संस्कृतभारती samskrita bharati usa

SAMSKRITAM AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SAFL)

NEWSLETTER

November 10, 2017

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निर्देशकस्य सन्देशः

Message from Giri Bharathan, Director, SAFL Program, Samskrita Bharati USA

Namaste,

As we enter the ninth year of SAFL program, I take this opportunity to briefly reflect upon its history and progress made. Based on requests from parents and students interested in learning Samskritam in a formal, structured manner through the school year with the possibility of getting credits, the SAFL program was started in Sep 2009 with 17 students and 3 teachers. It was a learning experience for us as it was the first time we ventured in to teaching online. Currently we have 240 students and 25 teachers. Summer residential programs (Shraddhaa, Prajnaa and Medhaa camps) also have growing enrollment numbers.

The SAFL program was accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges as a supplementary education program in July 2016. It has helped us institute several best practices. New qualified teachers are recruited each year to ensure an optimal teacher:student ratio. Also, we have been trying to increase our engagement with all stakeholders, collect regular feedback and take suitable actions to address their needs. In fact, this newsletter is one such effort.

One of the main purposes of SAFL program is to provide an opportunity for children to get introduced to Samskritam and stay connected with their heritage. They also make friendships with other like minded students during the course of their study. To facilitate continued interaction among the graduates and engagement with Samskrita Bharati, the SAFL Alumni Association has been rejuvenated with the lead taken by some Medhaa shibiram attendees in 2017.

In order to help SAFL graduates connect with other Samskritam enthusiasts at the university level, efforts are being made to extend the reach of the CSN - Campus Samskritam Network, a project started by Samskrita Bharati several years ago to establish Samskritam language clubs in universities. This provides a good opportunity for SAFL alumni to continue learning and also teach Samskritam to others. A few students are in fact currently helping in the SAFL classes and camps. We hope to increase these numbers in the forthcoming years so that the next generation can take a lead role gradually.

Similar to SAFL program, Samskrita Bharati conducts Samskritam classes and camps in many states for children and adults. Your tax deductible contribution will help us advance in our mission. Please visit sbusa.org to make a donation.

We would like to hear from you regarding suggestions for this newsletter and also for the SAFL program. Please write to us at safl@sbusa.org

जयतु संस्कृतम् !

Giri Bharathan

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 21 - 24, 2017 – First Semester Midterm Exams (All 200 and 300 level courses)

Nov 18 - 21, 2017 – First Semester Unit Exams – II (All 100 level courses)

Nov 25 - 28, 2017 – Thanksgiving Break (All courses)

Dec 23, 2017 – Jan 2, 2018 – Winter Break (All courses)

Jan 13 - 16, 2018 – First Semester Final Exams (All courses)

Jan 20 – 23, 2018 – Inter semester break. No classes (All courses)

Jan 27 - 30, 2018 – Second Semester - First day of class
Mar 3 - 6, 2018 – Second Semester Unit Exams – I (All 100 level courses)

Mar 17 -20, 2018 – Second Semester Midterm Exams (All 200 and 300 level courses)

Apr 14 – Apr 17, 2018 – Second Semester Unit Exams – II (All 100 level courses)

May 19 – 22, 2018– End of year Final Exams (All courses)

REGISTRATION FOR 2018-19

Registration for SAFL 2018-19 academic year opens in March 2018!!

Stay Tuned...

सुभाषितम्

हर्तुर्न गोचरं याति दत्ता भवति विस्तृता ।
कल्पान्तेऽपि न या नश्येत् किमन्यद्विद्यया विना ॥

विद्या चोराणां कृते न दृश्यते । अन्येभ्यः दत्ता चेत् विस्तृता भवति । कल्पान्ते अपि अस्याः नाशः न भविष्यति । विद्यायाः समानं नान्यत् किमपि विद्यते ।

That which cannot be perceived by a thief, that which only increases by sharing and that which cannot perish ever – What could that be other than knowledge?

