

A DIVINE ABODE

June is the time when all the schools reopen after a long summer vacation. Children are excited to be back to the school. Why?

- Beginning of a New Class
- New School Uniform and Books
- New Teachers
- New Classmates and a lot of many other things.

Along with the students even teachers should be excited for various reasons. They have so much to look forward in the new academic year. One of them is the distribution of students into various houses. In this process, even teachers get distributed promoting the competitive spirit in their respective houses by way of participation in Inter House Competitions planned during the course of the academic year. Generally students are put into one of the four houses which are called by the names of colours, elements of the universe, rivers, national leaders, Indian satellites etc., In this context I would like the heads of the Institutions to think of calling the houses with the names of great Indian sages such as Valmiki, Vedvyas, Viswamitra, Vasistha, etc.,

I believe Education is never complete without awareness about the contribution of these great sages. A brief note about some of them is mentioned below.

• **Valmiki**

Valmiki is revered as the AdiKavi, which translates to First Poet, for he invented sloka (i.e. first verse or epic metre), which set the base and defined the form to Sanskrit poetry. He is the author of the holy epic 'Ramayana', consisting of 24,000 verses. He once asked Narada, whether there existed a man in the world committed to dharma, who is brave and strong, who is accomplished, who is handsome? Narada did exist in flesh and blood and his name was Rama. In this manner, Narada introduces the Sanksepa Ramayana, where he tells Valmiki the entire epic in one hundred verses.

Valmiki is blessed by Lord Brahma to write the story of Rama by giving him a vision of episodes in Rama's life and of those individuals associated with him.

Valmiki Ramayana is an epic, itihasa, depicting the traditions, ideologies and heroes of ancient India. Its characters provide role-models for the child and adult. The child's mind seeks an anchor, a fantasy, a hero in order to be inspired and grow into a beautiful, mature adult.

• **Ved Vyas**

Ved Vyas is Sanatan Dharma's first and greatest acharya. He classified the four Vedas, wrote eighteen Puranas, the Brahma Sutras and uttered the Mahabharat which Lord Ganesh penned down. The Mahabharat is glorified as the fifth Veda. Of all Mahabharat's sections, the most

important and its essence and crown jewel is the Bhagvad Gita. Here is a sloka to remember the names of the eighteen puranas. The sloka is as follows.

“Madwayam Badwayam chaiva
Bratrayam Vachatustayam
ANAPALINGA KUSKani
puranani prudhak prudhak”||

In honour of Ved Vyas as the foremost acharya and guru in Sanatan Dharma, the Guru Purnima festival is celebrated every year on Ashadh Purnima. This is also known as Vyas Purnima.

Students and Teachers of Viswamitra House take pride in organizing Guru Purnima Celebration at school.

• **Viswamitra**

There have been only twenty four Rishis in India who have the Gayatri Mantra. It is believed that Sage Viswamitra is the first among them and Sage Yagnavalkya being the last. The Gayatri Mantra is as follows.

Om bhūr bhuvaḥ svaḥ
tāt savitūr vāreṇ(i)yaṃ
bhārgo devāsya dhīmahi
dhiyo yó naḥ pracodáyāt

Rishi Vishwamitra was born as 'Kaushika' and was the great-grandson of a great sage king, known as Kusha. He was born to Gadhi, one of the four sons of Kusha. Like every other prince, Kaushika also succeeded his father to the throne of his kingdom.

Why and How did he become a Brahmarishi?

While on a tour of his kingdom, Kaushika came across the hermitage of the great sage, Vasistha, along with his army. The peace and the solitude surrounding the hermitage impressed him deeply and he entered inside. There, he and his army were well received and served a splendid feast. Surprised at the welcome received by him, Kaushika asked sage Vasistha that how he managed to feed such a large army. The sage replied that the food was provided to him by his calf, Nandini, gifted to him by Lord Indra himself. Kaushika offered the sage a large amount of wealth in return of the calf. However, the sage declined the offer. Enraged at the refusal of sage Vasistha, he ordered his army to forcefully take the calf to his kingdom. The sage used his yogic powers to bring forth a huge militia of fierce warriors, who defeated the army of Kaushika. Kaushika was captured and brought before the sage, who pardoned him.

