) to instill the importance of proper health and hygiene with our students and keep Omicron subvariants at bay and hopefully out of our school.

Sincerely,

Revathi Chennabathni



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Upcoming Events

Summer Holidays: Jun 30 – Sep 5

Have a happy, safe and healthy vacation.

Uniform Purchase: Aug 24-26

Uniforms available for purchase by class rotation.

School reopens: Sep 6

First day of school for students SK – Grade 8.
Staggered entry for JK students.

Curriculum Week: Sep 12-16

Classes will meet from 6:00 – 7:00 pm.



Senior Kindergarten Graduation



Crossing the First Step in Life's Educational Journey — Senior Kindergarten Graduation Class

By: Faith Van Wart

Congratulations to this year's youngest graduates at the Sathya Sai School, the Senior Kindergarten class of 2022. For the first time in over two years, family and friends were welcomed in-person to the school to participate in the graduation ceremonies. The morning began with a prayer and opening remarks by Principal Dr. Revathi. The children were described as tiny buds that bloomed into beautiful flowers in God's Garden and despite the challenges they faced during the pandemic, they were resilient. These children were open and anxious to learn new things. She said they should carry with them to Grade 1 Sathya Sai Baba's ABCs: ABC- Always Be Cheerful / ABC- Always Be Careful / ABC- Avoid Bad Company / ABC- Accept Benign Company / ABC- Always Be Charitable.

Then it was time for these young budding minds to make their entrance. One by one they made their way through the gymnasium to the stage dressed in their little blue caps and gowns and once on stage the children proudly performed the school's song, "We Are the Children of the Sathya Sai School", a song written by Mrs. Prem 22 years ago.

Once the children were back in their seats, their SK teacher Ms. Ramjiawan addressed the young graduates and told them this was their day, a day they should hold their head high as they transitioned into grade one, that this was just the beginning of their journey and that anything is possible if they kept their hearts open. Then came the moment they were all waiting for, it was time for their diplomas. Each child was called to the stage where Dr. Revathi, assisted by Mrs. Jeyaganesha ECE and Ms. Recht, gave them their diploma and had their picture taken, each beaming with excitement.

In addition to their diplomas each was given a special award.

Arya T. (Caring Classmate), **Jeremy L.** (Best Helper), **Nivaya A.** (Fashion Expert), **Shayne S.** (Super Scientist), **Aanya R.** (Best Actress), **Anique U.** (Best Teammate), **Diya M.** (Sunshiny Smile), **Aradhya A.** (Super Reader),

Anaya K. (Most Prepared), **Alisha M.** (Cheerleader), **Neal G.** (Calculator Champion), **Siya P.** (Awesome Attitude), **Aavya S.** (Dynamic Leader, Academic Excellence, & M.O.D.E.L3), **Ariyan P.** (Best Basketball Player), **Sai S.** (Online whiz), **Samanyu P.** (Champion Counter & Academic Excellence), **Karthikeya V.** (Best Builder), **Bavan A.** (Biggest Heart), **Krishnachaitanya I.** (Magical Musician), **Pragathee A.** (Gracious Greeter), **Harish A.** (Sweet Soul), **Mithilan T.** (Animal Care Expert), **Sridevi S.** (Awesome Artist & Academic Excellence), **Kavish S.** (Super Speller).

Now that they had officially graduated it was time for some advice for the next stages in their life. The first person with a message for this young graduating class was Mr. Sid Mathur, one of the Directors at the school. He began his video message by speaking about the importance of the five human values. He told the children that when he was a young boy, he wanted to be a police officer. He also told the children that regardless of what they choose to be in life it is most important to become the best you can be. He finished his talk by wishing the students an enjoyable summer holiday.

Mrs. Sharanigan, next year's grade one teacher, congratulated the graduates and said she was looking forward to being their teacher come the fall.

This was followed by a video message from Sathya Sai Baba who emphasised the importance of the five human values. He said students must learn and practice the values in both walking and talking and he stressed the significance of not hurting anybody and the acceptance of your mistakes.

