

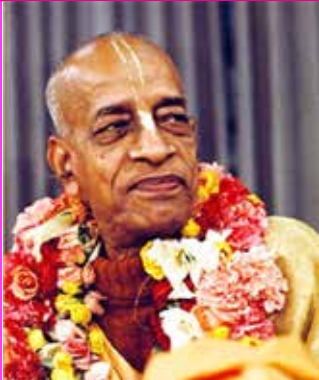


BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI GURUKULĀ HARE KRISHNA SCHOOL

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GURUKULA NEWS

Term 3 2017



From Srila Prabhupada:

"...anything offered to Krishna with love and affection, Krishna can reciprocate many millions of times over, both materially and spiritually. The basic principle involved is an exchange of love."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 10.11.11)

Celebrating 100 Students

Term 3 started with a significant celebration, as our enrolments reached 100 students!

To mark the occasion a special assembly was held, with an accompanying article in the Tweed Weekly Newspaper. Our principal, Vinod Bihari Prabhu was quoted "It is a highly rewarding experience to see our students grow and develop from Kindergarten to Year 12, from learning how to sound letters to engaging with highly sophisticated content of the HSC courses, from learning how to



Right: Our honoured guest, HH Mukunda Maharaj congratulating students and staff.

make friends and to becoming mature, confident, kind, introspective, caring individuals that can now move into the broader community and certainly make this world a better place."

TERM 3 FOCUS: SRI KRISHNA & SRILA PRABHUPADA
TERM 3 PRINCIPLE: CLEANLINESS

Introducing our new Vice Principal of the High School - Prana Prabhu



National Education Standards Authority (NESA) Inspection

Here at New Govardhana we were recently visited by two representatives from the National Education Standards Authority (NESA) who came to review our policies and curriculum delivery in order to assess our capacity to deliver the HSC in the senior school. At the same time they conducted a standard review of the school's current registration status.

I am honoured to be introducing myself to everyone in the Gurukula community.

I started my formal teaching career at the Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula, New Nandagram, in Victoria, about thirty years ago. Just before joining the school here in Eunglla I was the Principal of the Krishna Avanti School in South London. Prior to that I spent 13 years as Principal of the Hare Krishna School in Auckland.

That school is a similar independent, Government funded school yet, although tremendously successful, has unfortunately not been able to receive full secondary registration from the New Zealand Ministry of Education.

The verbal conclusion from the day's proceedings was extremely positive with the school being formally approved to deliver all courses from K-12. In addition, the inspectors will recommend to the Minister of Education that the school continue its registration status without the need for further inspections until 2022.

This is a major historical milestone for the school and a wonderful offering to the local community of devotees and well-wishers. Congratulations to Vinod Bihari Prabhu and his dedicated team of teachers and administration who worked so hard to make this a reality.

I am very much looking forward to working alongside the team to develop our professional standards in the

Secondary school and throughout.

A strong area of interest in my professional development has been in building school systems, monitoring teacher performance and utilising data driven strategies to bring about positive changes in learning and teaching.

My initial engagement as Vice Principal of the Gurukula High School will be to help create systems and processes to enable us to gather accurate and reliable information in order to structure a sustainable and dynamic school. Much of the necessary ingredients are in place — a little fine tuning and targeted goal setting will provide the impetus and momentum to move Mt Warning!

Leadership Workshop with AIS

It was another highlight of Term 3 when the leadership team of the Gurukula immersed in a two day workshop focused on embedding excellence in all that we do at the school.

Led by Nick Clarke, a consultant from the Association of Independent Schools (AIS) the workshop gave opportunity to deeply assess our current practices and begin work on strategically aligning our goals and priorities to enable further improvement of the effectiveness of our learning and teaching.

Once mapped out, we will share the school's strategic plan with our parent

community and keep you informed of progress through reports and information sessions.

I have to give full credit to Vinod Bihari Prabhu and his team of extremely dedicated staff, both teaching and administration, for bringing the school to the place it is today.

Let's raise the Gurukula from being a really good school which provides the essentials for our local community, to becoming a school of excellence, far exceeding the expectations of our local community and beyond.

May Sri Sri Radha Govardhandhari, Gaura Nitai, Krishna Balarama and Giriraj bless our school so that we can provide a truly holistic, challenging and dynamic spiritual and material education for our children. They deserve it.

Pre-K

By Mother Vaisnavi

Thank you to our children in the Prep class program: Sadhu, Nakula, Suryani, Tahlia, Gaura Priya, Nalayani and Orlando.

This Term was full of festival days and the children engaged in hearing some pastimes and associated topics. The children made artwork for:

- * Lord Balarama's Appearance day - children made dot paintings on Lord Balarama's paraphernalia: club and plough;
- * Janmastami (colouring in and cutting out symbols Krishna's and then drawing and colouring in symbols of their choice); their artwork was displayed up at the temple.
- * Srila Prabhupada - talking about what Prabhupada gave us - Krishna, etc.
- * Radhastami - children coloured in Radharani and Her pets.
- * Father's day - children made a father's day message with paddlepop sticks.

