

# CHINMAYA PRADĪPIKĀ

CMSD QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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The highlight of this issue is the grand production on **Chinmaya Jayanti**, a devotional offering of CMSD's sixth major production "*Kṛṣṇaṁ Vande Jagadgurum*" at the lotus feet of Pujya Gurudev. This also marked the 2022 Mothers' day celebration. The quarter began with *Rāma Navami* and *Hanumān Jayanti pūjā* and presentation and ended with the Annual Bala Vihar presentations and Award ceremony, and a Graduation ceremony for senior high school children.



### THE MASTER SPEAKS

"Krishna is the Actionless Center around which all actions are taking place..... the activities are only possible in His Presence..... Krishna is Motionless in the midst of all movement, the Changeless in the midst of all change, the Immutable in the midst of all mutation..."



## Grand Production - *Kṛṣṇaṁ Vande Jagadgurum*

*Ādi Śaṅkara Jayanti* and *Pujya Gurudev's Jayanti* were observed on successive days in May 2022.



The final rehearsal for the production *Kṛṣṇaṁ Vande Jagadgurum* was conducted on **May 7, 2022**, following the chanting of Chinmaya *nāmāmṛta stotram*.



On **May 8, 2022**, *Pujya Gurudev's* 106th birth anniversary commenced with *Guru pādukā pūjā* at the beautifully decorated altar by *CMSD Devīs*. The grand *upacāra* or offering followed.



## Grand Production - *Kṛṣṇaṁ Vande Jagadgurum*

2021-2022 was a significant year when CMSD members concluded the study of the eighteen chapters of *Śrīmadbhagavadgītā* and also the twelve cantos of *Śrīmad Bhāgavatam*. **Lakshmi Aunty's** vision of offering the precious teachings from these scriptures at the lotus feet of Pujya Gurudev as *Guru Dakṣiṇā* fructified on **May 8, 2022** - 106th **Chinmaya Jayanti Day**, through the grand production "*Kṛṣṇaṁ Vande Jagadgurum*" by a team of over a hundred members that included children and adults.



*Chinmaya Jyoti* was transformed into the divine land of *Vrindāvana*!



In his welcome address, **Sukumar Uncle** mentioned, "how a seed thought in **Lakshmi Aunty's** mind in 2010 gradually evolved into this grand production." **Lakshmi Aunty** announced thereafter to the audience to bear in mind, "this is not a professional performance but a devotional offering at the lotus feet of Pujya Gurudev by His children."

## Grand Production - *Kṛṣṇaṁ Vande Jagadgurum*

CMSD's sixth major production "*Kṛṣṇaṁ Vande Jagadgurum*" was a heartfelt devotional act dedicated to Pujya Gurudev. As **Pujya Guruji** himself mentioned, the response from **Shri N. Mohan and family (from Bangalore)** to Lakshmi Aunty captured the whole program beautifully.



“Dear Madam,

Myself, N.Mohan, and my wife Rema Mohan had the privilege and pleasure of watching the webcast of the programme organized by your *Āśrama* to celebrate the 106th Birth Anniversary of Pujya Swami Chinmayananda yesterday i.e. 8th May, 2022. I would like to convey to you my humble observations about the programme.

The format of the whole programme was extremely divine and pleasing. The content of the narration, which I am sure had been painstakingly put together by you, on the story of *Śrī Kṛṣṇa*, was clear and very informative. We were indeed transported to *Dvāpara Yuga*!

The *bhajans* and *nāmāvalīs* during the entire programme were meticulously chosen and rendered with *Bhāva* by the group. It helped to dwell and re-iterate the impact of the previous scene. Hearing the *bhajans/nāmāvalīs* when the curtain was down was very effective to keep the audience well engaged and we could hardly realize how quickly time went by.

The costumes of both children and adults were wonderfully put together, colorful and gelled with the story and the characters. The stage and set designs were brilliant and looked real. We really enjoyed the realistic background (Nanda *Bābā*'s home), *Kāliyā*, *Govardhana Giri* and the chariot for *Gītopadeśam*.