Then it was time for the highlight of the ceremony, the class presentations, which were started by the speaking group. First up was **Samanyu** who spoke about Sri Sathya Sai Baba and reminded the audience that character is the most precious gift of education. **Anaya** shared some of the values she learned this year including mindfulness, gratitude, and co-operation. **Shayne** did experiments on seed germination and loved doing arts and crafts and making friends and playing on



the playground. **Sridevi** spoke about how special it is to be a Sathya Sai School student and the importance of the Thought for the Day and how it reminds her to fill her mind with good thoughts by practicing the values both at school and at home. **Karthikeya** spoke on the benefits of yoga. He said not only does it make you strong, but it also gives you energy and can make you calm and peaceful. Then **Ariyan** spoke about mindfulness and shared that when we show mindfulness, we are in a peaceful state and will have the power to think wisely and make good choices. **Mithilan** talked about Mother Earth and reminded everyone of the importance of taking care of her and what we could do to help, including fixing leaky taps, using reusable bags at the grocery store, and planting a tree to give us oxygen to breathe. **Kavish** was next to speak about Help Ever Hurt Never and said you should avoid harming others in any circumstances and that you are only hurting yourself when you hurt others.

It was time for the musical group to present. First, **Neal** serenaded the audience with his rendition of "A Starry

Night" composed by Mr. Italo Taranta. He hoped it would help everyone feel calm and bring peace and love. This was followed by some of the children singing two songs: Let the Lamp Within My Heart Be Bright and Shining, and Think Good, Speak Good, Do Good. It was then time for the dance group to perform. Some of the girls showed their dance moves and with a burst of energy they lit up the stage dancing to the song Better Together. At the end of their performance, they were joined on stage by the rest of their classmates to sing their final song together, You Can Count on Me. What a fabulous job they did.

In recognition of the volunteers, Mithra Sriram and Nitu Kapadia came to the stage to give their appreciation and to recognize all who had made a contribution to making this day possible and to being there for their children.

Dr. Revathi closed the ceremonies by presenting the Parent Recognition Award to Mrs. Sriram. The vote of thanks was given by Ms. Jeyaganesha, who thanked all for their generous contributions to the Senior Kindergarten graduation.



The end of one journey is the beginning of another — Grade 8 Graduation Class

• *By: Faith Van Wart*

Graduation Day, what a special day it was for grade 8 students. For the first time in over two years, the grade eight graduation would take place in person. Families and friends could watch from the audience while each student took the stage to collect their well-earned diploma along with numerous awards. What a night to celebrate.

Dr. Revathi opened the ceremonies by welcoming family and friends, students, staff, and special guests. She addressed the graduating class of 2022 and told them today was the end of one journey and the beginning of another. She said that over the past two years they have shown resilience and they must continue and never give up that attitude. She went on to explain that there are seven integral and interrelated components that make up being resilient – competence, confidence, connection, character, contribution, coping and control. She finished her speech by quoting Sathya Sai Baba, “I want you to be leaders to protect the world. Leaders like lions are self-reliant, courageous, majestic, and just. Lion is the king of animals and I want you to be king among men”. Then Dr. Revathi was presented with flowers and a gift from Mr. Tandon.

Next, Mr. Sivanesan brought greetings and congratulations from the Board of Directors. He agreed that the students had shown resilience and had emerged triumphant. He told the graduating class that they have it within them to be the best version of themselves and that they should banish two ideas from their hearts, one was to forget the harm that anyone has done to them and second, to forget the good that you have done to others. He closed by wishing them congratulations on their accomplishments.

In a video message from Sai Baba, he spoke about human values which come from the heart. He reminded the students that they should work hard and practice human values every day. Don't have bad feelings for anyone even though others may hurt you. We should

not hurt anybody. When others hurt you, take it as “it is good for me”. The difficulties will give you happiness. The suffering will give you happiness. If you make a mistake, you should tell that and later, you will earn the respect.

Then Mrs. Munshi, a former secretary at Sathya Sai School, took the stage to wish the students a long life and blessed them with a healthy life full of abundance and bliss. She told the graduating class they were all stars in God's sky and when they reach high school, they will encounter choices: some will be super awesome, exciting, and cool while others may be downright boring but good. She told them to choose wisely. She left them with, “Be the best you can be, and then better than that.”