The children are becoming more and more confident speaking in small groups for mat time 'Show and Tell' sessions. It's wonderful to see how they've opened up



Top: Nalayni, Tahlia, Suryani **Middle:** Orlando, Sadhu, Gaura Priya **Above:** Gaura Priya, Suryani, Rishi **Below:** Tahlia, Suryani, Nalayni playing





Left:
Samples
of the
childrens'
artworks

**Adjacent
and below
left:** Tahlia,
Suryani and
Nakula
uryani
with their
artworks for
Father's Day.



Left: Orlando

Below: More
Father's Day
artworks
with lots of
love

and are becoming better and better at sharing their experiences and interests.

Together they enjoy singing rhymes and songs related to Krishna: 'Two little black birds Bala and Rama'; 'Haribol Spirit Soul' and 'Wheels on the Ratha go round and round'.

The Pre-K everyday playing and learning revolves around family area, dress ups (princesses; doctors, 'moms and dads and babies'), kitchen area, craft table (where they use their creative imagination in making things out of boxes, cutouts, and drawing and colouring in), building blocks and outdoor play in the sand pit with the Grades K, 1 & 2 class children.



Here are a few snapshots of the children engaged in play-based learning in our very special classroom.

Your servant,
Vaisnavi d.d.

Kindergarten

By Mother Mahesvari

The kindergarten students enjoyed a fabulous term 3 filled with Vaisnava festivals. Our little devotees always enjoy hearing and talking about the Lord and His various pastimes. During our integrated vaisnava studies/literacy time, the students produced beautiful descriptions of Lord Krishna, Lord Balarama and Srimati Radharani. The term focus was cleanliness and we have put extra effort into keeping our classroom tidy. We have also discussed ways of keeping our environment clean and ways of being 'suci' at the temple for various services.

The highlights of the term were:

As part of our History unit entitled 'Celebrating past events' we have learnt about some Australian celebrations as well as Vaisnava festivals. Most of the students enthusiastically took part in our Janmastami play which was the highlight of many parents and visitors of the festival. The students also learnt a beautiful Sanskrit bhajan from Mother Premavati and did their very best at singing along with the grade 1 and 2 students for the pleasure of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari.

For Science during our unit entitled 'On The Move', students investigated how people, animals and objects move. Students conducted some fun rolling experiments with various size balls and cars on changing slopes and





Above: C **Middle:** Cleanliness poster
by Lalita **Right:** Nadia, Bela, Darshan & Lalita
dressed in their favourite book characters for
Book Day

Right: As part of health students were learning how to be safe around the school and playground and made a poster encouraging safe behaviour.
Surfaces.

This term, the literacy lessons were also full of excitement. We started to read stories from our little red book as part of our Reading Mastery program and I am very pleased with the progress of all the students both in their reading and writing efforts. We are really looking forward to start visiting the library from next term and do some one on one reading with volunteering parents.

In Mathematics, the students are well on their way achieving the desired outcomes for the year, and as usual they always have a fun time with the wide range of manipulative resources available. Their new favourite game is 'Math shoot out' where they can practice newly learnt content in a fun and engaging way.



I am looking forward to welcoming the students back for another great term!
Sample writing

I like Krishna.
by Narayan N.

Lord Balaram is strong.
by Balaram

Lord Balaram serves others.
by Nadia

I like Balaram.
by Narayan W.

Lord Balaram is nice to cows.
by Darshan

Radha loves Krishna
by Lalita

Lord Balaram is nice.
by Chaitanya

Devaki is Krishna's mum.
by Mallika

Year 1 & 2

By Mother Premavati

This term the verse, “*Om Apavitrah Pavitro Vaa ...*” was used to teach lessons on Cleanliness, our term value.

Krsna's Creations: Wet and Dry Environment was the theme throughout all the subjects. We started by visiting our local Govinda Kunda, Manasi Ganga and the fish pond to observe the flora and fauna in both natural and man made settings.

In Geography students learnt different landforms using geographical vocabulary, including dreamtime stories. They located deserts and rivers of the world, using maps. In History they compared “Then & Now” regarding local landscapes. During their studies students researched and took notes on the animals and plants of wet and dry habitats. They used their notes to write an information report on their chosen animal that will be made into a big book. As a whole class display,

they have made a combined mural to depict Wet & Dry Environment.

In Vaisnava Studies, students wrote a descriptive “Who Am I?” on Lord Krsna's and Srimati Radharani's pets that has already been turned into a class big book. They performed a wonderful musical drama as well as sang a beautiful bhajan on the occasion of Sri Krsna Janmastami.



The highlight of this term was the dress up during book week, where the students came to school as their favourite character. On display were their illustrated responses to their favourite books.

Who am I?
I am soft. I love Lord Krishna. I live in the forest. I love the sound of Krishna's flute. I have a soft tail and I have spots on my body Krishna gives me food. I like dhal and rice. I am nicely coloured.