The performance of all the participants, especially the children, was splendid. We can imagine this would have been possible only with rigorous practice/rehearsals over a long period of time and all credit goes to you for inculcating and sustaining the interest in such a large number of members. Your dedication and *saṅkalpa* shone through each and every participant.

You mentioned at the start of the programme that it is not the programme of professionals, but offering of devotees to the Lord. But the CMSD *āśrama* and the Devotees under your guidance proved that Devotees with their dedication can supersede any professional and, if I may humbly add, even put professionals to shame.”



Grand Production - *Kṛṣṇam Vande Jagadgurum*





# Grand Production - *Kṛṣṇaṁ Vande Jagadgurum*





Grand Production - *Kṛṣṇam Vande Jagadgurum*

**Mothers' Day celebrations** at CMSD are unique and special. An opportunity to dedicate and surrender such a heartfelt devotional performance at the lotus feet of Pujya Gurudev made this year's Mothers' Day truly exceptional. All the members joined in chanting *māṭr stavanam* composed by Pujya **Guruji** and led by **Lakshmi Aunty**.

"There is no better gift on Mothers' Day than worshipping our Pujya Gurudev through this great offering" shared **Hema Pandya**.

**Shubha Venkatesh** experienced as it were Lord *Kṛṣṇa's māyā* that made Pujya Gurudev consider her to play the role in this production as the Mother of that great *Jagadguru* on Mothers' Day.



## Grand Production - *Kṛṣṇam Vande Jagadgurum*



The memorable event concluded with *Śrī Chinmaya ārati* and **Chinmaya Mission Pledge**. All members enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by CMSD *Devīs*, while still rejoicing in the melodious tunes of *Mūrali Manohara* and soaking in the divine grace and blessings of Pujya Gurudev.





## Grand Production - *Kṛṣṇam Vande Jagadgurum*

**These very sentiments were echoed by CMSD members and guests:**

The production was very impressive! I marveled at the amount of planning and preparation and devotion that must have been applied to bring it about. I found especially impressive those final scenes from the *Gītā* in which the older youngsters gave long and complicated speeches without a hitch.

**- Rudite Emir**

I had never realized how central JOY and Playfulness is to the tradition. Coming from a religion whose central icon is a man on a cross suffering unimaginable pain, I imagined being raised in a tradition that could somehow see a naughty boy as divine, and his pranks as an expression of joy and life. Thank you dear friends, for your devotion and your availability to divine expression through incomprehensible giving...availability beyond all your obvious abilities. You are such an inspiration.

**- Barbara Waugh, Ph.D.**

What has always been amazing about all the programs offered at our *āśrama* under Aunty's guidance, is how the preparations for various aspects such as music, dance, rhymes, narration, chanting etc. gradually and gracefully fuse into one sublime offering that connects with the audience and at the same time brings together the entire CMSD team in *Yajña Bhāva*. And it was no different this time around. As the vision unfolded, so did our joy and devotion.

**- Ashwin Mohan, KVJ - Chinmaya Swaranjali Team**

As I look back, I am reminded of the sheer amount of discipline and focus shown by Lakshmi Aunty to not waver from the output she had in mind, the dedication to the play shown by the *sevaks*. The effort put in by the participants to perform to the standard set by Aunty. The vision of one transcended to action by many as an offering to Gurudev. All working in harmony to make each moment what it should be like. The work put in by each *sevak* inspired me to give more and make this a success.

**- Santosh Pappu, KVJ - A/V Team**

My husband, Ray, and I sat transfixed watching the play of *Kṛṣṇa's* life. The players gave crisp portrayals, showing caring attention to the details in both movement and speech. Clearly, the many hours of dedicated rehearsal made the difference. The props, too, revealed this dedication. We were quite amazed to see *Kṛṣṇa* lift the mountain! The golden chariot and horses, too, were a wonder. And to hear the narrators share the deeper meanings of *Kṛṣṇa's* life drew the words into our hearts and minds. What a beautiful and noble purpose it is when all these efforts are united and surrendered to the Lord and presented for the joy of those who come to watch and learn.

