



# DIYA

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



## May 2017

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### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear DAVM families,

**Thank you.** Those two words sum of my feelings as we close out the 2016-2017 academic year.

**Thank you** to you, the parents, for your dedication and commitment to D.A.V.M and with entrusting this school with your child's development. Thank you for taking time out to be involved in your child's education and showing up at the various events that we hosted. To the many of you who took time out of your hectic professional and personal lives to volunteer and help, thank you.

**Thank you** to the students, for your continued involvement in the school and continuing to learn at the hands of some of the finest teachers. Thank you for your hard work, creativity and for representing D.A.V.M. – the school could not be prouder of your achievements.

**Thank you** to my teachers and staff. Without you, I am just a person with a dream and building. Thank you for protecting and developing so many young minds, from the toddlers leaving the care of their parents for the very first time to the always inquisitive 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Thank you for the countless hours spent in preparing and executing a curriculum, training students to be studious, creative and fearless, and for adding some flavor to the school. Each one of you is priceless to the school and the glue that keeps D.A.V.M together.

Finally, **good-bye.** To our 5<sup>th</sup> graders, it has been an honor to serve as your primary venue for education. Our duty is to equip you to succeed no matter where you go next. We will miss you. And good-bye to those students and parents who will not continue with D.A.V.M next year. I continue to hope you will reconsider, but at the end of the day, I know D.A.V.M helped enrich your child and I hope they will carry the spirit and friendships of D.A.V.M. to their next school.

Parents that will continue to send their students to D.A.V.M next academic year, please spread the word about the school to your friends, family and colleagues. And remember, summer school starts in June – so if your child is interested, please enroll soon.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, May 05**

#### Mother's Day Celebration

Students get to honor their teachers with song, dance and food. Moms – get ready to for a fun event, full of love.

**Friday, May 12**

#### Parent – Teach Conferences

Parents, close out the school year with your children's teacher. School holiday and childcare available for full-day students.

**Friday, May 19**

#### Fifth Grade Farewell

Our older primary school students bid farewell to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders as they graduate onto middle school.

**Sunday, May 21**

#### Annual Day Celebration

A chance for parents to marvel at the hard work put in by students and teachers in the annual end of school celebration.

**Tuesday, May 30**

#### Last Day of School

A chance for students, teachers and parents to relax. Take time to attend camps (DAVM Summer School!), go swimming, and take vacations.

**Monday, June 5**

#### Summer School Starts

Take part in the fun and education summer program at D.A.V.M

### IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Please send your ideas and feedback to [Ankur Kadakia](mailto:Ankur.Kadakia).

## CONGRATULATIONS: YASH GANATRA

Yash took first place in Spelling at the Private School Interscholastic Association's (PSIA) state-level competition. A big D.A.V.M. congratulation to Yash for his achievement.



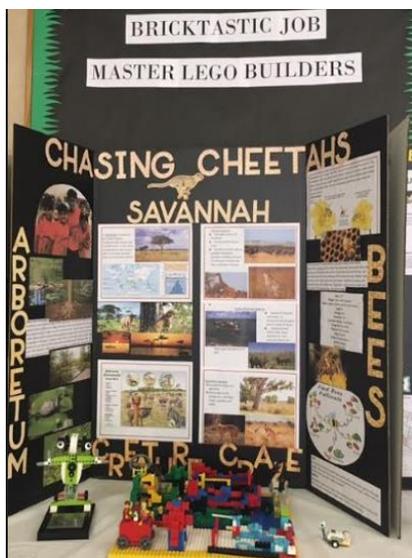
The school is very proud of the many students who participated in the PSIA events this year.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: FIRST LEGO LEAGUE JR. – WORLD FESTIVAL EXPO

More than 15,000 students, ages 6-18, from 33 countries converged in Houston, putting their innovation skills to the test at the annual FIRST Championship, held in April, at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Minute Maid Park and Discovery Green. D.A.V. Montessori had three teams build a model using Lego bricks and designed a show-me poster to showcase what they had learnt. In this year's challenge, CREATURE CRAZE, students learned about animals and explored their habitats.

A **Rising Stars** award went to *Team DAV Bees* (Ayush Kumar, Jaina Chheda, Sayan Patel, Srinivas Vasudevan). *Team Ninja Warriors* (Aarav Mehta, Nirav Mandhani, Sailakshmi Gedda, Shrikar Sankar, Tanush Biswas) earned the **Outstanding Teamwork** award and *Team Chasing Cheetahs* (Aadi Patel, Chinmay Rajesh, Gavin Kataria, Keshav Ravi, Parth Zanwar) was recognized for their **Solid as a Rock** Lego Construction.

Last and certainly not least – a deep sense of gratitude from DAVM community to the parent-coaches who volunteered many hours to help guide these young minds – Rajesh Gopinath (lead coach), Priti Kumar and Bhavin Patel.



## In The Community

### AsiaFest 2017

Take time to enjoy Houston's diversity. The Texas Asia Society is hosting AsiaFest to celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This festival is free and will take place the Texas Asia Society, located in Houston's Museum District. The annual family event features community performances, fusion cuisine, creative activities, local vendors, and more!  
<http://asiasociety.org/texas/>

## Look In a Book

### Mother's Day

On **May 14<sup>th</sup>**, the US celebrates Mother's Day. Formally celebrated for over 100 years, Mother's Day is a time to reflect on motherhood, maternal bonds and influence of moms on society. Take time to honor the various "mothers" in your life during Mother's Day and the quartet of books below are great to share with the mom in your life.

[A Gift for Mama](#)

[Linda Lodding](#)

[Where's Mommy?](#)

[Beverly Donofrio](#)

[On the Night You Were Born](#)

[Nancy Tillman](#)

[How to Babysit a Grandma](#)

[Jean Reagan](#)

## Riddle Me This

Q: What did one bee say to the other bee?

A: Wasabi! (What's up, bee!).