It was time for the students to take a little stroll down memory lane of their educational journey. First was Mrs. Sharma who the students had in grade five. She wished them well in whatever they choose to do and told them they will be missed and for them to make sure they do us proud. Following, it was time to look back with Mrs. Mohan who they had in grade three. She remembered that class as being naughty and chatty. She told them to work hard and aim high. Her wisdom for the students was no matter how many degrees you get or the money you make the most important thing is character, and without it you have nothing.

Mr. Kandavel, who was their grade six teacher, said what he noticed with this group through grades six, seven and eight was their strength and their grace exemplified despite the challenges over the three years. He said as a father of a six-month-old he has observed her inner joy and curiosity and he hoped for the graduates that they never lose their inner joy and curiosity.

Mr. Nankivell, who was their grade 7 teacher, was next and said he remembered this class as being very good at figuring things out and applauded them for their confidence. Mrs. Menon was the final teacher to speak on the stroll down memory lane. She said the students



had taught her a lot this year and hoped she had helped in building them a strong foundation. She told them that you may not value a moment until it becomes a memory, so cherish every second. Mrs. Desai presented Mrs. Menon with a beautiful bouquet and a big card on which her students had handwritten a personal note to her.

Then it was time for the certificates and awards which were presented to the students by Dr. Revathi and assisted by Ms. Recht. In addition to receiving their diplomas, they were presented awards of excellence in various academic achievements including Math, Science, English, Art, Drama, Dance, and many more subjects. Many were awarded a certificate for volunteerism. A number of the awards were cash awards which the students were very pleased about.

Then it was time to inject a little fun and humour into the ceremonies and Mr. Lad was just the person for the job. He reminded parents that next year they would no longer have to pick up or drop off their children, as now these graduates would be taking the school bus. He also joked that the kitchen was now closed, and parents would no longer have to make lunches as the students would be buying their lunches with the money they would make over the summer with their jobs. Then it was time to get serious as he addressed the graduating class. He said graduation is not the end, it's the new beginning. Remember the principles of education, what we learn with pleasure, we never forget. Investing in knowledge always pays the best interest. He reminded the students that when you leave here don't forget why you came and no matter where you go always keep the five pillars close to your heart, they will guide you when you need them the most.

Tonight, was not just about the students but rather also about the teachers and others who had helped the students along their journey. Now it was time for the students to present gifts to the teachers, staff, and other community members. Mrs. Prem, who was in the audience, was also acknowledged for her work and contribution to the school.

Mrs. Menon then called the two valedictorians chosen by their classmates to the stage. Sophia McLennon and Vineysh Neethan entertained the audience with their wit and charm telling the audience what it was like coming to the school for the first time. Although both

said they were a bit nervous about whether they would fit in, they shortly discovered that they did and became fast friends with their new classmates – a testament to the school culture, teachers, staff, and other students for making their new classmates feel welcomed.

Each graduate was introduced and given an opportunity to speak about their journey at the school. Many thanked their parents and acknowledged all the hard work they had done on their behalf. Others thanked their teachers, family, and classmates. While many had started at different times in their school life, they all were happy to be graduating together and acknowledged the bond they had created. This was followed by the traditional tossing of their caps. The students set off to get changed for the performance portion of the evening. In the meantime, some parents of the graduates spoke giving a wonderful testament about the school and thanking everyone who had contributed to their child's education and describing the positive effect the school had on both their child and them.

The time came for the grand finale of the evening, the production the students proudly wrote and coordinated themselves. The graduates brought the house down through a series of songs, skits, and dances about what it was like being a teenager going through a pandemic. They showed how difficult it was having to quarantine after returning from a trip or having to do school work in the middle of the night because you were not able to return from a trip. For others, it was feeling isolated without being able to get together with friends or feeling anxious about going out. They recognized the importance of masks and getting vaccinated and most importantly they showed they were resilient, just as many had spoken about earlier. Their resilience is something they can proudly take with them to the next stage of their academic career and serve them throughout their life.