SAFL Camps 2017 - Experiences from Students' Perspective

Prajnaa Camp (June 17-23, 2017)

Prajnaa camp has been a wonderful experience for me. The first day when I came to prajnaa camp I was excited to see the room where I would be staying. On the first part of the day, we went inside the main hall and the teacher told us where to go and what we will be doing. At night they told us to go back to our cabins. The cabins looked small but when I went inside I saw 6 bunk beds. There was a small basketball court in front of the cabins where we could play during our free time.

On the second day the teachers told us to come to the main hall where we did yogabhyasam. In the evening, we went outside and played games. The games were really fun. Then we would do bhajans and it was very soothing. In the night we did skits it was fun and entertaining.

On the third day we did hiking. The mountains were a bit steep but it was lot of fun. I had a joyful time looking at the trees and mountains.

On the fourth day when it was dark we did stargazing. The stars looked beautiful. I saw the Milky Way galaxy through the telescope which was awesome.

During the next two days of the camp, we had an excellent opportunity of hearing two great teachers from India who spoke about how to improve our samskritam speaking skills. It was very inspiring.

On the final day of the camp, we played scavenger hunt. It was fun finding clues.

The food served all days in the camp was very delicious and we had a variety of items to choose from. Throughout the camp, we learned about vibhaktis and dhatu pratyayas (noun declensions and verb conjugations). We learned how to pronounce those words verbally. It was fun and interactive. We learned how to listen and read the complex sentences. There were a lot of different types of styles in pronouncing the words. I improved my sambhashanam skills.

We learned how to express the words and write the words in devanagari. We used our understanding for what those words mean. We also learned about suktis and subhashitams which were very interesting and melodic. Subhashitams inspire me a lot. When I listen to the sweet tune it is like the joy and bliss of life. It made me feel happy.

Overall, the whole course was both immersive and interactive. It was one of the best experiences I ever had in my life. I learned quite a lot in these seven days. I especially liked the subashitams because the melody of music was so sweet. I had a great time in prajnaa camp. It has been an exciting journey.

Pranav Raghavan
SAFL 200 Level Student
Grade 9
Round Rock High School, Round Rock, TX

मेधाशिबिरम् (July 16-30, 2017)

SAFL पठनस्य वर्षत्रयानन्तरम् अहं मेधाशिबिरं गन्तुं बहु उत्सुका आसम्। बेङ्गळूरु-नगरे संस्कृतभारत्या: अक्षरम् इति केन्द्रकार्यालये अस्माकं मेधाशिबिरम् अभवत्। तत्र अहं प्रतिदिनं संस्कृतभाषाया: उपयोगं च संस्कृतभाषामाध्यमेन सेवां कथं कर्तुं शक्नोमि इति ज्ञातवती । वयं संस्कृतभाषामाध्यमेन बहूनि सेवाकार्याणि कृतवन्त:। वयं विकि कार्यस्य विषये (Samskritam Wikipedia - https://sa.wikipedia.org/), सम्भाषणसन्देशस्य विषये च ज्ञातवन्त:। छात्राणां मेलनार्थं वयं SAFL Alumni Association संस्थायाः पुनरुज्जीवनं कृतवन्त:।

प्रतिदिनं वयं प्रात:काले षड्वादने उत्थाय, योगवर्गं गतवन्त:। तत्र वयं श्लोकान् पठितवन्त: योगासनानि कृतवन्त: च। सचिन् महोदय: अस्मान् योगासनानि सम्यक्तया पाठितवान्। अनन्तरम् अल्पाहारार्थं भोजनालये मिलितवन्तः। प्रथमकक्ष्यायामं प्रतिभाभगिनी अस्मान् सुन्दरकाण्डस्य पाठान् पाठितवती । वयं श्लोकस्य पदविभागं, अन्वयक्रमं, च तात्पर्यं तस्या: मार्गदर्शनेन सुलभतया ज्ञातवन्त:। द्वितीयकक्ष्यायां गीताभगिनी विभक्तिरूपाणाम् पुनस्स्मारणं कारितवती । बहुभिः उदाहरणै: सा अस्मान् सम्यक्तया पाठितवती । तृतीयकक्ष्यायां सचिन् महोदय: सन्धिं समासं च पाठितवान्। यद्यपि कठिन: विषय:, तथापि तस्य पाठनेन सुलभतया अवगतवन्त:। भोजनानन्तरम् कांचित् विश्रान्तिं स्वीकृतवन्तः। चतुर्थकक्ष्यायां पन्चमकक्ष्यायां च वयं पाठनविधानं पठितवन्त:। अमेरिकादेशे संस्कृतमाध्यमेन संस्कृतं कथं पाठनीयं इति ज्ञातवन्त:। अनन्तरं क्रीडा: क्रीडित्वा सत्सङ्गे मिलितवन्तः। पुन: भोजनं कृत्वा मनोरञ्जनकार्यक्रमे नाटकानि प्रदर्शितवन्त:। अन्ते निद्रां कृतवन्त:।

