



DIYA

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



January 2018

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear DAVM families,

Welcome back and happy new year! As many of you, I am excited to see what this year has in store. The students and staff are recharged and ready to forge ahead with the many activities happening over the next 5 months. Don't forget parents, please get and stay involved – there is a lot to do!

Over the next 5 months, students and parents will have the chance to engage in so many things – Republic Day celebration, Go Texan Day, St. Jude's Bike-A-Thon, Father and Mother's Day celebrations and our end-of-year Annual Day. Additionally, we will have students participate in PSIA competitions, IOWA testing, chess tournaments and Lego League expos. There is no shortage of opportunities for your children to grow.

Staying with the theme of celebration and being involved, a big DAVM congratulation to our Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art award winners. Schools from all over the Houston metropolitan area submitted select artworks into the competition and entries are awarded blue, red, and white ribbons depending on artistic merit. Blue ribbons indicate the highest artistic merit, and it is from blue ribbons that Best in Show and Finalist pieces are selected. We are so proud that out of the seven entries from DAV, five were awarded blue ribbons, indicating the highest artistic merit, and two were awarded red ribbons! Great job Stuti Talati, Aadi Patel, Siddharth Gadgay, Sahana Koushik, Shivani Jhaver, Dhyan Patel, and Myra Rathi for their excellent art work and a special thanks to Ms. Daisy for cultivating our students' artistic passion.



Not only do we want to educate your children through academics, we want to stretch them in different directions and showcase their talent.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 15
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Take part in Houston's diversity as you celebrate the life of Dr. King.

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 in a contest held at Arya Samaj's main hall at 2PM

Friday, January 26
Republic Day Celebration

Enjoy the students take part in an event to celebrate India and Indian accomplishments.

Friday, January 26
Elementary Science Fair

Come see these budding scientists present their experiments.

Saturday, January 27
Open House

Tour and meet teachers as your consider your child's needs for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

Spring sessions start for Bollywood Dance (Mondays), Chess (Wednesdays), and LEGO League (Fridays).

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: INTERNATIONAL FEST



Students worked throughout the fall to put together a fabulous International Fest event. This parent-led project allowed elementary students to work together to learn and present about a country. For many, it was a chance to learn about the food, animals and culture of a country they have never been to. Very Global!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: STUTI TALATI

International Fest

Stuti Talati (Grade 5)

On December 14th and 15th, 2017, DAV Montessori and Elementary school, hosted their first International Festival. There was excitement and an air of festivity since October, where students, parents, and teachers have been planning and pulling the fest together.

Student groups represented five countries for the Fest - Brazil, China, Mexico, Italy and Australia. Each group presented people with vivid cultural experiences from that country. Some groups hosted cultural performances while other groups had food for visitors to taste. Poster boards, 3D models and artifacts made for vibrant, colorful display of information. Many country booths had pieces of art and antiques for the visitors to touch and feel. This added a more personal experience to the fest. To add authenticity, groups also spoke some words in the countries native tongue. Students and parents were dressed in the country's traditional outfit.

Students from KG to 5th, guided by their lead parents, actively participated in research through books and computers. Students practiced in the evenings and after school for their special cultural performances.

International week was fun and educational. The enthusiasm and teamwork payed off with a fabulous display of talent. The whole festival was a big hit! As students, we learned about many different cultures and traditions which, we would not have through our normal curriculum. I hope, as most students do, that we have International Fest every year. I loved International Fest!



In The Community

MLK Grande Parade

Take part in a Houston tradition that promotes harmony and unity. Enjoy music, marching bands, and dancers. Cheer on the students from local schools with thousands of other Houstonians.

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

Look In a Book

Diversity

The start of the year is a great time to remind ourselves of the value and beauty in diversity and harmony. These are wonderful books for your children to read.

Last Stop on Market Street

Matt de la Pena

Mostly Monsterly

Tammi Sauer

Wonder

R.J. Palacio

The Name Jar

Yangsook Choi

The Sneetches

Dr. Seuss

Riddle Me This

Q: Why can't you give a balloon to Elsa?

A: Because she'll "let it go!"

Q: Why did Mickey Mouse go into outer space?

A: He went to find Pluto!

Q: Why do people visit Disney World?

A: So they can be a little goofy!

Q: Where was Minnie born?

A: In Minnie-sota!