The evening ended with all the graduates gathered on stage, some playing instruments and others singing a moving rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine". It was a beautiful way for the class of 2022 to end their time together at the Sathya Sai School.

Congratulations graduates, we'll be watching.



Congratulations Class of 2022



Year-End Awards Ceremony

The school celebrated the achievements of students from all classes at the Year-End Awards Ceremony on Monday, June 20, 2022. Principal Dr. Revathi and the class teachers, felicitated the students for their academic and character achievements during the school-wide morning assembly.

The MODEL3 Award and the Academic Excellence Award was bestowed upon the student(s) in each class who fulfilled the relevant criteria: The MODEL3 Award recognizes the student who has been the most Motivated, Organized, Disciplined, Exemplary, Love for: God, Learning, Humanity & Nature.

The Academic Excellence Award recognizes the student(s) with the highest percentage in all three terms in core subjects (Language, Math, Science, Social Studies).

Many additional Awards were given in-class by teachers for Honours in core subjects, together with special character and growth awards.

Year-End Award Winners 2022

M.O.D.E.L3	Academic Excellence
Grade 1	
<i>Lukshiya Rajeevan</i>	<i>Sajjen Shivajan</i>
Grade 2	
<i>Anandi Cheekoori, Amartya Singh</i>	<i>Veer Saini</i>
Grade 3	
<i>Sahasra Pasakat, Anusha Mishra</i>	<i>Sahasra Parakat</i>
Grade 4	
<i>Ashwin Mach</i>	<i>Aarav Bhardwaj</i>
Grade 5	
<i>Dipsa Gautam</i>	<i>Calvin Karthik, Anushka Malavade</i>
Grade 6	
<i>Syon Harilall, Vaiga Playadan</i>	<i>Abisha Amalan, Dhruv Patel</i>
Grade 7	
<i>Ananya Mishra</i>	<i>Aarav Singh</i>
Grade 8	
<i>Vaasavi Thavaseelan</i>	<i>Vardaan Desai</i>
Chancellor's Cup of Human Excellence <i>Aryan Gupta</i>	
Valedictorians <i>Sophia McLennon</i> <i>Vineysh Neethan</i>	



When I count my Blessings, I count you twice – Ms. Edith Recht's Retirement



By: Faith Van Wart

The sun was shining, and the school was abuzz the morning students, staff, directors, volunteers, and special guests gathered in the gymnasium to honour their beloved Ms. Edith Recht. After a 16-year span at the Sathya Sai School, she has chosen to continue her journey into retirement. It was a day to celebrate and thank Ms. Recht for her dedication and contribution to the school. The teachers, students, and staff worked diligently leading up to the event to create a heart-warming dedication to a woman they have come to love and respect.

The program began with introducing the emcees to the stage for the special event, students **Srividya**

and Viswaa. Their first introduction was for the grade five class who laid a soulful foundation of the program by singing a Sanskrit Prayer to the teacher. It was in honour of Ms. Recht's dedication to some of the Sanskrit prayers. This was followed by the grade four students who performed a classical Indian dance entitled God of Dance. Next on the stage was the grade six class who sang a song in French and wished Ms. Recht great health, prosperity, and a long life. **Vineysh**, a grade 8 student read a letter to Ms. Recht on behalf of all the students at the Sathya Sai School. The students recognized Ms. Recht for her kindness and for always being there for them when they needed it.



Dr. Revathi was next to honour Ms. Recht and thanked her for her dedication to the school. She noted that Ms. Recht is one of the longest-serving employees at the Sathya Sai School of Toronto - Canada and described her as a kind, compassionate person with a listening heart. She said she will dearly miss Ms. Recht after having worked together as a team for 13 years. She praised Ms. Recht and said she was a good writer and hoped that Ms. Recht would be proud of all the work she had done.

Next to the stage was **Mrs Yogeswaran**, who spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors. She too thanked Ms. Recht for all she had contributed to the school and thanked her for always going the extra mile in all that she did. She quoted Mahatma Gandhi saying "work is worship" and referred to Ms. Recht as a true person who is a fine example of dedication.



