

Bal Sandesh

Newsletter of Bal Sabha of Columbia, MO

April 2006

EDITOR'S NOTE



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This issue marks the merger of BalSandesh with Shanthi Sandesh. This is a new beginning in this transitory year, yes pun intended. The new Indian year is called Vyaya, meaning transitory, liable to change. In this issue, there is an article about India as it changed over time by Sheela Lal. There is also the regular feature of

BalSandesh Poets as well as some drawings and the impressive list of Kudos. These will be listed in the Bal Sabha web page

It can be accessed from Shanthi Mandir's web page.

If you have accomplishments that are not listed here, please send them to Ashok or Hema and they will be on the web page.

Ashok Cutkosky



Bal Sabha Kudos!

Bal Sandesh congratulates all the members on another phenomenal year of accomplishments. Here are some, by no means all, of the success stories of this year 2005-2006. We are proud of each and every one of you!

Math Competitions: Congratulations to Ashwath, Urmila, Atreyo, Sumedha, Nahosh, Nikhilesh, Vikram and Arjun. Manoj and Uma on being chosen to represent their schools in the MCTM or Math Counts. In MCTM regional competitions, Ashwath won third place in both 4th grade problem solving and concepts and Arjun won 7th place in seventh grade. Ashwath will compete in the state finals. Ashok competed in the Great Plains Math league for 9-12 grade, and won two second place medals in the individuals and two first place medals in the team for Hickman in the regional held in Truman State. In the State round he placed fourth among 9th graders in the state of Missouri.

Science Olympiad: West Junior team with Adithi, Ashok and Uma on their team won first place in the regionals and will compete

in the state. Jeff Junior team with Anchal, Raj and Sangita won third place. Manoj, Maya Cutkosky, and Mythily competed from Smithton Middle School which placed fifth. Arjun, Amit and Reshma represented Gentry Middle School. Individually, at the regional level, Ashok won three first place medals and one third place medal. Adithi won 2 first place and one each of second, third and fourth place medals. Sangita and Anchal each won one first place medals. Arjun and Manoj won a third place medal each where as Amit, Arjun and Reshma each won a fourth place medal in different events. Adithi, Uma, Sangita, Ajay and Swathi advanced to the State level.

Music: Uma, Maya C, Prerna, Ashok, Nikhilesh participated in the National Federation of Music Teachers festival in 2006 and all of them won Superior rating or five points in Piano. Maya Cutkosky and Mythily Ramachandran were selected to represent Smithton in the District music choir this year. Sangita went to the district choir festival and qualified for the state level.

Maya received the honorable mention award for her original composition in the Sinquefield Foundation's Creating Original Music project in the Junior (6-8th grade) level. Maya will also get a cash prize of \$50 and an award for her school.

Spelling Bees: Sumedha represented Ridgeway at the elementary school Spelling Bee. At the junior level Sidhanth Misra is the Mid Missouri Spelling Bee Champion for 2006.

Quiz Bowls: Maya R. on Fairview Team won first place in the State Quiz bowl.

Chess Tournaments: In the Columbia chess tournament, Vikram from Mill Creek elementary is the champion in 4-5th grade Open Chess tournament in Columbia. Ashwath and Nidhi from Ridgeway elementary both won 3rd place plaques in fourth and fifth grade respectively. Vikram and Arjun participated in Missouri state chess tournament. Vikram won 3rd place in K-5 grades.

Taekwondo: Nikhilesh won 3rd place trophy for Forms in the Show-Me showdown ATA Taekwondo tournament.

Change Over Time - India

Sheela Lal, 10th Grade, Rockbridge High School



India is a perfect example of a nation where a vibrant present and a rich heritage of the past co-exist



Indian society started several thousands of years ago with the Indus River Valley civilizations. Because it was the first civilization in the area, the culture that flourished became the foundation for Indian society today. How the Aryans in the Vedic Society behaved with other civilizations and how they organized their society still plays a huge part in how India operates today. Throughout history there are six relevant themes that can be seen and they are: the impact of interaction among major societies, the relationship of change and continuity, the impact of technology and demography on the people and the environment, social and gender structures, cultural and intellectual developments along with social interactions, and changes in function and structure of states.

One of the first civilizations in the world, the Sindhu-Saraswati (Indus) River Valley civilization, formed in Asia. Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations formed around the same time in the Middle East. Harappa and Mohenja-Daro, two cities excavated in the Indus

River Valley, developed an intricate society both of which had a written language, but they are not decipherable by archeologists today, and so there is not a lot of information about these societies. There is evidence that there was domestic trade and later, in about 2300 BCE, there was trade with the Mesopotamians. A majority of the people lived in the cities, which is where

markets formed. Other technology flourished, for example, wide roads were constructed and there was standardization of weights. It

was common in these cities to have class groups. Most of these social distinctions were by living styles. Aryans developed agricultural tools made of iron, to further cultivate in the Ganges valley. Their religion later came to be known as Hinduism. The basis of this religion came from Vedas. The social groups were called castes. There were four main groups, Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas, and Sudras. Centuries later, the lowest group, the untouchables, were formed. They did the menial work like moving corpses and cleaning streets. In addition, gender roles started to form distinctively. Society was patriarchal, and as a result, women had few rights or benefits.

