SRI DAYANANDA SARASWATHI

Swami Dayananda Saraswathi was born on February 12, 1824. He was the most important Hindu religious leader of his time. He was a Vedic and Sanskrit scholar. He is well known for founding the Arya Samaj, a Hindu reform movement.

Dayananda’s early childhood experiences questioned him about the traditional beliefs of Hinduism and also God. So, he lived like an ascetic and studied under the guidance of the religious teacher, Birajananda. He promised his Guru that he would devote his life to restore rightful place of the Vedas in Hinduism. To fulfill his promise to his teacher, he started the Arya Samaj in 1877.

Arya Samaj does not believe in idol worship, animal sacrifice, ancestor worship, pilgrimages, offerings made in temples, the caste system, untouchability, child marriages, sati and discrimination against women. Some of main principles of Arya Samaj are: The God is Omnipresent, formless and every one should worship God. Everyone should learn the Vedas and lead a life based on Dharma. One should always lead a truthful life. One should serve the society with love and respect. Women should be educated and treated equally as men.

Swami Dayananda Saraswathi worked very hard to tell the human kind for universal brotherhood as said in Vedas. Because of his work on our society, Dr.S. Radhakrishna and Sri Aurobindo called him as one of the makers of modern India. Swami Dayananda Saraswathi attained mukti Oct 30th 1883.

-Srivardhan Parasarman

July Birthdays:

Toddlers: Aditri Hampiholi Eesha Dumbre Rohan Gali Vedanth Shri Kuruvadi
Juniors: Praseedha Sai Maddipatla Vidya Adi Ramanath
Seniors: Vinod Krishnamoorthy
Super Seniors: Sankaran Ramanarayanan
Satish Chandran

BBC Announcements:

Namaste! Hope you are all enjoying your summer break, as well as the BB Summer Camps! Our sincere gratitude to Jyothsna Subrahmanyam for all her efforts in conducting the Subhashitam Camp, which ended on June 29.

BB Summer Camps:
Science and Vedic Dharma: June 15 - July 13
Vedic Mathematics Camp: June 22 - Aug 3
Meditation Camp: June 29, July 6 (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE - NOW 4- 5PM)
Introduction to Mridangam: July 6, 13, 20, 27
Vedic Arts and Crafts Camp: July 13, 20, 27 and Aug 3
Vedic Culinary Camp: Aug 10, 17 and 24
Green Art Camp: Aug 17, 24

Picnic Photos:
Thanks to Prashanth Sharma for beautiful pictures of the picnic! (See pg.3). More pictures at: https://plus.google.com/u/0/photos/116767839485375847740/albums/5886056818465167985

Field Trip:
Annual Summer Field Trip for this year will be on August 3, details to follow soon.

Ganesh Puja:
Clay Ganesha making is on 8/18/2013 and 8/25/2013 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

Regular Bala Bhavan classes resume in September.

BBC Team
Editors corner

Holy Men of India

Have you ever wondered how India keeps producing great thinkers and philosophers? The number of India’s holy men and great thinkers baffles the whole world. The names are endless...

- Ramana Maharshi
- Thirunaavukkarasar
- Appar
- Sundarar
- Adi Shankara
- Ramanujacharya
- Buddha
- Guru Nanak

These names are perhaps a tiny fraction of the holy men that have blessed India. Not only were they inspired by Indian culture, they added more meaning and essence to our understanding of the age-old Indian traditions.

Editors corner

QUIZ TIME!!!

1) Identify this holy man from his childhood photo.

2) Name this holy man who can regurgitate Shiva Lingas and produce holy ash at his whim.

3) Name this holy man, the creator of the Sikh religion.

Answers

1) Paramahansa Yogananda
2) Satya Sai Baba
3) Guru Nanak Dev

Topics of the Month

Anirudh Yadavalli
Srivardhan Parasaran

SAINT THYAGARAJA

Kakarla Tyagabrahmam (May 4, 1767- January 6, 1847), colloquially known as Tyāgarāju, Tyagayya and Tyāgarājar, was one of the greatest composers of Carnatic music or classical South Indian music. He was born in 1767 in Tiruvarur to Kakarla Ramabrahmam and Sitamma in a Telugu Brahmin famil. He was named Tyagaraja after Lord Tyagaraja, the presiding deity of the temple at Tiruvarur. He was highly influential in the development of the South Indian classical music tradition.

Tyagaraja composed thousands of devotional compositions. Of special mention are five of his compositions called the Pancharatna Krithis (English: “five gems”), which are often sung in programs in his honor. Tyagaraja began his musical training under Sri Sonti Venkata Ramanayya, a music scholar, at an early age. He regarded music as a way to experience God’s love. His objective while practising music was purely devotional.

He also showed a flair for composing music and, in his teens, composed his first song, "Namo Namo Raghavayya", in the Desika Todi ragam and inscribed it on the walls of the house. He did not accept the riches offered by the king, but instead travelled to many temples and composed numerous songs in praise of the lord. In addition to nearly 700 compositions (kritis), Tyagaraja composed two musical plays in Telugu, the Prahalada Bhakti Vijayam and the Nauka Charitam. Nauka Charitram is the most popular of Tyagaraja’s operas. Tyagaraja Aradhana, the commemorative music festival is held every year at Thiruvaikudai in the months of January to February in Tyagaraja’s honour.

- Anirudh Yadavalli

Newsletter Editors

Sankaran Ramanarayanan
Keshav Tadimeti
Balabavan Annual Picnic - June 2013