This incident deeply affected Kaushika and made him realize that power of penance was greater than that of physical strength. He relinquished his throne and began his journey to become a sage, greater than even Vasistha. After undergoing intense meditation and severe asceticism, he was bestowed with the title of Brahmarishi by Lord Brahma himself. He was given the name of 'Viswamitra' (friend of all).

• **Vasistha**

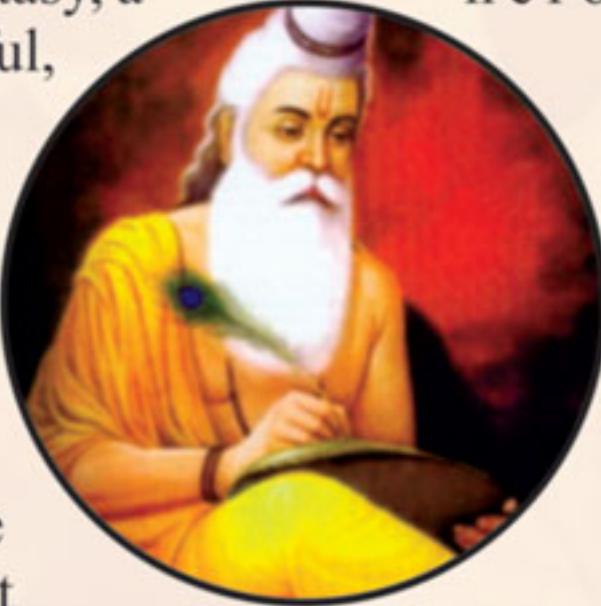
Vasistha is one of the Saptarishis (seven great Rishis) in the seventh, i.e. the present Manvantara, or age of Manu. Vasistha is a manasputra of God Brahma. He had in his possession the divine cow Nandini her child, who their owners. Arundhati of Vasistha. RigVeda rishi as son of Urvasi.

Vasistha is narrated Vishnu Purana He has also contributed to many Vedic hymns and is seen as the arranger of Vedas during Dwapara Yuga.

Vasistha acted as the priest for whole of the Suryavansha, but often he had altercation with 'Nimi', he quit all the other branches of the Suryavansha and he made his hermitage near Ayodhya and acted as a priest only for 'Raghuvansha' (descendant of Raghu).

The Role he played in Ramayana:

Sage Viswamitra asks Dasarath to send his sons Rama and Lakshmana to the forest to protect his yagna from the demons. Dasarath hesitates to send. Here sage Vasistha advices Dasarath to send them. It is very beautifully seen as to how the guru removes this ignorance in king Dasarath's mind. Sage Vasistha spent time to explain the king. After having been convinced by Sage Vasistha, he very affectionately called his two sons and permitted them to accompany sage Viswamitra. The fact that King Dasarath was not blessed with a son made him very

