



Om Namah Shivaya

Om Namo Narayanaya

Shiva-Vishnu Temple

Hindu Community and Cultural Center

1232 Arrowhead Ave, Livermore, CA 94551

Tax ID# 94-2427126; Inc #D0821589

Tel: 925-449-6255; Fax: 925-455-0404

Balajyothi Class Curriculum

Overall structure of the class

- 1) Festival of the month
- 2) Temple deities
- 3) Moral Story
- 4) Symbolism
- 5) Sloka of the chosen deity
- 6) Bhajan related to the deity
- 7) Arts and Crafts

September

September 10th, 2011- 1.30 to 2.15pm

List of stories

- 1) Ganesha's devotion to parents
- 2) Birth of Ganesh- Elephant face
- 3) Ganesha Chaturthi story- Why Ganesha is the Adi Devata
- 4) Ganesha wrote Mahabharata
- 5) Types of Ganesha

Festival of the month

- 1) Names of Ganesha
- 2) The way the puja is performed
- 3) Visarjana

Symbolism

What Ganesha's idol signifies?

Moral Story- Respect for elders- story related to the theme

Bhajan-

Any simple bhajan on Ganesha

Arts and Craft- Colouring a picture of Ganesha and noticing all the finer points in the picture

September Class II

List of stories on Lord Shiva

- 1) Shiva Lingam Story
- 2) Ganga story
- 3) Nataraja story
- 4) Neelakantha story
- 5) Avatars of Shiva
- 6) Nandi Story



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Festival of the month

Masashivaratri

Puja

The way the puja is performed
Different names of Shiva

Slokam-

Lingashtakam
Shivashtakam

Bhajan-

Bolo Bolo

Arts and Crafts

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October

First class of the month on October 8, 2011

- 1) Festival of the month- Navaratri- This month will be completely dedicated to stories and other information on devi. An attempt will be made to explain to kids the concept of praying to the female form of god , who is the ultimate shakti. In the first class the significance of Navaratri will be dealt with in detail. Concept of Golu, Durga puja Vijaydasami will be discussed in detail.
- 2) Temple deities- Parvati, Durga, Andal and their namavalis will be chanted
- 3) Stories- Durga story, story about goddess Lakshmi ie wealth, Story behind Saraswati pujai, Story related to Navaratri
- 4) Slokam- Devi slokam or beginning few slokas of Ashthalakshmi stotram
- 5) Moral story- These stories will be mostly related to the importance of education, learning, chanting some subhashitas (good Sanskrit sayings) related to learning will also be considered.
- 6) Arts and Craft.

Second class of the month ie on October 22, 2011

The Devi unit of October is quite comprehensive in itself so the curriculum will be divided into two parts to make time for more detailed learning.

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November

First Class- November 12, 2011

Timing- 1.30pm to 2.15pm

1) Festival of the month- Diwali

This month we would be focusing on Diwali. The idea is to generate curiosity about the essence of celebrating Diwali beyond the rituals and eating sweets. This would be done through stories and the message one derives from the story of Rama and how it can be imbibed in our daily life and is relevant even today.

2) Highlight on Laxmi Puja

Knowing about Goddess of Wealth.

3) Stories- Below I am giving the title of stories, one of them would be chosen

Rama returns to Ayodhya
Story of Mahabali
Story of Kuber and Laxmi

4) Bhajan- Devi Bhajan

5) Slokam- Sahana Vahatu Sahanam Bhunatu

6) Moral Story- Story on Sharing, Goodness, Devotion

It can either be a moral story or mythological story since Ramayana has lot of instances of sharing, the goodness of Rama, story of shabari, story of Hanuman's devotion to Rama, Lakshmana's and Bharata's devotion towards Rama etc.

7) Arts and Craft

In this section I would like to provide kids with a picture of Rama or Rama with his favourite devotees. I would be focusing on iconography of Rama and the things that he carries with himself and what they symbolize.