By Shivani Dumbre

Who am I?
I look beautiful I am an animal. I have white fur. I eat grass. I make milk for Krishna. My colour is red.



By Damayanti Joshi



Who am I?
(Charu-Chandrika, the Chakori bird)
I am a kind of bird. I am colourful. I carry Krishna and Radha messages. I am Radha's pet. I can fly high. I am a medium bird. I have a long tail. I am soft and I have wings. I have an orange neck. I can talk nicely to Radha and Krishna. I make beautiful bottles. I have sharp claws. I love Radha and Krishna. I have two legs. I make my nest in Radha and Krishna's trees. I can jump on Radha's finger. Radha loves me so much. I eat prasada. I fly onto Radha and Krishna's shoulders. My babies are very small and cute and they have no hair. I am like Beautiful moonlight.

By Anabella Mahoney



My favourite book is Diary of a Wimpy kid. The book is about a kid who is very sneaky and funny. I like the part when they hold hands. It is a very funny and cool book.

By Aaliyah (Grade 2)



Top Left: Fabulous costumes on Book Day

Left: Exploring the man-made water environment on New Govardhana

Who am I?
I have big legs. I am tall. I have a tail. I serve Krishna. I love Krishna so much. I eat grass. I can talk. I talk about Krishna. I can run fast. I am gray. I am like a bull.

Who am I?
(Padma Gandhi, the ox)



By Terasu-Yokoyama

Who am I?
I give sweet milk to Krishna. I play with Krishna. I run with Krishna very fast. I eat sweet grass. I have blonde fur and brown fur or black. I am yellow.

Who am I?
(Pingali, the cow)



By Lila Parkinson

about little men rising mood trying to take some vegetables to her granny. but she met the big bad wolf. The big bad wolf wants to eat her and her granny. My favourite character is Red Riding Hood because she is clever and funny. I like it when the woodcutter puts rocks in the big bad wolf's tummy. Whenever you hear the rocks rattling, you know that the wolf is coming. People should read this book because it's interesting and funny. It teaches you a lesson to never eat something that's not yours.



By Vrindavanewari Hassall (Grade 2)



My favourite book is the Arena of Balamang and Krishna. Krishna visits Mathura and meet Camura. Camura is my favourite because he is good at fighting. Krishna wrestled with him. My favourite part is when Krishna and his brother enter the arena because they look powerful. You should read this book because it is Krishna's pastimes and it's spiritual

By Atreya Borsotti (Grade 1)



Above: Maths fun - from abstract to concrete.

Who am I?
I pick up grains. I dance gracefully. I follow Krishna's music. I run around the forest. I play with Krishna. I love Krishna very much. I am very beautiful. I am an expert dancer.

Who am I?
(Tandavika, the peacock)



By Abhirama Kubitky

We finished the term with the Pandavas Sports Carnival which was a lot of fun with family and friends.

Year 1 & 2 cont...

The Great Moose-tailed Bat

It is mammal. It is a bat. It has long tail. It gets food at night. It lives in old houses. They eat insects and small bugs. They roosty roosts in large ruined buildings, often palaces and temples. They fly. They mate in spring and I think they are cute.

By Ula (Year 1)



The Norway Lemming

The boldly patterned Norway Lemming is active day and night alternating periods of activity with short spells of rest. The Norway Lemming has sharp claws. It is black and brown. It has furry skin. It is as small as your foot. It has whiskers. It has a small tail.

By Aaliyah (Year 2)



The Great White Pelican

The great white pelican eats fish and crabs. Pelicans have webbed feet and like aquatic life. They have long beak and a pouch. They have feathers on their bodies and breed in colonies.

By Daniel Madocira (Year 1)



The Slow Loris

The slow Loris is the family of the slow Loris. The slow Loris is slow. The slow Loris is brown white and grey. It is a good climber and strong climber. It sleeps at day. It feeds in the tree. It rolls in a tight ball at sleep. Slow Loris sleeps in a tree. Slow Loris lives in the dense forest. It eats insects, birds, eggs, small birds, plants and fish. It slow Loris eats, drink, climb and sleep. The slow Loris moves slow. The end.

By Sam Hinder (Year 2)



The Fennec Fox

The Fennec Fox are in the dog family. They are the smallest foxes and they are brown and furry and has huge ears. Their habitat is the desert, and they live in a hole. They are small mammals and they dig.

By Terence Nakagawa (Year 1)



The Weir Dog

The weir dog is in the dog family. Its fur is thick. It will eat fish and small rodent and any small animals. It will hunt in a pack. In the night it will curl up into a ball and shield it from harsh wind. They're as smart as a human. It will live in the coldest parts of the world. Some are small and some are big. It has big claws and teeth.

By Lee Morris (Year 2)



The Platypus

Platypus aquatic animal. It has webbed feet. It has fur. It has brown fur. It has four feet. It is a predator. It eats fish.

By Shantoshweri Hopper (Year 2)



The Great Jerboa

They are very dangerous. They eat seeds and insects. It has 5 toes on each foot. It lives in burrows.

