



# DIYA

the newsletter for Houston's D.A.V. Montessori school



## December 2017

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### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear DAVM families,

**Our first semester of the 2017-2018 academic year comes to a close!** As we all prepare for the new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the last few months.

It has been an unusual and challenging start to the school year. With Hurricane Harvey, some of our DAVM family were impacted creating some chaos in the family and school life. It took a few weeks, but the school routine eventually settled in and the students have taken to it.

We have introduced many new elements to the DAVM school – a bus for the Energy Corridor students, inclusion of art into the school curriculum and starting an after-school Bollywood dance class. I hope these changes have made our parents appreciate the value of DAVM and the community we have here. Our goal is to always improve to make this your first choice for educating your children.

With the upcoming school holiday and new year, a few things to keep in mind:

- The season is about giving and sharing. The presents, decorations and Santa Clause are fun, but have your children help others.
- Be safe and healthy. Many people feel stressed with the holidays and end of the year. Take time to relax, breath, and be safe about everything you do.
- Make new friends, but keep the old

*"The book is called opportunity and the first chapter is titled New Year's Day."*

As we count down the days in the calendar, let me close by saying thank you. To the staff and teachers, without your dedication and care of the children, DAVM could not be held in such regard. To the parents, your trust and commitment is much appreciated. To Arya Samaj, for continuing to support such a noble concept as DAVM. And finally to the children, you teach us as much as we teach you.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### December 14 - 15 International Day

Come see what your children have learned exploring various countries. Hear about the culture, food and geography.

#### Friday, December 15 Winter Party

Children get to celebrate winter and enjoy the holiday festivities.

#### Friday, December 15 Early Dismissal

The entire school will be released at noon, after enjoying the winter party. No childcare will be offered.

#### December 18 – January 2 Winter Break

Students have a chance to enjoy the holidays and end of year with their families and friends.

#### Wednesday, January 3 School Reopens

Welcome back students!

#### January 16 – 19 School Tour Week

Come and meet the teachers, get information on the curriculum, extracurricular activities, testing and competitions.

#### Saturday, January 20 Vande Mataram Recitation

Children are invited to a competition to recite the Vande Mataram.

### STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

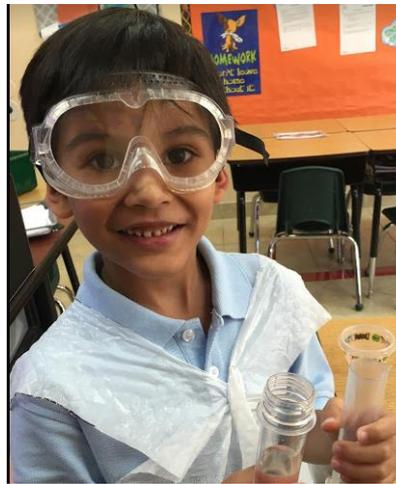
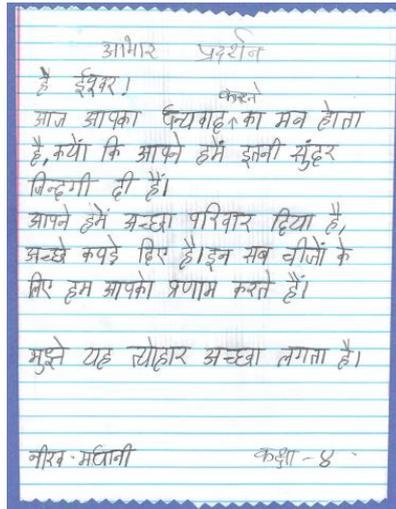
The school has an online presence and we encourage you to go visit our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

### IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Your input is welcomed and important. Please send your ideas and feedback to [Ankur Kadakia](#).

## A LOOK BACK: CREATIVITY SHINES

The children and teachers at DAVM continue to develop both academically and creatively. Take a look at some of the hard work the students put into their assignments.



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

The Orange A and Orange B classes presented a wonderful Thanksgiving program, highlighting how America was settled and providing the history behind the holiday. The program finished with rousing rendition of "This Land is Your Land". As an added bonus, the students from the Bollywood after-school class performed against an upbeat melody of Bollywood hits.



## In The Community

### ICE at Discovery Green

Enjoy ice skating outside under the downtown skyline. This new annual tradition goes on through January 21, providing both children and adults alike to skate under the winter lights. Take time to explore downtown and then head out to Discovery Green to lace up your skates.

<https://www.discoverygreen.com/ice>

## Look In a Book

### Winter Wonderland

As the weather cools and families celebrate the coming new year, there are great books to get children and parents alike into the winter spirit:

### The Night before Christmas

Charles Santore

The Polar Express

Chris Van Allsburg

Owl Moon

Jane Yolen

The Stars Will Shine

Cynthia Rylant

## Riddle Me This

**Q:** What did a snowman order at Wendy's?

**A:** A frosty!

**Q:** Why did the boy keep his guitar in the freezer?

**A:** Because he liked cool music!

**Q:** What is Jack Frost's favorite snack?

**A:** Ice Krispy treats!

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RAM JHAVER

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### Field Trip to Water Works

Ram Jhaver (Grade 3)

In early October we were studying about water pollution in science class. I remember feeling worried that we were drinking nasty water. A week later the elementary school went to a field trip to Water Works of Houston.

The drive to Water Works of Houston was long but enjoyable. When we reached there, I saw it was a small place. But, when I went inside, I was amazed by what they had done!

We were met by one of the museum directors. We were briefed about conduct and behavior. Then we went through the museum. The museum was laid out nicely. At the entrance, they had wall mounts and models to show how water from different sources comes into catchment areas in and around Houston.

Going through the museum was liking walking through a process! In the middle of the museum, it showed us how water is processed and cleaned by purifying it with chlorine and finally the process ended with delivering the water to our homes.

After the museum walk we assembled in a classroom. An employee of the museum guided our group through some fun activities. For these activities, we had to use some of the knowledge we gathered through the museum walk. At the end of the visit, we all received goodie bags! – activity books, informational rulers and stickers and my personal favorite – the magic glass. It's a colorless cup with some Water Works Pictures on it. The magic part – put ice into the cup and it becomes blue! I probably did this over and over once I got home. Even my baby sister was amazed 😊.

We all posed for a group picture before we headed back to the bus. Then it was lunch at a quiet picnic spot nearby and back to our school.

After this trip, I was able to better understand our science topic about water pollution and felt a lot less worried about what we were drinking! I loved our trip to Water Works and look forward to visiting more educational places in the future