Alexander invaded the northwestern part of India. After the departure of Alexander, Chandragupta Maurya seized control of the Magadha kingdom. His grandson, Ashoka, is probably one of the most important rulers that India ever had. He ruled almost the entire Indian subcontinent, which is the closest to unification ever experienced in the subcontinent. During his time Buddhism and Jainism became popular religions. Ashoka, having converted to Buddhism, helped to spread its influence throughout south-east Asia.

In 711 BCE, Arabs conquered the Sind region of India, but had no effective authority. However, the Arab intellectuals took the Hindu mathematical and astrological work and translated it into Arabic. A man named Mahmud of Ghazni, who destroyed Hindu and Buddhist sites in India, had a huge impact on the relationship between Islam and India. He invaded India several times to plunder the riches from Hindu temples.

The British took over India in the mid 1700s, and at first, there was not resistance because they were not exploiting them, just using them for land, natural resources, men, and

manufacturing. To take over, the British intervened in conflicts between the rulers of the numerous princely states. At different times, the princes formed alliances with the British or French to settle disputes with other princely states, allowing the British to gradually take over the princely states, one by one. In addition, in the 1830s, the British, effected changes in Indian society by outlawing sati, the ritual of a widow ascending her husband's pyre while he was being cremated, and forbidding child marriage; changes that affected the role of women in Indian society. The British exploited the caste system to get what they wanted. They used the sepoy (Indian soldiers) to fight against the Chinese, Afghans, and Malaysians in the first and second world wars. Indian industries produced cotton textiles and exported it to other places around the world. Part of Britain's Industrial Revolution was aided by the use of Indian workers to help manufacture inexpensive products to sell back in England. Mohandas Gandhi brought Indians together to resist British rule. Gandhi spoke out against maltreatment of the untouchables, saying that they were also God's children, and tried to even out the gender roles.

Today, India is considered one of the world's upcoming players because of its technological advances and its large pool of educated professionals. It has nuclear power and has an alliance with the world's most powerful nation, the United States. Close Indian-American relations are likely to shape the world in the years to come. All six themes cited earlier have at one point or another been important to the development of Indian society, but it is the interactions among societies, gender and social structures, and cultural and intellectual developments that have shaped India into what it is today.

Bal Sandesh Poets

Oh Birdie!

Trisha Chaudhary, 4th Grade
Mill Creek Elementary School

Oh Birdie, Oh Birdie
Where have you gone?
I have been looking for you all day long
I am telling the truth,
I will not lie,
How far could you possibly fly?
I have looked high and low,
Here and there
I have looked everywhere.
I can not spot your pretty blue feathers
Because of this bad rainy weather!
The sun is still up we can play hide and go seek.
But since you are hiding I guess I'll have to seek.
Please show your self.
Please, please, please.
This day is no fun without your cheerful tweets.

Oh Birdie, Oh Birdie
Where have you gone?
I **really** have been looking for you all day long!

A Little Kitten

Ipsa Chaudhary, 5th Grade
Mill Creek Elementary School

I had a little kitten,
Her name was Mary-Lou.
And when you'd give her milk
She'd sit down and mew!

She was a lazy kitten,
She always used to sleep
Her eyes were always closed,
And she wouldn't make a peep.

Sometimes she went outside,
To catch herself a mouse
And when she got all dirty,
She'd come back in the house.

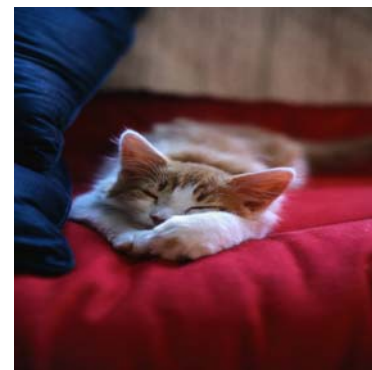
She thought she was real smart,
But she couldn't catch a mouse
And when you'd try to teach her,
She'd wreck the whole house.

This is my little kitten,
She's tiny and stuck up.
I love her quite a lot,
I love her very much.

Wind

Maya Cutkosky, 6th Grade
Smithton Middle School

A quiet little voice it can have
You may not even slightly notice it
Though if wanting to be loud
What a racket it will make
Howling or blowing fiercely!
It is funny how the quietest
Most unnoticeable and unheard
Is the one that every one notices
Which really makes me marvel
How unique and queer wind is!



From the Sketch book of Shreyas Srinivasan, Kindergarten, Paxton Keeley Elementary School

**Bal Sabha
meets every
fourth Sunday
of the month
from 3:00 -
5:00 p.m. at
Shanthi Mandir**



Bal Sandesh needs your help!

We welcome submissions of all types (reports, poetry, short stories, artwork, puzzles, jokes etc.). Work can be submitted to the Editor or the Parent Advisors. We prefer electronic version of the submission (e-mail or diskette). Artwork can be submitted on paper. Older kids interested in volunteering to serve on the editorial/production team should contact the Editorial Staff or the Parent Advisors.

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