By Iqra Wafar (Year 2)



The American Alligator

It is an American Alligator. It is ugly and green. It lives in swamps and rivers. It eats small mammals. They swim. They walk. It is 325 feet long.

By Kandy Miller (Year 1)



Year 3 & 4

By Mother Candramukhi

The students from Year 3/4 have had an exciting and hardworking Term 3.

Our major Vaishnava Studies focus has been Srila Prabhupad and Lord Krishna, as well as the virtue of Cleanliness. We read stories from the first part of Srila Prabhupada's life including his first year in America, watched early videos and discussed his qualities. The students then prepared a talk to present to the class about Srila Prabhupad's life.

Next we focussed on Lord Krishna, Balaram and Srimati Radharani. We learnt about the reasons Sri Krishna appeared and the details of the identity of these three personalities. We explored the Lord's six opulences and His various other qualities. We read many of Lord Krishna's pastimes and I was happy to see the students prepare a comprehensive talk about Krishna, why He appeared, one of His pastimes and how He has shown mercy and love in their own lives.

On the topic of Cleanliness, we first looked at cleanliness of the body and our home, thinking about our own purity and how we can improve. We next looked at cleanliness of the mind and heart, discussing the cultivation of good qualities and the importance of chanting of the holy names which cleanse the heart. We listened to and discussed the stories of Ajamil and Namacharya Haridas Thakur. Later in the term we



Sri Krishna and Srimati Radharani by Lali Above and Middle: by ?????? Below: Examples of cleanliness by Ishani



explored how we could apply these principles in the classroom, playground and at the temple.

In English we continued the Reading Mastery and Spelling Mastery programs, along with Stars Comprehension and students are progressing well in their fluency and accuracy. In writing they wrote Explanations, after researching



Above Left Hands on experiments at the Sustainable Living Centre
Right: Vamana, Naveen and Gopal - Bridge construction and **Below Left:** Kisori and Ishani

connected to Country and place as well as examining some of their beliefs, types of food, shelter, tools, weapons and art. Students researched an archaeological site at Lake Mungo and discussed the types of artefacts located in this region then wrote a narrative of how a day may have been in the Willandra Lakes system over 40,000 years ago for Indigenous people.

In Music, Year 3/4 students learnt the bhajan, *Bhajahu Re Mana*, and two English Krishna songs that will be part of the play. Every week they are learning how to play the harmonium as well as engaging in movement and percussion activities to develop a range of musical concepts.

Years 3-6 have been working on a Govardhana Parikrama Drama to be performed on Govardhan Puja in October. The students have been practicing every week and it is wonderful to watch as the drama come together nicely.

There are seven scenes in the play which take the audience on a journey around Lord Krishna's pastime places around Govardhan Hill. A big thank you to Mandakini, Akhileshvari and Shyama Priya Matajis for coming in every week to assist with the practices as well as the other parents who will be helping to make props. The children are enjoying the practices and excited about the performance.



Primary Art

By Mother Gopapatni

This term had us all busy in visual art with grade 5-6 working in clay to create objects with native flora and fauna inspired motives inspired by the works of Thancoupie, an Indigenous artist and ceramist. Students also engaged with a form of Raku firing, enabling them to learn about the process of firing clay despite not having a kiln at the school. It involves building a kiln from bricks and filling it with sawdust placing the ceramic pieces in amongst the sawdust. The results are yet to be seen, but it is expected they will be fascinating. It is of course only a bisque or first firing, but the other works will be fired in Burleigh Heads by the Picasso ceramic studio. We are all looking forward to seeing the results of the firing.

Stage 1 visual art classes have been focused on the theme of wet and dry environments. The students watched some clips on Australian Indigenous dreaming stories that orientated them towards different ways of seeing the landscape and how that landscape evolved. They then went on to create a



mural of the flora and fauna involved with the different kinds of Australian habitats. It is always an absolute pleasure to work with this group of students.



Above: Bela; Toshan's clay figure;
Year 1& 2 artwork samples



Year 5 & 6

By Mother Kamalini

Hare Krsna Dear Parents. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Here we are at the end of another fruitful term and I am happy to say how proud I am of the Year 5/6 class for their amazing efforts across all areas.

It was a grand term with some very important Vaisnava festivals and celebrations and we took the opportunity to focus on Sri Krsna, Lord Balarama, Srimati Radharani and Srila Prabhupada. We read abridged versions of some of the Krsna book chapters and students wrote a literary recount of the chapter where the gopis are glorifying Sri Krsna's flute. Students also discussed, read and wrote about Lord Balarama and His glories.

The class also engaged in a unit focused on Srila Prabhupada and his preaching mission. For Radhastami, the students read about, discussed and then wrote about Her identity, beauty, appearance day pastime, and qualities. They did this in the form of beautifully composed prayers to Srimati Radharani.