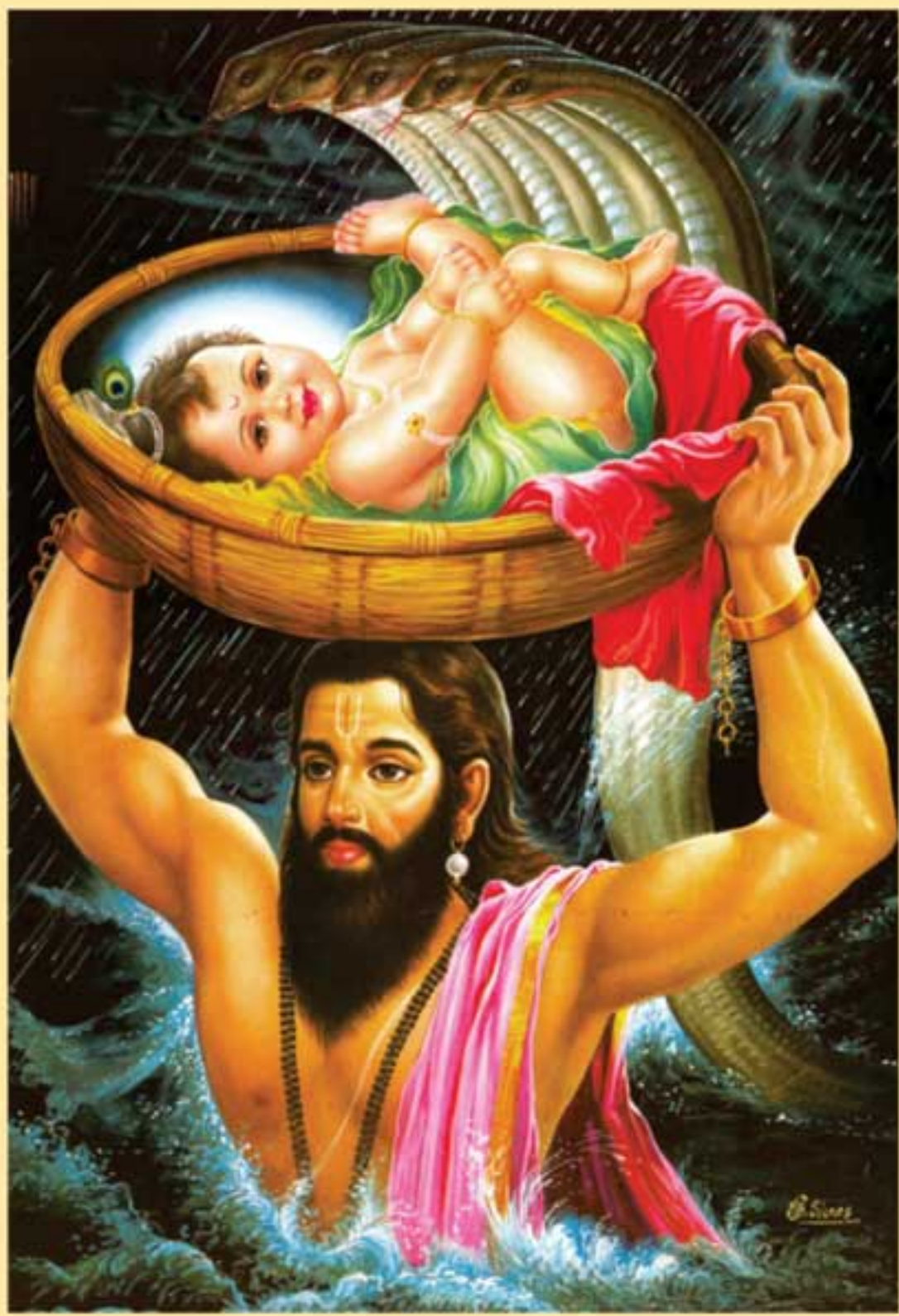


Starting with the Letter	Number of Puranas	Name of the Purana			
Ma	02	Matsya	Markandeya		
Ba	02	Bhagavat	Bhavishya		
Bra	03	Brahmanda	Brahma Vaivarta	Brahma	
Va	04	Varaha	Vamana	Vishnu	Vishnu
Aa	01	Agni			
Na	01	Narada			
Pa	01	Padma			
Lin	01	Linga			
Ga	01	Garuda			
Ku	01	Kurma			
Sk	01	Skanda			
Total	18				

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MON SOON ; A JOYFUL SEASON



This Monsoon too brought along with it pleasant cool zephyr, blowing softly across my face as I go out on my terrace just after a spell of rain. When the sky is covered with dark grey clouds some seems to swiftly float across the sky blown away by wind speed.

The fragrance of moist earth evokes our senses.. It refreshes our mind. The cool breezes seem to caress our body and make us feel so much attached to Mother Nature and Mother Earth.

If you go for a walk just after the rains you will see the Trees all washed up looking so new and the little song-birds hopping around joyfully. The

environment is so clean and calm after rain. After the hot summer rain infuses fresh life in Nature and soon we see flowers all around and also those funny Mushrooms. Green Frogs and toads, millipede and centipede too. Seeing them hopping around or getting scared of them. OOOOh my god!!! So scary but have a close look how beautiful this little creature are!!!

Then there is this strange music of insects singing all night long joined by cicadas and Frogs. It's so nonstop and continuous that you are just filled with awe how such small creature make such big noises.

When we were kids we used to make paper-boats and send them floating across little streams that form in rain. We used to jump and dance in rain and mud... Most of the kids loved to splash in water puddles or just joyfully bathing in the rain.

Farmers Start fresh farming in this season, Folks reworked their Gardens, pruning shrub planting new flowering plants or just throwing some seeds from the last year dried flowers or ripe vegetables.

"Garam Bhajiya" with tea in Monsoon is so natural for us..We can't resist eating it with rain..

In Bharat Rakshabandhan and Janmashtami are the two major festivals celebrated in Monsoon season. Krishna was born at mid-night, it was a stormy night and he was carried by his father to safety through dangerous floods.