Second Class November 26, 2011

Timings- 1.30 to 2.15pm

1) Festival of the month- Diwali continued a brief review and Kala Bhairav Jayanti

2) Story- Story on Murugan

Relationship with brother Ganesh
Various avatars of Lord Muruga
Story on Kala Bhairava



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3) Symbolism-

Brief review of why Kala Bhairav is placed at the left end of the temple, just after we enter and Why he is considered the Guard of the temple.

Secondly, we would also be studying a picture of Muruga and talking about his vel and his vahana or his vehicle.

4) Slokam- On Muruga

5) Moral story

Since it is the Thanksgiving weekend we will be talking about why thanking god and thanking all those who are a part of your life is important. We would be talking about the humility we develop when we have a feeling of thankfulness in our mind. This will be supported by a story. The story will be either chosen from mythology or Panchatantra, Jataka tales etc.

6) Arts and Craft- We would be studying the picture of Muruga and colouring the various elements in the picture and talking about its relevance. The colouring section really helps in keeping the picture of god etched in their minds.

December

First Class- December 10,2011

Timing- 1.30pm to 2.15pm

In the month of December 2011 we have Geetha Jayanthi on December 5, Hanuman Jayanthi on December 24th and beginning of the Ayyappa Mandala Puja on December 8. My plan is to cover all three festivals in two classes

1) Festival of the month-

Ayyappa pujai and how do devotees take the oath of going to Sabarimalai and why it is considered auspicious to visit Sabarimalai 18 times in ones lifetime.

2) Symbolism- The significance of Bhagwat Geeta and its teachings will be highlighted.

Little tidbits on the context of the Geetha and why Lord Krishna chose the battlefield to impart his teachings will be discussed.

3) Story-time- Listed are a few stories below, I would be choosing one of them.

Hanuman and how he saves Lakshmana by offering the Sanjeevani herb.

Hanuman as the ardent devotee of Rama

Birth of Hanuman

Why Hanuman is considered as an integral part of Raghuvamsham

4) Bhajan- Listing a few Hanuman bhajans, one of them will be chosen

Anjaneya veera

Jai Jai Hanuman

5) Slokam- From Bhagwat Geetha

Yada Yada hi Dharmasya

Paritranaya Sadhunam



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- 6) Moral story- Any story that signifies the values of friendship or any story that brings out the concept of divine devotees like Rama Krishna Paramahansa, Meera or great poets who were also great devotees.
- 7) Arts and Craft

Second Class- December 24, 2011

Timing- 1.30 to 2.15pm

- 1) Festival of the month- This month we have Hanuman Jayanthi on December 24th. So we would be talking about Hanuman Jayanthi as celebrated in the temple. The concept of vadamalai and why it is done.
- 2) Story- Story on Lord Kartikeya in the context of Annamalai Deepam or one of the Hanuman slokams
- 3) Symbolism- We will discuss about why do we light a lamp? And what does it signify
- 4) Slokam- Om Purna Mada, Purnamidam
- 5) Bhajan- A bhajan which highlights all the gods, like an end of the year salutation to all the Gods
- 6) Independent recitation by students
- 7) Arts and Craft-Colouring a deepam.

January

January 2012

First Class-

- 1) Festival of the month- Andal thirukalyam- Marriage of Andal. This is a significant festival in the temple so the context of this festival will be discussed in detail, throwing tidbits on the way the marriage puja will be performed
- 2) Story- A story on Avatars of Bhoodevi will be narrated in the class, highlighting the very purpose of avatars and why it is believed that God chooses to come in a different form on the earth.
- 3) Symbolism- Goddess as a symbol or shakthi will be discussed
- 4) Slokam- Some chosen slokas of Ashthalakshmi stotram will be discussed.
- 5) Bhajan- A devi bhajan will be taught
- 6) Moral story- Any story related to female power, Why mother is considered a form of God?
- 7) Arts and craft- Coloring a picture of Devi.