The pillar in focus this term was cleanliness. We looked in depth at what it means, why it is important and how it is practiced in relation to the contexts of the classroom, playground, the bus, the home or the temple. Year 5/6 also engaged in a mini unit on gratitude including what it is, and its possible benefit for oneself, others and on their future. Students composed detailed responses to a variety of questions about what they are grateful for. I was impressed with the breadth of their reflection and believe the unit was very beneficial in working towards cultivating a positive influence over greed, excessive material hankering and negativity.



Left: Janu and Nimai L (Y5) **Below:** Jahnavi, Vrinda and Yoshua (Y5) completely absorbed in their clay making with Mother Gopapatni
Opposite left: Year 1 & 2 **Middle and Right:** Self portraits - photography and pastels, by Annabella (Y2) and Saci (Y2)

In science we learnt about the characteristics of light, and how we use it in everyday life.

In our history unit, we mainly looked at the arrival of Europeans to Australia, the specific establishment of some of the early colonies, the nature of convict or a settler's life, and the drastic impact on the Indigenous people of Australia.

Students showed pleasing maturity and dedication in studying for their History test, and most did quite well in displaying their understanding of the unit content. I am satisfied with their progressive readiness for the more independent discipline needed in high school studies.

We held our Book Day during August as well and most of the Year 5/6 students created sophisticated and high quality book reviews for the event. Unfortunately we could only share 3 of them on the day but I am pleased to note the huge improvement in their writing capabilities.

There is so much more I could say to highlight the progress of the class but we'll leave it at that for now. Great work this term and I can't wait to continue the learning journey next term—well for part of it. I will be on maternity leave halfway through next term but look forward to staying involved from home and returning later next year.

As usual, have a great holiday!

Your servant, Kamalini dasi.

Excerpts of Creative sensory poem -

Students engaged in a creative writing experience where we went outside onto the playground and wrote about our experience thinking about our senses. There are some parts of the students' writing attached.

As I lay down on the luscious green grass the gentle, warm breeze flows through my hair. The trees dance in the rhythm of the breeze as birds start to sing. I begin to become relaxed and sleepy. To top off my perfect day the warm rays of sunlight smooth my back. As I slowly stand up I look around and I see so many beautiful sights...

by Sruti (Y6)

...I see the trees dancing with the wind. I occasionally see an ant march beside me. I see the blue sky looming above me. Mango flowers are blooming on the tree around me. The restlessness of people around me distracts me...

by Janu (Y5)

...My eyes slowly drift shut, the perfect environment cradling me and lulling me into the misty depths of sleep. Then suddenly an ant bites me, rudely awakening me from my rest and ruining the mood.

by Nayana (Y5)

...I hear my other fellow classmates discussing. The birds chirping charms my ears. Tractors chug as they do their work. The car door closes as someone heads into school. Everyone laughs as they fill their hearts with happiness.

I smell the mango leaves on the tree. The luscious green grass fills my nose with freshness. The sand from the sandpit smells salty like the sand on the beach. The rich soil smells earthy and the fragrance of fresh air makes me smile from ear to ear...

by Jahnavi (Y5)

Excerpts from prayers to Srimati Radharani

Oh Sri, Srimati Radharani! Oh most beautiful one. Please take my humble obeisances on your most favourable appearance day. You appeared on a golden lotus bed and shone like a million suns with extraordinary beauty. You have many auspicious signs on your hands and feet and you are the feminine expansion of love for the Lord....

by Danakeli (Y5)

...You are the most successful and beautiful devotee of the Lord. You're the only one that fully captures Krsna's heart. Oh Srimati Radharani, please give me and my family and everyone else your mercy and guide us so we can be better devotees. You are the best mother....

by Nimai L (Y5)

...The most merciful and compassionate is you. Please be merciful to me and help me so I can become a better devotee. You are the same identify as Krsna but you appear as Srimati Radharani to have pastimes with Krsna...

by Rama (Y5)

...You are the Queen of the Universe! You are the most loving to Krsna and it is impossible to know how much you love Him. Your skin is brighter than 1 million moons. You wear light colours in the presence of a full moon and dark colours in the absence of a full moon...

by Gopal (Y5)

...Srimati Radharani you appeared in a golden lotus. When you saw Krsna you opened your eyes. Srimati Radharani you can control Krsna with your qualities and you can keep Krsna under your control...

by Yoshua (Y5)

Gurukula Book Day

As part of National Book Week, this term we launched our first annual Book Day, with much excitement from the students.

Years K-6 all participated, coming to school dressed as their favourite book characters and we must give an enormous cheer to all of our parents who went to considerable effort to organise quite impressive costumes.

During class, students wrote book reviews and a selection were presented by students in each Year level presented on stage.

Prizes and awards were given for best costume and best story retells, as well as special prizes for those students who completed the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge this year. Congratulations to: Kindergarten - (a big thank you to Mother Mahesvari for reading more than 30 books to the students from the NSWPRC list)
Y1 - Lila, Terasu, Shivani Y2 - Abhiram, Nandu & Annabella Y4 - Kenneth, Y5 - Yoshua, Janu, Jahnvi & Gopal Y6 - Tara

We are extremely happy to hear reports from parents of how their children have continued reading after the Challenge some transforming into avid bookworms! This is certainly what we hoped for.

