



DIYA

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



October 2017

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear DAVM families,

What a start to the school year! The Houston and East Texas communities weathered a historic storm that resulted in unbelievable flooding and disruption to so many lives. I am pleased to say that, while many in the DAVM family were impacted greatly from Hurricane Harvey, the DAVM family is all safe and sound.

An event like this one is a great opportunity to teach our children and remind ourselves of charity. The DAVM family being part of the larger Houston community has demonstrated that charity in so many ways –from helping out neighbors and friends rebuild, to volunteering with various organizations and providing donations to help those in need.

A pillar of the Vedic culture is *dana*, or the giving of charity and alms. As a school that instill the virtues of the Vedic philosophy, I ask that parents remind their children of *dana* and encourage them to participate in the amply charity opportunities in this great city.

As we head into the fall and winter portion of the calendar, many of the world's holiest times are upon. This month, we celebrate Diwali – a festive occasion with food, laughter and gifts. But let's not forget about *dana* and preserve a core element of Diwali. A call to all parents to think about how your children can contribute locally or abroad with their time and inspiration.

While Hurricane Harvey was a terrible event, let's use this time to work on rebuilding the community and extending a hand to our neighbors and friends. And let's make sure our children see the value in charity and generosity.

"The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer"

Mahatma Gandhi

Thank you for continuing to trust DAVM with your child's education - our staff continues to teach and care for your children at the highest standard.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Oct 13

Field Trip – Blessington Farm

A fun, active day for the preschool through 1st graders as they get some time outdoors and play with their classmates.

Thursday, Oct 19

Diwali Havan

We will note the auspicious nature of Diwali with a special havan for all students. Please make sure your child is on time so to not miss this special event.

Friday, Oct 20

Diwali School Holiday

As families join together to celebrate Diwali, DAVM will be closed. No childcare on this day.

Sunday, Oct 22

Diwali Mela

DAVM will participate in Arya Samaj Diwali celebrations. Exciting student performances and delicious food. Event starts at 5:00pm – please join us.

Friday, Oct 27

Trunk – O - Treat

Families are welcomed to join us in this annual fall tradition, where children can celebrate Halloween and trick-or-treat in a safe space.

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](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: BEYOND BOOKS

DAVM seeks to provide a well-rounded experience for our students. That means your children have a long list of after-school extracurricular activities that they can participate in – everything from exercising the brain in chess to exercising creativity in violin to exercising the body in Bollywood dance.



DAVM is offering the following afterschool activities:

- Bollywood Dance
- Chess
- Lego Junior League – starts Thursday, October 19th
- Hindi Music

If you are interested in enrolling your children in these afterschool activities, please see any of our staff. We want to provide every avenue to enrich your students learning experience and hope that our parents take advantage of what DAVM has to offer.



WEB GEM: PSIA

The Private School Interscholastic Association (PSIA) seeks to inspire student achievement through academic competition. This interscholastic association allows private schools and home-schooled student to compete in a variety of academic subjects, starting from the first grade. Visit their website to learn more and ask your teachers about how you can help the school prepare for the academic meets.

<http://www.psiacademics.org/>

Last year, our students had a wonderful showing and we want to continue the spirited, winning tradition. Parents are encouraged to participate as coaches and helpers as the school prepares for the local and state PSIA competitions.



In The Community

Texas Renaissance Festival

Considered the largest Renaissance themed festival in the country, this event will entertain children and adults alike with musicians, magicians, acrobats, food and drink. Learn about the various aspects of life during this time period. Each weekend presents a new theme. Goes on until November 26th.

<https://www.texrenfest.com/>

Look In a Book

Fall Fun

Fall is an exciting time for children and grownups alike – the weather cools, leaves change colors, and festivals and holidays abound. Get into the fall spirit with these books:

Pete the Cat: Trick or Pete

James Dean

Giving Thanks

Johnathon London

The Berenstain Bears' Harvest Festival

Mike Berenstain

Autumn Leaves

Ken Robbins

Riddle Me This

Q: What do ghosts eat for lunch?

A: Spooketi!

Q: What is a witch's favorite subject in school?

A: Spelling!

Q: Why is a skeleton so mean?

A: Because he has no heart!