**- Kathe (Thushara) Gogolewski**

It was such an honor and pleasure to be able to watch the production. All the months of hard work by the production team can be witnessed in the team's performances. I enjoyed every bit of it and the songs chosen for the play were so apt. The whole experience was so blissful.

**- Deepthi Anipindi**



## Grand Production - *Kṛṣṇam Vande Jagadgurum*

The energy was just magical. The program was phenomenal. The essence of *Kṛṣṇa's* teachings came through beautifully - touching the soul. The teachings from the *Gītā* were conveyed in simple terms and connected very well.

- **Yogesh Babla**

With Gurudev's blessings you can do anything....

- **Nikita Akkala, CHYK**

It was truly heartwarming to see the ever-present Lord come alive through the heartfelt performances. I felt like a *Gopī* living through the Lord's *līlās*, filled with devotion and joy. What a wonderful way of instilling the teachings of the Lord! The performances, the narration, singing, music, crisp editing - were all a treat to behold. Hearty congratulations!

- **Jyotsna Nichani**

Today's performance was better than any professional performances that I have seen. All the actions of drama and dance were very well coordinated which shows a tremendous amount of rehearsals and effort was put into creating a show so magnificent. I had tears flowing throughout the show. It was a flawless, eyeopener, devotional act presented with love and will forever stay in our hearts and mind.

- **Mona Pandya**

Today CMSD members and their guests witnessed a heart-warming performance by non- professional 'actors' from the CMSD family. The performance by young children, youth and adults was indeed a labor of love dedicated to Pujya Gurudev on his 106th birth anniversary.

- **Nikhil Varaiya**

From beginning to end, "*Kṛṣṇam Vande Jagadgurum*" production was a sensory treat for all devotees.

- **Faith Prasad**

This production touched my heart. It brought tears to my eyes many times. Both the music team and the production team showed excellent talent and they really came through. It felt like such a great production that many values were presented.

- **Ramesh Rajagopalan**

..... we see the words " See Me in Gurudev" and we feel immense feelings of gratitude that the Lord gave us the gift of Gurudev and suddenly we felt the impact of all that Gurudev stands for to us and we rejoiced his birth.

The finale had the entire cast assemble to chant a ślokā from the *Gītā Māhātmyam* reassuring us that there is only one scripture, one Lord, one mantra and one prayer and only one work for the service of the Lord. And we, the audience, felt what a truly magnificent work this Production was..... indeed a devotional offering in the grandest proportions at the feet of our beloved Guru by His children.

- **Priya Narthakii**



## CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations

The theme for the 2022 Annual Program was “**Values are Invaluable**”

### Language classes Presentations - June 5, 2022

Lakshmi Aunty began the program by quoting revered Gurudev on the significance of values. “**Give your children values, not just valuables. Valuables come and go; Values come and grow**”.

The program was conducted in Samskriti Nilayam and Lakshmi Aunty reminded us that the very meaning of this name is “Abode of values & culture” and in this space we should always endeavor to bring refinement to our values.

The three language schools showcased their learnings during the past year by staging short sketches, recitations and singing songs.



Students of **Tamil Pallikoodam** began their presentation by singing with lyrics reflecting the love for Motherland and love for the Lord. The group then recited quotes based on values by the poet Thiruvalluvar, some of which translated to:

“Never speak ill of others.”

“Never forget your mother.”

The group ended the presentation with the cheerful song “*Oḍi Vilāiyāḍu pāppā*”.



## CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations

UNTO HIM OUR BEST

CHINMAYA  
MISSIONCHINMAYA  
MISSION

**Hindi Pāṭhasālā** students posed a question to the audience - Who is a person you will remember even after thousands and thousands of years? The Swamiji in the play explained - A person who has imbibed in himself/herself the qualities of “*Sabratā*” (Patience), “*Vinamratā*” (Politeness), “*Gurusevā*” (Service to Guru), “*Samyama*” (Control over the senses), “*Sādagī*” (Simplicity) will never fade from people’s minds or hearts.

The group highlighted some of these qualities by portraying the devoted activities of *Śabarī* in her anticipation of Lord *Rāma*’s visit to Sage *Matanṅa*’s *āśrama*.

# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations





## CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations



Students of **Samskṛta Vihar** performed short sketches of the stories “The Clever Crow”, “The mouse and King” and the “Beggar and the Wise One”. Each story encapsulated a gem of a value that the audience could benefit from.

Drawing from Chapter 2 of *Bhagavadgītā*, the verses describing the characteristics of a Wise Man or *Sthita prajña* were recited, and their meanings were explained. In the same context, the importance of understanding “*samāsa*” or compound words in Sanskrit was established stating that for every six words in *Bhagavadgītā*, there is one “*samāsa*” word. Hence, we are to learn to decode these compound words correctly in order to gain the correct interpretation.

# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations

## Shishu Vihar and Bala Vihar upto Grade 7 Presentations - June 12, 2022

The **Bala Vihar program** is **Value Education** and this year's Annual Presentations were based on the fitting theme: **"Values are Invaluable."**



The event commenced with a prayer by **CMSD Chinmaya Dhvani** to the Almighty to bestow wisdom and values, *"he prabhu ānanda dātā jñāna hama ko dijiye"*.



SV3



SV4



# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations



## Grade K

Children from Shishu Vihar through Grade 7 presented their learning in a variety of ways including short skits, stories, songs and presentations. The young children through Kindergarten were adorable and performed confidently on the stage.



## Grade 1

# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations



Grade 2



Grade 3



# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations



Grade 4



Grade 5



Grade 6

# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations



## Grade 7

The older children rendered their lines with articulation. Each class showcased what they had learned throughout the year, in story or skit form, with some classes expressing themselves through elaborate costumes, and props.

## Bala Vihar Grade 8 through Grade 12 Presentations - June 19, 2022

June 19, 2022 marked the last day of 2021-2022 Bala Vihar session. The program commenced with soulful vedic chanting by Bala Vihar students. The theme continued as Bala Vihar Grade 8 through Grade 12 showcased their annual presentations after a beautiful *Guru pādukā pūjā* performed by the seniors.



## Grade 8



# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations



**Grade 9**



**Grade 10**



**Grade 11**



# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations



## Grade 12

Grade 8 presented on being Magnanimous like *Yudhiṣṭhira*, with short stories and a beautifully composed song on values that brought many smiles in the audience. Grade 9 presented the value of Self-control through the eyes of the seniors as they graduate from college and take on the world and use this invaluable value of self-control to be happy. Grade 10 & Grade 11 presented on the values learnt from the *Gītā* and Grade 12 presented on *Ahimsā*. All the presentations showed how to apply these values in day-to-day situations.



The program concluded with all the Bala Vihar students gathering on stage to present the “Eighteen-ities” - song composed by **Swami Sivananda** - a perfect finale for the theme!



# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations





# CMSD 22nd Annual Program Presentations



Following the Bala Vihar presentations, **Lakshmi Aunty** and the **Bala Vihar teachers** announced Perfect Attendance, Chinmaya Ślokāñjali, Chinmaya Dhvani, Chinmaya Gītāñjali awards and Language classes' certificates.



## Bala Vihar Graduation: Class of 2022

On **June 19, 2022**, the seniors were taken down memory lane with a special slideshow presentation of their Bala Vihar years at CMSD.



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**Lakshmi Aunty, Nagesh Uncle, Raja Uncle, Sukumar Uncle and Rajasekar Uncle** recited the convocation address from the *Taittiriya Upaniṣat* - instructions given to students as they leave the Gurukula.





## Bala Vihar Graduation: Class of 2022



The seniors each shared one value that has stuck with them through the years at Bala Vihar, which they will take with them as they enter college life.



## Bala Vihar Graduation: Class of 2022



As per CMSD tradition, the graduating class of 2022 was "pushed" out of Bala Vihar and the CMSD CHYKs welcomed them with open arms, and initiated the new BV graduates with the CHYK Pledge.