Then it was time for the teachers to give their farewells to Ms. Recht. They filled the stage and one by one they took the microphone to say their goodbyes and best wishes. Each message was delivered from the heart, and each thanked

her in their own way for her support and her contribution to making the school what it is today. Many noted the calmness of her voice and the unconditional love she had shown them over the years and regardless of the frantic state in which they may enter the office, they always left feeling calmer because Ms. Recht is not only a good listener but a voice of wisdom. She was described as a lighthouse in choppy waters.

Following the speeches, the audience was treated to a slideshow showing photos of Ms. Recht's life beginning with a picture of her father. The photos highlighted various stages of her life from the time she was a young woman and included different events she attended as a member of the Sathya Sai

School community. It was an opportunity to see her as she began her journey in life, a time before many in the room would have known her and for the students a time before they were born.

A letter followed from **Mr. T.R. Pillay**, the school's Founding Principal and current Director, of the Canadian Institute of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. It was read by grade 4 student Iman Ali.

My dear Sister Edith:

It is hard to imagine our school office without your calm and reassuring presence. For almost 20 years you graced this space with your soft-spoken, kind and pleasant nature. You were a model of efficiency and promptness with superior organization and writing skills. In addition to your BA Honors degree majoring in Religious Studies and Literature from the University of Toronto, you brought to our fledgling school skills such as yoga, music, desktop publishing and experience as an office administrative assistant. And thus began your long and dedicated service as the school's first Secretary/Executive Administrative Assistant; and our first yoga and music teacher. Your strengths in these two subjects enabled us to be the first school to offer yoga as part of our curriculum and to establish a school choir which you personally conducted at our numerous special events including a welcome for Archbishop Desmond Tutu at an Anti-Racism Rally. You also had the onerous task of performing many demanding duties requiring long hours before and after regular hours and even on weekends. Without a car, you got up very early and took the subway and buses from your downtown residence to open the school punctually at 8.00 am in rain or shine, answer calls from parents, take attendance, quickly change into your yoga outfit for classes and change again to receive visitors or call parents of bus students who did not turn up. You performed all these responsibilities without a whimper practicing the five D's as prescribed by



your revered Guru Sri Sathya Sai Baba - duty, devotion, discrimination and discipline as best as you can.

As well, you were our spiritual anchor in the first few years as we struggled with the challenge of laying the foundation for the first and only character education school in North America based on the educational philosophy of our Founder Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I remember most vividly how I, together with Seema Poddar (Gr 1) and Koushi Prem (Senior Kindergarten), gathered round your desk twice a day as you guided us to find comfort and inspiration from silently focusing on the calming presence within us.

One of the special features of our school is its partnership between School Trustees, the Principal, Teachers, Administration, Parents, volunteers and community representatives all working in harmony in the best interest of our students. Your excellent communication skills helped to forge strong bonds among these parties for the betterment of the school. With your delightful prose, colorful graphics and photographs, you captured in our bi-weekly newsletters the contributions of all these team players. You painstakingly showcased outstanding samples of values integration by students and teachers; their service projects in the community; their insightful speeches delivered at the annual public speaking contest; the profiles of student award winners; and the achievements of our alumni and the like. I want you to know, my dear Sister, how eagerly my wife and I wait to receive our copy to be delighted by its contents. It was not surprising therefore that at the World Conference of Sathya Sai Schools held in 2015, I was told by teacher delegates from different parts of the world that they too eagerly read the newsletters because they contained ideas they could use in their own classrooms.

Finally, my dear Sister without a Vice-Principal to use as a sounding board I found in you a most trusted and reliable confidant whose judgement and wisdom provided me with varied perspectives to consider in my decision-making. Even our many staff meetings were faithfully recorded almost verbatim by your ability to listen carefully and respectfully and capture the tone and thrust of the discussions.

Finally, my dear sister, may our dear Lord Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba grace you with good health and a long life to enjoy your well-earned retirement giving you time to read, write, travel and spend more time with your daughter and many friends. You will perhaps have more opportunities to do your astrological readings whose accuracy has received praise by a wide circle of people who used your services. Be assured that when the glorious history of this beloved temple of learning is written, your contribution is most certain to be a golden chapter.