Our library upgrade should further stimulate a culture and love of reading in our school and we look forward to many more students completing the NSWPRC next year, giving even more to celebrate on Book Day in 2018.



Above: Vrinda, Yoshua, Nimai, Gopal, Nayana, Danakeli, Sruti & Rangana performing a skit on book genres **Right:** Kanay, Atreya and Nandu



Above left to right: Shivani (Y2), Vrindavanesvari (Y2), Sujana (Y3), Toshana (Y4) presenting their book reviews.

Left: Tara (Y6) receiving her NSWPRC certificate and prize



Opposite (from Left to Right): Vrinda, Danakeli, Ishani, Lali and ?????

BSG HIGH SCHOOL

Term 3 has drawn to a close and what an eventful 10 weeks it has been for the whole school. Our Senior students contributed enthusiastically to the Janmastami festival season helping with decorations, dance, abhishek preparations, cooking, singing, serving, cleaning and lots more. What a golden opportunity to live and learn in such a surcharged spiritual atmosphere.

Besides these transcendental events our Year 11 students have just completed their final exams and are beginning to seriously prepare for their HSC year ahead. We wish them all the best for their future studies and pray that Sri Sri Radha Govardhandhari, Gaura Nitai, Krishna Balarama and Giriraja shower them with Their unlimited blessings.
Your servant, Prana dasa and
the High School team

English

with Mother Syama Sakhi

Years 7-8

This term the 7-8 students participated in a film study unit, focusing on the film "Rabbit Proof Fence" which presents three Aboriginal girls who follow the rabbit fence in order to return to their mothers after being



Top: Anjalee and Malini working on their photographic journals **Above:** All students produced quite creative journals - here are a couple of samples.

put into a settlement camp. Students engaged in learning about Aboriginal culture, practices, and beliefs. They furthered their understanding by compiling diary entries for a chosen character in the movie. They also learned about basic film techniques such as angle, shots and lighting and finished the term by compiling a digital narrative incorporating their newly acquired knowledge of camera shots and angles. It was a pleasure to teach them this term and we all look forward to the next term where we will be studying drama and poetry.

Years 9-10

The 9-10 students engaged in film study in Term 3 and also started non-fiction. The film they studied was “Selma” which is a movie about the famous Selma to Montgomery march led by Martin Luther King Jr. Students deepened their knowledge of the Civil Rights movement and explored various social issues. In preparation for their speech assignment on a relevant social issue, students studied volume, pitch, pace, style, and explored effective ways to start and end a speech. We ended the term with a start into the non-fiction novel “The Happiest Refugee” by Anh Do.

Year 11

The year 11 students had a very busy term as they finalized their year 11 content and prepared for their final exams. The main study focus for

this term was a close study of “The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho. Students engaged in in-depth study, reading, research and analysis of the novel in order to grasp its message, purpose, themes, symbols and motifs. Students also revised their poetry unit and furthered their knowledge and skills in essay writing. The students also used the time to prepare for their final English exam and had the opportunity to look into the units and texts they will be studying in year 12.

Design & Technology

with Govinda Caran Prabhu

Years 7-8

In the beginning of term 3, Year 7&8 students chose to design and construct the perfect student chair. It is to be comfortable and environmentally friendly but incorporate the latest technology. There will be an electronic feature added to this chair. If anyone sits on the chair a led green light (1.5 volt battery operated)



Top: Shyam, one-pointed chiselling focus



will be on and while the chair is not occupied the green led light will be off.

Students researched a range of seating available on the market. They looked at the illustrations of chairs on many brochures and advertisements and considered the electronic device they would want included. Then presented their design plans as a Power Point presentation and listed the materials and tools required to construct their perfect student chair.

The students have all worked very enthusiastically and hard on this project. They furthered their skills in measuring, cutting, chiselling, and dressing half lap joins. The project

will be finished by the middle of term 4 and ready to display.

Science

with Leonardo Prabhu

Years 7-10

What is everything made of? That was the main question science students explored this term.

Looking at the contribution of many scientists throughout the last two millennia in only a few weeks proved to be captivating and daunting at the same time.

Interesting experiments which showed that air has weight, the power of surface tension in water, and how water molecules can be broken into oxygen and hydrogen gases, brought out the keen interest of all students.

Our goal is to develop the fascination that God-believing scientists such as Mendeleev felt while unveiling the sacred designs of the Lord in the discovery of matter and the elements.

Maths

with Phalguna Krsna Prabhu

I have had the absolute pleasure of teaching Maths, Agriculture and Music this term at the high school, and what a great start to the year it has been. I would like to thank all the students for their good behaviour, diligence and achievements this year.

Years 7-8

Year 7 & 8 maths students have been studying Index laws and Algebraic functions

Years 9-10

Year 9 Math students have been studying Measurement and Geometry and Financial maths.