## Bala Vihar Graduation: Class of 2022



The event concluded with Chinmaya *ārati* and closing prayers. All attendees chanted *Bhagavadgītā* Chapter 15 led by **Nita Halker** along with CHYK and senior BV students, and enjoyed a scrumptious lunch prepared and served by the families of the graduating students.



## Śrī Rāma Navamī Celebrations



The grand celebrations of *Śrī Rāma Navamī* were initiated at CMSD on **April 10, 2022**, under the blessings of Pujya Gurudev. The entire *āśrama* was filled with joy in anticipation of *Śrī Rāma janma!*



The celebrations commenced with **Chinmaya Dhvani** presenting *Gāiye Gaṇapati*. This invocation written by Tulasidasji asks Lord *Gaṇeśa* to remove any obstacles towards devotion to Lord *Rāma*. All the members witnessed beautiful *pūjā* that was enhanced by vedic chanting, *Śrī Rāma Aṣṭottara*, and *stotram* chanting. During the *upacāra*, **Chinmaya Dhvani** and **Chinmaya Swaranjali** offered *vara līla gāna lola*, *Śrī Rāma Stutī*, *Śrī Rāma Caupāi*, *Śrī Rāma Candra Kṛpālu Bhajamana*, in praise of Lord *Rāma*. “It was so nice to watch & hear **Achintya Puttur** (Grade 6) play the *mṛdaṅgam* with the **Chinmaya Dhvani** team. It was also very beautiful to chant *Śrī Rāma Caupāi* together with the entire CMSD family,” shared **Jay Babla**.



## Śrī Rāma Navamī Celebrations



**Grade 3** children performed a short skit on *Rāma janma* and enchanted all. The children also presented *Śrī Nāma-Rāmāyaṇa*. **Neev Babla** (Grade 4) added, “I really enjoyed the *Rāma Navamī* celebrations this year. It was nice to celebrate Lord *Rāma*’s birthday at the exact time of his birth. It was great to see my Grade 3 friends present the *Rāma Navamī* play like we did last year. It brought back memories of our practices.”



After *Rāma janma*, *San̄kṣepa Rāmāyaṇa* by *Śrī Vālmīki* was sung by the senior students of *Sam̄skṛta Vihar*.



## Śrī Rāma Navamī Celebrations



The *pūjā* concluded with *Rāmāyaṇa ārati*, Chinmaya Mission Pledge and *prasādam*.



## Śrī Hanumān Jayanti Celebrations



The *Sundarkāṇḍa* on April 16, 2022 was special as it coincided with *Śrī Hanumān Jayanti*.



*Praṇava Nilayam* was immersed in the mesmerizing chanting of *Sundarkāṇḍa* by all adult members along with *Rāma Nāma* chanted by the children. The cheerful singing by young BV children certainly captivated all the hearts. **Hema Pandya** shared, “*Hanumān Jayanti* falling on a Saturday, the day of *Hanumānji* himself, was a great joy, and having *Sundarkāṇḍa* on that day made it even better. It was a lovely celebration.”



The celebrations continued into the next day with a presentation by **Grade 4** children describing the birth of *Hanumānji* followed by the chanting of *Śrī Nāma-Rāmāyaṇa* and *Hanumān cālīsā*.



Chinmaya *Gītāñjali*

CMSD's twenty second *Bhagavad Gītā* chanting competition was held on **April 23, 2022**. 36 Bala Vihar children and 11 adults chanted verses 39 to 72 from the *Sāṃkhya Yoga*, second chapter of the *Bhagavad Gītā*.



**Hema Subburaman** (from the CMSD panel of judges) shared, “Children put their sincere effort to memorize and chant the *Gītā* verses, and they chanted very well with devotion and confidence.”

**Sumedha Mishra** (Grade 6 participant) shared, “.... I love memorizing the verses and chanting the *Bhagavad Gītā*.”

**Ritu Chandiramani** (new CMSD member) expressed, “I feel so blessed to get an opportunity to introduce the *Bhagavad Gītā* to my 4 year old. *Gītā* chanting has now become a part of our daily routine. I have also heard him chant the verses while doing his homework, which is amazing. As a parent I hope to encourage him to continue to learn the *Gītā*.”