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January Second Class

- 1) Festival of the month- Vaikunta Ekadesi. First the meaning of Ekadesi will be explained to kids and how it is celebrated in the temple.
- 2) Story on Dashavatars of Vishnu- In this section the first two avatars will be highlighted ie the matsya avatar and the koorma avatar
- 3) Symbolism- With the context of the lamp, how good thrives over evil and how can one overcome his ego.
- 4) Slokam- Matsya Koorma slokam
- 5) Bhajan- Narayana Bhajan
- 6) Moral story- This story will explain how in the end God thrives over evil.
- 7) Arts and Crafts- Colouring the picture of Lord Vishnu

February

February 2012

First class- February 11, 2012

The entire month of February will be dedicated to teachings on Lord Shiva

- 1) Festival of the month- Importance of Maha Shivaratri, Masa Shivaratri and Pradosham will be discussed in detail. The main difference between each will also be discussed.
- 2) Symbolism- Vibhuti as a symbol of Shiva, Trishul as a symbol of Shiva and forms of Shiva alongwith their namavalis will be discussed.
- 3) Story- Story about Shivaratri and various episodes in Shivas life, avatars of Shiva etc will be narrated
- 4) Sloka- Slokas from Lingashtakam, Shivashtakam will be taught
- 5) Bhajan- Bhajan on Shiva will be taught Bolo Bolo or Dhimiki Dhimiki, bhashma bhooshita one of the them will be selected
- 6) Arts and craft

Second class-February 25, 2012

In the second class, the unit will be repeated to ensure through learning for the students.

Balajyothi March

March First Class Timing- 1.30pm to 2.15pm

- 1) Festival of the month- Rama Navami- This is a very important function for Hindus. This topic will be covered in detail highlighting the greatness of Lord Rama.



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2) Story of the day- Some significant event occurring in the Ramayana will be the story of the day. Special attention will be given in bringing out the unique qualities of Rama through the story

3) Sloka- Recited by Rama

api svarNamayI laMkA na me laxmaNa rochate |
jananI janmabhUmishcha svargAdapi garIyasI ||

Apadam Apahartaram
Dataram Sarva Sampadam
Lokabhiramam Shri Ramam
Bhuyo Bhuyo Namam Yaham

4) Bhajan

Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram
Patita Pavan Sitaram
Janaki Jeevana Rama Ram
Sundara Madhava Megha Shyam
Ati Sundara Madhava Megha Shyam

5) Moral story on devotion

6) Arts and Craft

March Second Class

1) Festival of the month- Panguni Utthram. A brief about how this festival is celebrated in the Temple, Why it is a auspicious month? Why does this month signify an important month for marriages between gods and goddesses.

2) Story- Listing a few stories below that will be chosen to be narrated in the class
Story about Shiva and Parvati
Story about Vishnu and Mahalakshmi
Story about Rama's marriage to Seeta

3) Symbolism- Why do people apply a tilak on their forehead? What does it signify?

4) Moral story- United we stand- A story about unity

5) Bhajan- Ram Bhajan

Ayodhya Vasi Ram Ram Ram Dasharatha Nandana Ram
Patheetha Paavana Janaki Jeevana Seetha Mohana Ram (2)

6) Slokam-

Raamaaya Ramabadraaya
Ramachandraaya Vaydasey
Raghunaadaaya Naadaaya Seethaaya
Pathaye Namo Namah



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ṽt̃tmajaŌ ṽnara-ỹthamukhyaml ꣳr̃Ÿr̃ma-d̃taŌ ꣳiras̃ nam̃mi ll

7) Arts and Craft-

April

April 2012

First class ie April 14, 2012

April is a month of New year celebrations as per our astrological calendar and the new year falls on different days for people of different language, keeping this in mind the first unit has been designed to acquaint students with the significance of New year and how it is celebrated in different states of India.