With love, gratitude and Sai Rams
T.R. and Kamla Pillay
Edmonton

It was time for the guest of honour to take the stage. Ms. Recht began by thanking the teachers and students for all their beautiful words and she said how touched she was by them, that it nearly brought her to tears, but she did not want this to be all about her. She reminded the students that she was just one part of the team. Then she called all the teachers, directors, and volunteers to the stage to show the students the team that was behind them, the team that was there working for them, for their happiness and success. She suddenly said there was one part of the team missing and asked the students if they knew who that was. A few different answers were given until one student said, Parents. Ms. Recht said yes, parents are missing today but parents are the backbone of your life and a very important part of the team.



In her final words, she again thanked everyone who was part of the team and thanked them for this amazing day. The farewell assembly was followed by lunch in the staff room for Ms. Recht, along with the staff, directors, and special guests. For those that were not able to make it in person to the festivities, they joined via video.

Ms. Ketaki Mavinkurve may have summed up the feeling of the day perfectly when she said “in the wise words of Winnie the Pooh ... how lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard”.

Welcome to New Staff Members

- A new journey begins

Ms. Faith Van Wart, Administrative Assistant



The Sathya Sai School warmly welcomes the new Administrative Assistant, Ms. Faith Van Wart, who will assist Dr. Revathi, the Admin Team, the IT Team, and Teachers in the daily running of the school.

Faith is a certified photo manager and loves working with print and digital photos with her company Adventures-with-Photos. Her background also includes working as a desktop and electronic publisher and administrative assistant in the publishing departments within the financial, and accounting industries. She has worked for such companies as CPA Canada, OPG, Dundee Securities, and CIBC World Markets.

Faith graduated from the University of Toronto with a Hons B.A. majoring in History and Women’s Studies. She is an avid cyclist and in 2018 rode her bike from Ajax to the Quebec border in 6 days. She enjoys swimming, journaling, reading, and helping people tell their stories through their photos and creating photobooks. She lives in Toronto with her cat Caramella.

Ms. Bahareh Ameri, Music Teacher



Born and raised in Iran, Bahareh has been involved with music from a young age when she started playing the piano. After receiving her Bachelor, she continued exploring the world of music by studying piano, and vocals. She’s been trained in Orff pedagogies and is certified as an Orff Specialist. She completed various courses and workshops at the Royal Conservatory of Music and The San Francisco International Orff Institute.

Highlights of her career include faculty member at the Royal Conservatory of Music, working as an Itinerant Music Instructor with the Toronto District School Board, contributing to music curriculum development in the Aga Khan Museum Resources Project, teaching and developing music curriculum in Farsi and English, teaching music in deferent international, private and public schools in Toronto, Iran, and China, board membership in Ontario Chapter of Carl Orff Canada, leading camps, providing music workshops and organizing group children’s music classes as well as coordinating and supervising public performances.

Bahareh is an enthusiastic music instructor, who provides a positive and creative environment to motivate children in their learning. She is thrilled to be joining Sathya Sai School of Toronto this year as a Drama/Choir/Music instructor.



Kathak Dance Performances

Kathak Dance Workshops were presented by Mr. & Mrs. Panwar in four sessions for each grade from 5 to 8. Following their last class, each group from grades 5, 6 and 7 performed for the entire school assembly, demonstrating precise timing and expressive dance gestures to describe a particular theme from nature and the glory of the Sun. Photos are courtesy of Mr. Dev Taneja.





Letters from Parents

Dear Principal and Directors:

RE: ACHELLE UKWATTA'S AND ANIQUE UKWATTA'S REGISTRATION

It is with a heavy heart but an abundance of gratitude that we write this letter to inform you of our need to discontinue Achelle Ukwatta's and Anique Ukwatta's registration at the Sathya Sai School from September 2022 onwards.

The main challenge that we face is with logistics given our upcoming return to work; Oshani will be required to return to head office at Hydro One in downtown Toronto, and I will be required to commute to the University of Guelph as the university returns to in-class learning. Previously, Oshani's father and mother were a tremendous source of strength and helped transport the children to and from school, regardless of distance. However, with the onset of the pandemic and recent passing of her grandfather, her parents have since retired and now spend much of their time in the United States, assisting her sister to take care of her young child.