Year 10 maths students have been studying Surface Area and Volume, Financial Mathematics and Trigonometry.

Sastra

with Madhavendra Puri Prabhu

Years 7-8

This term in the 7-8 Sastra students have been learning and recalling crucial facts from the Srimad Bhagavatam. There have been renditions of stories, quizzes, and other activities helping students solidify their narrative understandings of our vast philosophy. Additionally, topics like Varnasrama and the regulative principles have been discussed in depth, in a variety of interactive ways.

Bhakti Sastra

with Madhavendra Puri Prabhu

Years 9-10

The 9-10 Bhakti Sastri class has been powering through the Bhagavad Gita this year, and students have already

concluded two thirds of the content. Students have been analysing the themes of the Bhagavad Gita, as Krishna presents them, with careful detail to sequence and applicable principles. Next term we're aiming to finish up our comprehensive study timely so students can go through their exams and have a wonderful trip to India.

Next year the current year 9 students will continue with their Bhakti Sastri course, studying the Sri Isopanisad, Nectar of Instruction, Nectar of Devotion, and Srimad Bhagavatam. The current year 10 students will have finished their Bhakti Sastri course at the Gurukula, and will have the option to take Studies of Religion in year 11 and carry much of their philosophical understanding into an interreligious context, and also view their tradition from the perspectives of academia.

Geography

with Mother Gopapatni

Years 7-8

The second half of the year has the high school students engaging with Geography. Students from years 7-8 studied landscapes and landforms and researched research an iconic Australian landform and its geomorphic origins along with associated Indigenous dreaming stories. Students noted the local environment and human impact with the new landscaping for the school development being an obvious feature of recent human impact on an environment.

Years 9-10

Years 9-10 have been studying issues in Geography such as land and water management, air quality, spatial inequality, waste management and urban growth and decline with the focus on students developing an action research plan. It required that they find an issue in the local environment, take out a study of the issue and devise an action plan for it. The students presented on water management with a focus on the Oxley river that runs alongside the farm and grey water management on the farm with interesting results for both.

Photographic Digital Media

with Madhavendra Puri Prabhu

Year 9-10

9-10 Photographic Digital Media class have been working tirelessly on a portfolio and journal for their digital imaging works. Students have worked on films, animations, photography, image doctoring, and so many other exciting things. I am proud of the students' building momentum and talents as of the third term and cannot wait to explore this topic more in the final term.

Biology

with Madhavendra Puri Prabhu

Year 11

The year 11 Biology students have all

but finished their course this year and are ready for year 12 next term. They have studied multi facets of the modern theories relating to evolution theory, as well as applicable sciences from their cultural heritage. These students will have an edge in the modern world, being able to comprehend predominating understandings, while maintaining their own unique perspectives.

Visual Art

with Mother Gopatani

Year 9-10

Year 9 & 10 Visual Arts students focused on self and identity again with Frida Khalo as a focal point to work from. There is a compelling group of works developing in the classroom. I look forward to these works being exhibited at the end of the year. We have been lucky enough to gain access to large canvases so students have had the opportunity to scale up, creating larger works.



Above: Kalindi and Priya working on portraits



Top: Nitai sketching **Above:** Year 7-8 visual art stitching task

Studies of Religion

with Madhavendra Puri Prabhu

Year 11

The year 11 Studies of Religion class have completed all their units for their Preliminary course, and move onto the HSC components next term. Students have covered Islam and Religions of Ancient Origins this term, learning about all the fundamentals of various interesting traditions. Students were able to find common paradigms and

intriguing differences in these religions from their own Gaudiya Vaishnava heritage. Starting next term, students will study many of the religions they covered in year 11 in depth, along with some other exciting additions.

Design and Technology

with Leonardo Prabhu



Year 11

Our Year 11 students learnt about how 'waste' can be turned into something valuable through designing an up-cycled product. Roughly ninety percent of each project was made from discarded or second-hand goods. Students used a wide variety of materials ranging from second-hand denim and timber, to a soft toy and a shortwave radio!

It was inspiring to see the creativity that upcycling brought out in the students. A special "thank you" goes to Amber Borsotti for selflessly helping students



with her garment/sewing skills.

Agriculture

with Phalguna Krsna Prabhu

Year 11

This term the Year 11 Agricultural students studied animal production. Keeping with the Vedic ethos, the students have been spending time with the bullocks, working and learning under the guidance of Krishna Kirtana and Clare. This has been an exceptional experience linking modern academics with traditional agriculture.

The students have started a Facebook page "Agriculture Gurukula", please

take the time and visit the page.

History

with Mother Gopapatni

Year 11

Senior History students have been studying the World at the beginning of the 20th century. It has been an enlightening experience and will serve them well in their life as they take a keen awareness of the affects of imperialism and the World Wars into their understanding of the present political landscape. It is important for the students to understand the dynamics of the world they inhabit and History plays a big part in assisting that understanding. It equips students with important perspectives that help inform the development of solutions for issues both spiritually and materially in the world they will come to inhabit and take responsibility for.

