



# Center for Indian Cultural Education

## Bal Vihar of St. Louis



### Executive

### Committee

#### **President**

Sudhir

Brahmbhatt

636-458-9634

#### **Building Coordinator**

T Subramanian

Ashok Kumar

314-997-4032

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#### **Treasurer**

Gururaj

Nagarajan

636-536-4567

#### ➤ **President's message:**

**As a part of our communication to the parents and donors, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those donors, supporters and well wishers involved in Bal Vihar of St. Louis Gala Event and helped achieve grand success.**

The Center of Indian Cultural Education – Bal Vihar of St. Louis was able to obtain \$250,000 in pledges out of which we have collected \$220,000. If you have not received your donation receipt, please contact any of the committee members. The funds that were collected for the school purpose are being held with a separate financial institution different from our normal operations, in short term CD's to ensure its safety and liquidity. It will be made available when even needed towards the building purposes.

The Hindu Temple has submitted final plan to the zoning department for the approval. They are hoping to secure the necessary approvals in the next two months. Upon approval next step will be to finalize the detail and timeline. At that time, we are expecting to execute a formal arrangement with the Hindu temple. We will use this communication vehicle to keep you all informed.

Ever since the Fund raising event last April 2010, the school activities have been far more than the previous years. After a long summer break kids started their new Bal Vihar academic year 2010-2011 on **Sunday, Sep 12<sup>th</sup>**. The school had a record registration of 270 children, about 15% increase for the school year 2010-2011. The parent involvement and activities have increased tremendously over the past few years as well administration is aggressively looking at ways to make the classroom environment an exciting experience for the children. More and more festivals and school events are targeted for the children and the parents to make the school a memorable and enjoyable place.

- Our school administration, the teachers and the curriculum committee worked hard the past year to revamp the school class curriculum to create fun, warm and welcoming place, where kids learn about the Indian heritage, and are also exposed to their ethnic cultural identity, thereby becoming an integral part of the Indian community. As promised, the new curriculum is complete and ready for implementation. This reinforces our belief that children that are comfortable and familiar with their roots become better citizens of the world.

With the rise in enrollment, we were fortunate to have five new teachers and two new yoga instructors join our faculty. New curriculum and new classroom methodologies and technology centric activities were introduced to our older class to enhance their learning strategies and improve active learning. This year, the administrators and teachers continued to strive for regular interaction with parents by introducing the classroom web pages with consistent communication of teachers with parents.

Below is a summary of key links to the curriculum:

**Legal Advisor**

Paritosh Sheth

314-614-3954

**Operations Director**

Giri Yanamala

314-882-1912

**Planning Director**

Vishwakant

Tripathi

636-346-4387

**Educational**

**Coordinators**

Komal Sabherwal

Shanthi Krishnan

1. **Overview of the Curriculum:**  
[http://www.balvihar-stlouis.com/docs/Overview\\_of\\_the\\_Curriculum.xlsx](http://www.balvihar-stlouis.com/docs/Overview_of_the_Curriculum.xlsx)
2. **Detailed Curriculum (Group 1A - 4B):**  
[http://www.balvihar-stlouis.com/docs/Detailed\\_Curriculum\\_Final.pdf](http://www.balvihar-stlouis.com/docs/Detailed_Curriculum_Final.pdf)
3. **Youth Group Curriculum:**  
[http://www.balvihar-stlouis.com/docs/Youth\\_Curriculum\\_2011\\_2012.pdf](http://www.balvihar-stlouis.com/docs/Youth_Curriculum_2011_2012.pdf)

➤ **I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who are intimately involved in Bal Vihar activities and encourage others who have not yet done so. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our staff to discuss ways to further improve our activities and make it a great experience for our children. Please remember children are parents' reflection and we can see you through them. On a final note, we appreciate your confidence in entrusting us with your children's cultural and spiritual education. Thank you for sharing your kids with us.**

➤ **Bal Vihar** youth group has been making a phenomenal strides in the community by providing their services to the community in a variety of ways. Also, diversity awareness activities participate by our youth and youth teachers has further helped us make our culture known to the community.

- **Highlights on Youth Community Projects and events highlights for 2010:**
- **SLICE** July program, St. Louis Interfaith community, Exploration: June-July 2011, Many Bal vihar students actively participated in the hands on program and discussions.
- Details on <http://www.interfaithstl.org/serviceprojects/39-slice/51-slice.html>
- Balvihar and temple youth group group joined hands and participated in the Hindu Temple community service by cleaning the outside of the temple and and planting over many weekends in the fall of 2010
- **"CHANGE for GOOD"** - Bal Vihar collected monetary donations collecting spare change like quarters, dimes and pennies for donation to charities to aid the Pakistan relief effort for those who have suffered throughout the floods in Pakistan.
- **"Circle of Concern"** food pantry- volunteering Bal Vihar youth refilled shelves with food cans, unpacking the goods and donations
- **Vedanta Society Field Trip** on 11/07/2010
- <http://www.vedantastl.org/StLouisCenter/StCenter.htm>
- Bal Vihar **celebrated Diwali** with laxmi poojan by all students followed by dinner and fireworks. This celebration of Diwali 'Festival of Light' was a grand success. More than 400 participated in this event..
- Balvihar youth (total 40-50 kids) participated in a Community project on 12/11/2010 at **Missionaries of Charity** located on 3629 Cottage Avenue ST. LOUIS, MO 63113-3539. They helped with the Christmas show, setting up games Bingo, puzzles and helped kids with arts and crafts/coloring project.
- **Field Trip to Hare Krishna Temple** on 03/20/2011
- Bal Vihar **celebrated Holi festival**, festival of colors on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- **Graduation for the senior youth group** set on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

➤ **Press Releases:**

- [www.hiindiaweekly.com](http://www.hiindiaweekly.com)
- [www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)
- [http://issuu.com/indiapost/docs/indiapost\\_12-10-2010](http://issuu.com/indiapost/docs/indiapost_12-10-2010)
- <http://hiindiaweekly.com/show.aspx?pageID=16&edition=12/03/2010>
- <http://hiindiaweekly.com/show.aspx?pageID=17&edition=04/01/2011>
- [http://issuu.com/indiapost/docs/indiapost\\_04-08-2011?viewMode=presentation&mode=embed](http://issuu.com/indiapost/docs/indiapost_04-08-2011?viewMode=presentation&mode=embed)

**Ishita Sanghvi**  
**Marketing Coordinator**