We are grateful to Principal Dr. Revathy Chennabathni for her endless love, continuous regard for child safety, the personal well-being of each child, and enriching their time at the Sathya Sai School with values, education and memories that would last them a lifetime.

A special thank you to Mrs. Revathy Mohan for transforming Achelle into an independent achiever with her own high sense of integrity. Achelle is genuinely engaged through the multiple facets of learning that Mrs. Mohan promotes.

A special thank you also to Ms. Ureta Ramjiawan for enabling Anique to thrive confidently in her school environment, and fostering avid, life-long reading in both Anique and Achelle. We are grateful to Ms. Ramjiawan for additionally finding strength in her own personal experiences and leveraging these skills and opportunities for the children to practice resilience and essential techniques beyond the classroom to help them overcome challenges in their future.

We are also thankful to Ms. Debra Gabiana for her aptitude and resourcefulness. She managed an

extremely successful online program during the main pandemic year, enabling the youngest cohort a sense of normalcy with her creative lessons and energy.

We are grateful to Mrs. Jeyaganesha, Mrs. Pandit, Mr. Hau, Mrs. Jhawar, Mrs. Kulendran, Mrs. Khosla, Mrs. Balasingham, and volunteers for their altruism and love extended on a daily basis, enabling children the safe, routine and supportive environment to thrive.

Lastly but not least, we are thankful to the strong administration and direction extended by the Administration and Directors, especially during the challenging pandemic that we faced as a community.

We will miss each of you dearly.

We wish the entire Sathya Sai School family the best and will continue to support you when possible. Please also do not hesitate to reach out to us if there is anything specific.

We look forward to continue participating at events such as the Walk for Values.

Sincerely,



Eranga Ukwatta and Oshani Pathirane

Parents



Dear Dr. Revathi,

I just wanted to give you a bit of background on this letter. I know you weren't able to see Jiah's public speaking presentation, however she was really really heartfelt in her message - thus I sent it to our Minister of Indigenous Services and hence this letter in return.

I hope you enjoy it, and I hope our little social justice warrior continues to spread the good word.

With Respect & Gratitude,
Snehal & Tapasi Patel



MIN-A23615

June 3, 2022

Tapasi Patel

tapasi.choudhuri@rci.rogers.com

Dear Tapasi Patel:

Thank you for your correspondence of March, 28, 2022 addressed to the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services regarding Jiah's presentation on residential schools and the discovery of unmarked graves.

I am very impressed by Jiah's intelligent and well-spoken speech shown in the video. She shows tremendous empathy in her understanding of the impact of the residential school system on Indigenous communities.

Please be assured that no relationship is more important to Canada than the relationship with Indigenous Peoples. In Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy of 2019-2022, the Government of Canada commits to addressing the effects of colonialism on Indigenous Peoples including the impacts of the residential school system.

Canada stands with and supports Survivors, their families and communities affected by the legacy of residential schools. The Department provides Survivors and their families support through access to mental health, emotional and cultural support services. The supports include access to trauma-informed emotional supports, Elders and Traditional Healers, and professional mental health counselling.

September 30, 2021 was the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation recognized in Canada. The National Day grew from efforts of many people across the country to recognize the importance of remembering why we wear Orange shirts on September 30 each year. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours all the children who attended and survived residential schools and those who did not return home.

Many commemorative events are held to mark this important day, such as The Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund's (DWF) virtual discussion to explore the significance of September 30th, University of Toronto's Hart House virtual event with Indigenous author Lee Maracle titled "Truth Before Reconciliation", Native Child and Family Services of Toronto held its' 24th Annual Community Pow Wow, and Six Nations of the Grand River held a candlelight vigil at Chiefswood Park in Ohsweken.

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These events provide an opportunity to learn about the history and impact of the residential school system and to share Indigenous traditions and culture. By acknowledging our past wrongs we are ensuring the path to reconciliation is built on mutual understanding and respect.