Enjoy rain my dear kids and also be with Mother Nature and Lovely Creation of God.



**Darshana
Datania**
Soft Skill
Trainer
Ahmedabad

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Are We There Yet?

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achieving academic excellence where in we have seen many companies availing their software for better grasping, learning and education of students. With the coming year it is seen that the school have many more solutions being offered by the same set of companies and new ones not only in academic field but also in database management and administration. This year we have been approached by many companies that provide Administrative Software for better administration of the school, staff, students and parents. What's worth noting is the feedback system that such software provides. Almost all such companies provide an integrated feedback system that aware the parents with SMS, Email, Website and Mobile Apps. While the child leaves from school and prepares to reach home the parents are ready to welcome with the HW information that they received through SMS from school. In such cases, the parents must keep their patience and have a planned schedule for the child to pursue academics at home.

Ultimately, they are our kids, our offspring's and they have all the rights to enjoy as we did and we are the ones who need to make such arrangements and ensure that our offspring's are learning in better and constructive environment.

The above points just describe certain aspects where we need to focus as educators or parents. We are doing our worth in all possible direction but the question posed in front of me forced me to think on these aspects as well. Let us contribute time and effort to make our children's learning experience more comfortable and rewarding.



SCHOOL STUDENTS PLAYED AND ENJOYED IN THE MUD POOLS

June 29th witnessed a whole lot of great excitement and fun, as over 100 kids and adults celebrating International Mud Day organised by GEMS Genesis International School (GGIS), near Vaishnodevi Circle, SG highway, Ahmedabad.

The objective of celebrating Mud Day is to encourage kids to unplug and play. The day is much more than play, it aims to connect children and early childhood professionals with the rich earth in its most squishy, tactile way.

Consider the fun in creating a mud kitchen for mud pies, or mud paintings, mud sculpture, mud castles, mud slides, mud puddles, mud boxes and much more. With the free play opportunity with mud.

kids not only had fun but they learnt to care and share with glorious earth beneath their feet. The fun also speaks of deeper messages that convey the lasting impact Mud Day had; messages of freedom, creativity, exuberant play, community advocacy, and the importance for our world's children to connect to the Earth and to each other.

On this occasion Ms. Minal Desai, Director at GGIS said "Technology has enabled humans to address many complexities of day to day life but at the same time it has also disassociated us from nature, resulting in negative impact on our health and well-being. Nature preservation is only possible if we spend time and learn to care. Moreover such activities also help with attention deficit disorder, recall and memory, problem-solving and creativity. People who spend more time outside are also physically healthier. We should encourage our kids to explore our beautiful nature and learn to care and preserve."

President Obama declared the first official mud day back in 2013 and the events just keep on growing. Mud is a great easy way to have fun outdoors. Over the last several years reflections on Mud Day have often related a fascinating transformation that takes place. Initially children from all parts of the world have the same hesitation during their first experience of Mud Day. Many approach the mud cautiously, solemnly studying the changes in their surroundings, wondering what will happen next, wide eyes looking over their shoulders to the adults waiting nearby. Finally a splatter is made, a giggle erupts and before long...gleeful squeals of pure delight ensue as the players (both children and adults) let go of their trepidations and literally jump in with both feet!

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depressed. Dasharath, being a great king went to seek his guru's advice to seek a remedy for his sorrow.

It is said that one can confide their concerns to their guru and it is only a guru who can direct us in the right path. And Sage Vasistha said, "You will have four sons and these four sons will be very learned and will be known throughout the three worlds and wipe out the fears of the devotees"

It was Sage Vasistha who had named the four sons to be Rama, Lakshmana, Bharata and Shatrugna. Vasistha also wrote a pamphlet named as the 'Vasistha Smriti' and the pamphlet was written on dharma righteousness. He also composed another treatise named the 'Vasistha Ramayana'. Vasistha had the belief that the divine and individual efforts were very necessary for achieving anything in this world. According to him, the habit of laziness is actually a disease that is responsible to bring unhappiness in a man's life.

An appeal to all the Educators:

- Ensure that Value Education is given the top most priority in the School Curriculum.
- Include atleast one component which is Value Based in every assembly.
- Children will be convinced only if we are convinced. Never underestimate the tremendous power hidden in all the ancient scripts which our great rishis had left.