- 1) Festival of the month- New year. The puja and its significance will be discussed in detail with particular emphasis to the spiritual and moral side of celebrations examples include, the significance of looking the mirror the first thing in the morning in Tamils and preparation of different foods of various tastes in Telegus
- 2) Symbolism- The symbolism of the festival will be blended in with the significance of the rituals
- 3) Sloka- A sloka praying for well being of the general mankind will be taught
- 4) Bhajan- A song or bhajan related to welcoming of the new year will be taught.
- 5) Moral story- Story related to hardwork and its rewards will be narrated
- 6) Arts and craft

Second class ie April 28, 2012

- 1) Festival of the month- Rama navami- The importance of this day will be discussed along with the various rituals performed during the puja and some namavalis.
- 2) Story – Little tidbits from Ramayana emphasizing the greatness of Lord Rama will be narrated, particularly Rama being a mortal but having superhuman and godlike qualities. The difference he made to people lives when he ruled Ayodhya
- 3) Bhajan- A bhajan on Lord Rama will be taught
- 4) Sloka- Sloka on Rama from Sundara kandam will be taught
- 5) Moral story- Practice what you preach will be discussed in light of Rama being a maryada purshottam.
- 6) Arts and Craft



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May

May 2012 First class-May 12, 2012

- 1) Festival of the month- All the festivals of Muruga will be discussed and why he is considered the chosen diety for people of Southern India.
- 2) Symbolism- Skanda's symbol of vel will be discussed alongwith his vahana and his names will be discussed.
- 3) Story- The various episodes in Muruga's life, his camaraderie with his brother etc will be discussed.
- 4) Sloka- Small sloka from skankashasti kavas am will be taught.
- 5) Bhajan- Sivakumarane shakthibalane vaa vaa vaa
- 6) Moral story on Friendship and sporting spirit will be narrated.
- 7) Arts and Craft

Second class- May 26, 2012

This unit will take the second class also since the bhajans and slokas will be re-revised adding on some more stories.

June 2011

June 11, 2011

- 1) Festival of the month-Adi Shankara Jayanti- note on Adi Shankara
- 2) Temple deities- Balarama as a brother of Krishna as the ninth avatar of Vishnu.
- 3) Moral Story- An incident with Balarama- Shradha or Devotion
- 4) Symbolism- Symbols of Vishnu-Gada, Lotus, Garuda, Shesha, Shankha, Chakra, Color blue
- 5) Sloka
Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah
Sarve Santu Niramayah
Sarve Bhadrani Pashyantu
Maa kashchit Dukha Bhagbhavet
- 6) Bhajan related to the deity
Radha Krishna Karuna Lola Radhe Govinda (2)
Radhe Govinda Murali Govinda (2)
Radhe Radhe Govinda Murali Govinda (2)
Radha Krishna...
- 7) Arts and Crafts- Coloring picture of Balarama

June 25, 2011

Practice session



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July

July 2011

First Class

1) Festival of the month- Guru Purnima. Guru means teacher and Poornima means the full moon day of the month. This day is also known as Vyasa Poornima.

2) Story- Some stories are listed below one of them will be chosen to be narrated

Eklavya story

Ganesha and Vyasa story

3) Slokam- Gurubrahma Guruvishnu Gururdevo Maheshwaraha |

Guruhu sakshaat Parambrahma tasmai Shrigurave namaha ||

(Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu, Guru is Mahesh (Shiva). The Guru is

Parambrahma (The Almighty). Thus respect Guru)

4) Symbolism- Why do we say Lotus feet? What is the significance of Lotus feet and Why should one touch the feet of God?

5) **Bhajan**

Guru Hamare Man Mandir Mein Guru Hamare Pran (2)

Saare Vishwa ka vo hai data Narayana Bhagavan

Om Guru Deva, Jaya Guru Deva (2)

Om Guru Devaa, Jaya Guru Devaa (2) Guru Hamare...

6) **Moral story**- On devotion and respect for ones teacher.

7) Arts and Craft-

Second Class will be devoted as practice session

August 2011

Both classes will be devoted to practice session of Krishna Janmashtami and Ganesh Chaturthi program

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