A renewed relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples is important in reconciliation efforts. I wanted to send you a print of MA-NG, a Spirit Loon in Indigenous culture, which symbolizes tranquility, serenity and the reawakening of hopes and dreams. Drawn by a member of the Every Child Matters Team in ISC, Ontario Region, the artwork represents the reawakening of Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, which prioritizes support for Survivors, their families, Indigenous communities and the missing children of Indian Residential Schools.

I encourage Jiah to continue her learning journey by visiting the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation at: <https://ojibweculture.ca/> (visit Nish Tales under Partnership Programming) and the Woodland Cultural Centre at: <https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/>.

Thank you for taking the time to write and share such a beautifully presented and important message. I have shared it with other people who work in Indigenous Services Canada, because it is important to know how all Canadians are working together on the things that really matter to us.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Scotton

Anne Scotton
Regional Director General, Ontario
Indigenous Services Canada

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S.O. '14
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Enclosure: MA-NG Spirit Loon

CC : Dr. Revathi Chennabathni

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Celebration of Extracurricular Activities

Congratulations to students for their many accomplishments in extracurricular classes. Student awards are announced by Dr. Revathi on the P.A. system during the morning announcements. Printed here are several achievements received in June 2022.

- ★ Veer Saini won an award for Suzuki Piano.
- ★ Sridevi Sriram won an award from UCMAS.
- ★ Chiinmaiye Srikhanthan was awarded UCMAS champion z2 level



Anya Hair Donation – Grade 2 Show & Tell – PowerPoint



1. Cancer is a serious illness that has been affecting all ages of people including kids. Always the entire family is affected by this illness
2. Some cancers are curable and have been cured especially when they are found in the early stages and many people and children have died of this illness.
3. As a part of the treatment Cancer patients go through Chemo Treatment which makes them loose hair.
4. I have seen this in my own Grandmother who is ailing from Cancer. She is a stage 4 cancer patient.
5. For her and other cancer patients across the world, I chose to donate my hair.



1. My mom's parlour friend, Aunty Isabella, measured marked and braided my long beautiful hair and then cut it and bagged it; per the instructions from the organization which accepts hair donations for cancer. Oh, it has to be a minimum of 10 inches plus
2. Chailifelinecanada is an organization that accepts hair donations for cancer and makes wigs out of it for children who are suffering from cancer. A small act from our end gives happiness and joy to the sick kids.
3. If you would like to know more about how to donate and all...please check out this website – <https://chailifelinecanada.org/about-who-we-are/>
4. Last but not the least I am here to share so you all can join me in doing our little bit to help bring the smile back to these children in need



Founder Sri Sathya Sai Baba to Students

You are existence, consciousness, bliss

Your nature is Sat, Chit and Ananda (Existence, Consciousness, Bliss Absolute), believe Me. That is why you behave in the way you do. You desire to exist for ever; you enjoy continuing to live; you avoid all talk of your own death. That is enough evidence to conclude that you are Reality in essence. Then, again, you are filled with wonder and curiosity and a desire to know the world around you. You ask continuously what, why, how and when, about all and sundry. This is the prompting that is given by the Consciousness, that is in your makeup. Lastly, you are always seeking joy, through some means or other. You try to avoid grief, you try to taste joy instead. It is the nature of man to do so. For, he is essentially of the nature of Bliss. When he seeks Ananda, it is like the call of the deep for the deep. When someone asks you, "How do you do," and you answer, "Quite well, thank you," he does not stop to enquire why you are well. It is only when you answer that you are ill, he stops and expresses concern and probes into the causes, symptoms and cure of the illness. "Well-ness" is natural; "illness" unnatural. Anxiety is caused by the unnatural only. So, you are happiness in essence also.

~ *Sathya Sai Baba, Sathya Sai Speaks, Volume 4, Discourse 14, 13 March 1964*



Human Value for May/June

TRUTH

TRUTH

Integrity

Curiosity

Honesty

Trustworthiness

I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.

~ ALBERT EINSTEIN

*Yours truly,
Ms. Recht, Office Admin.
Ms. Van Wart, Admin. Asst.
Dr. Revathi, Principal*