Food Technology

with Mother Gopapatni



Year 11

Food technology has been fun as usual with students taking more initiative in creating the menu each week and making

a real commitment to seeing the work space cleaned immaculately.

I am impressed with the confident skills base being developed by these students what to speak of the great meals they serve out weekly to all the students at the high school. If ever you feel inclined to donate to the rudimentary kitchen facility the students would be enormously appreciative.

CAFS

with Mother Syama Sakhi

Year 11

The Community and Family Studies students engaged in an in-depth study of groups and communities this term. They explored why groups form and the impact they have on communities. Students developed further understanding of leadership roles within groups, goal setting, decision making, and conflict resolution.

They also studied various research methodologies such as questionnaires, interviews, observations, and literary reviews. Students ended the term by preparing for their final exams and exploring possible topics for their independent research project in year 12.

In Conclusion

We sent good bye to Term 3 with the fun filled school community Pandava Sports Day. We have an action-packed term ahead for all year levels. Our Year 11s become HSC students this upcoming term, which is an exciting and at the same time sobering milestone for all. Our Year 9 and 10 class will complete their final exams by week 5 and all assessment for Year 7 and 8 will be completed by week 7 in preparation for our Mayapur trip.

It is a great pleasure for me to be part of this progressive and dynamic devotee school community here at the lotus feet of Sri Sri Radha Govardhanadhari.

I look forward to meeting all parents and extended family members of the Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula. I very much look forward to the opportunity to contributing to the already amazing things which have been established here in the senior school and whole heartedly acknowledge the great work and sacrifice that has gone into making this senior school a reality.

Your servant, Prana dasa

P&C Update

We are very happy to look back over the term and see that the ekadasi lunch time prasadam has continued smoothly and give our sincere gratitude to the Dandakaranya Prabhu, Dhriti, Sananda and Akhileshvari Matajis who generously give their time and energy to cook, transport and serve these wonderful meals.

We would also like to thank Dhriti Mataji and her amazing team of helpers: Trayadisa Prabhu, Vrindaranya, Govindasthali, Isabella, Chiho, Georgia and Sananda Matajis who prepared a spectacular array of items for the Pandavas Sports Carnival (as well as the clean up at the end!). At the same time, we need to give an enormous overdue thanks to Manjulali Mataji for donating over \$300 at last year's Prasadam tent. We apologise that we forgot to mention this at the time and pray that Krishna will bless her big, generous heart.

Coming up next term is the



Clouds of Colour Festival on Saturday 9 December. The stage line-up is already looking impressive and we have the blessings and guidance from ex-Gurukula student, Ayu, coordinator of the Spring Flair Festival.

Those who came last year know how much fun this event was for all. So save the date now and spread the word!

Last but not least, thank you to all the parents that have participated in the P&C meetings this term and to Ute Mataji for keeping such efficient treasury records. We are on track to sponsor the installation of the Gurukula kitchen which should be up and running by the start of 2018!

if you would like to raise an item to be included for discussion at the next P&C meeting,
please email admin@krishnaschool.nsw.edu.au

Reminders for Parents:

- All school fees are payable in advance prior to the start of each term. When paying online, please specify your surname and Parent ID in the payment reference so we may identify your payment.
- Please note that any mobile phones are to be handed in by the students to the teacher each morning, so they can be locked up for security during the school day.
- We ask that you please notify the office asap of any changes to your contact details.
- If your child is late for school, please send an explanatory note with your child. If your child is sick or absent, please telephone the school and leave a message.
- Sports shoes must be worn for all physical activities.
- If your child is to be picked up after school by someone other than a parent, it is essential that you either telephone the school or provide a signed note to the office with the details.
- Please remember to send a drink bottle plus veggies or fruit for Crunch & Sip. (Pre K, K-2).
Students without drink bottles tend to drink FAR less water.
- We encourage the involvement of all parents in the education of their children.

For regular updates please visit

www.krishnaschool.nsw.edu.au or fb: www.facebook.com/krishnaschool.australia



Above: High School students, Karuna, Surabhi and Anjali who take Odissi dance as part of the Gurukula after school program, performing at the New Govardhana temple.

If you would like to engage in some seva or would like to meet with your child's teacher, please contact the Gurukula office.

Term 4

Important Dates For Your Calendar

9 Oct - Term 4 begins

11-13 Oct - Year 3-6 camp

20 Oct - Govardhan Puja, Year 3-6 Drama

6-10 Nov - Year 9 & 10 Exams

13-17 - Year 7-8 Exams

1 Dec - PRIMARY student free day

4,5 Dec - PRIMARY Parent/Teacher Interviews

5,6 Dec - HIGH SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Interviews

8 Dec - HIGH SCHOOL student free day

9 Dec - Clouds of Colour Festival

11 Dec - End of Year Assembly

12 Dec - End of Year Picnic, Last day of 2017

INSPIRATION DEDICATION REALISATION