# CMSD Ongoing Events

## Monthly *Sundarakāṇḍa Pārāyaṇā*



April 16, 2022



May 28, 2022



June 18, 2022



## *Samskr̥ti Pālakās* Meeting

This quarter's *Samskr̥ti Pālakās* meeting on **May 15, 2022** continued with discussions on current issues facing young parents and children with respect to cultural differences and challenges. The importance of such a support group was realized by all to find the strength and grounding in our *dhārmik* values.



## CMSD Information and Registration Session 2022-23 for New Families



CMSD Information and Registration session was conducted on **May 22, 2022**. The session began with a brief introduction of the Shishu Vihar and Bala Vihar Program followed by experiences shared by current Bala Vihar students. Later on the session was opened up for general Q & A and registration.





## KVJ Production Viewing and Potluck Lunch



*Kṛṣṇam Vande Jagadgurum* team gathered on **May 29, 2022** to view the production on screen and celebrate with a potluck lunch. It was a wonderful opportunity for the cast and crew to enjoy the entire production, and recapture the joyous moments of the journey!

## Shishu Vihar/Bala Vihar Corner



SV3 - Topic of the day



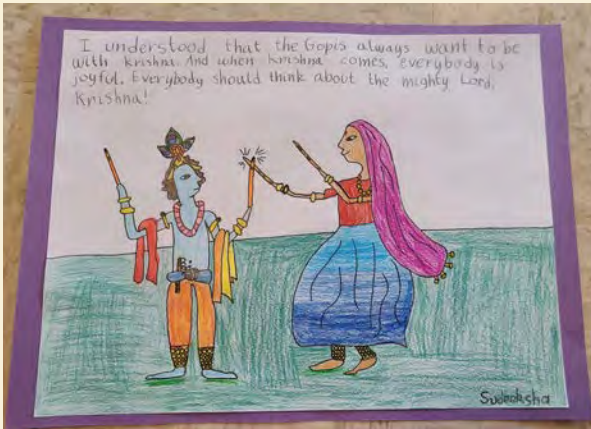
SV3 - Creating cards for Gurudev's Birthday



## Class Assignments - Based on *Kṛṣṇaṁ Vande Jagadgurum* Production

All children were encouraged to take active participation while watching the production, and submit class assignments. Following gives a glimpse into some of the class assignments:

### Grade 1



### Grade 4

I really enjoyed this play, and I am looking forward to participating in it next year. My favorite part was when the *gopī's* were complaining about *Kānhā*. I learned a lot from this play, and everything was beautiful and colorful.

- **Pari Patel**

The production was good from the music to the sets to the narration to the singing to the curtains, everything was well-planned.....It was a great opportunity to learn all about Lord *Kṛṣṇa*.

- **Tejas Chakravadhanula**

*Kṛṣṇa*, has *balam* when he carries the mountain with his pinky finger. My favorite scene was when *Kṛṣṇa* and the cows are going and find *Asurā*. Next time I will most likely take part in the presentation.

- **Savithr Mantravadi**

I like the music and the dances because they were well coordinated. My favorite scene from the production was when *Kṛṣṇa* lifted the mountain. I would like to be a part of a future production.

- **Keya Vajreshwari**

### Grade 6

Some *Gurus* that I observed are *Kṛṣṇa*, *Kṛṣṇa's guru*, and Pujya Gurudev. They teach how to be happy. I enjoyed how real everything was including the costumes. I liked the snake and how it was made with everyday items and how it looked so realistic. I would take part in a production like this in the future. I would probably be a cow.

- **Ashwin Mantravadi**

# Grade 3 Diorama



## Chinmaya Pradipika Team

Coordinator and Publisher: Manasi Popat and Parag Kelkar

Contributors: N. Mohan (Bangalore), Akhila Koneri, Uma Aggarwal, Deepa Rungta, Hetal Babla, Arushi Bharadwaj (Grade 11), Gira Pandya, Dev Babla (Grade 9), Smita Bhatia, CMSD Photography Team.





## SWAMI TEJOMAYANANDA



*If you are able to accept God's decisions, then life will be wonderful.*