अहं मेधाशिबिरं बहु इष्टवती । अहं पुन: गन्तुम् इच्छामि। एतत् अनुभवार्थं गोविन्द महोदयाय, गीता भगिन्यै, अपि च अक्षरजनेभ्य: धन्यवादान् समर्पयामि।

Anjali Sukhavasi
SAFL Alumni, Grade 11
Baldwin School,
Bryn Mawr, PA

मेधाशिबिरम् (July 16-30, 2017)

पूर्वछात्रेभ्यः बहु वारं श्रुतवान् यत् मेधशिबिरस्य अनुभवः अनुपमः । एतत् वर्षं मया गत्वा अनुभूतः ।

मेरिलेण्ड् राज्ये Thomas S Wootton उच्चविद्यालये अधुना दशमवर्गस्य छात्रोऽस्मि । दशवर्षेभ्यः संस्कृतभाषायाः अपि छात्रः । गताष्टभ्यः वर्षेभ्यः प्रतिवर्षं जाह्नवीशिबिरम् गच्छामि । तदारभ्य SAFL समाप्य मेधाशिबिरं गन्तुं आकाङ्क्षा आसीत् मम मनसि । अस्मिन् ग्रीष्मकाले अयं अवसरः लब्धः । बेङ्गलूरुमहानगरे गिरिनगरे अक्षरम् इति स्थले मेधाशिबिरे भागं वोढुं यदा अहं प्राप्तवान् तदा छात्राणां प्रतीक्षारतौ हसन्मुखौ गोविन्दगीतामहोदयौ दृष्टवान् । यतः अहं छात्रेषु प्रथमं प्राप्तवान् मम तु आसीत् विशेषस्वागतम् । मम परिवारजनाः अपि अक्षरस्य संस्कृतमयं वातावरणम् अवलोक्य विस्मिताः अभवन् ।

प्रथमदिने एव अस्माकम् अध्यापकः पालकः च गोविन्दमहोदयः असूचयत् यत् "आरब्धम् उत्तमजनाः न परित्यजन्ति "। एतया दृष्ट्या एव वयम् आरम्भम् अकुर्म । अक्षरं संस्कृतवातावरणस्य उत्तमम् उदाहरणम् अस्ति । तत्र छात्राः, पाचकाः, बालकाः, अध्यापकाः, अन्ये कार्यकर्तारः च संस्कृतभाषया एव सम्भाषणं कुर्वन्ति स्म । वर्गाः अपि बहु रुचिकराः आसन् । प्रतिदिनं वयं योगासनं, सुन्दरकाण्डं, सन्धिं , समासं च पठितवन्तः । संस्कृतं कथं पाठनीयम् इति प्रशिक्षणमपि प्राप्तवन्तः । भासकभाषणानि अशृणुम । वेदविज्ञानपाठशालां गतवन्तः । मधुराणि गीतानि अगायाम । क्रीडाः क्रीडन्तः अहसाम । भ्रातृत्वेन आस्म । कार्यकर्तारः इव कार्याणि कृतवन्तः । संस्कृतभाषायाः सौरभं प्राप्नुम । अस्माकं दिव्यसंस्कृतेः पोषणम् अकुर्म । मुख्यतः, वयं प्रेरिताः अभवाम ।

अयं अतुल्यः अनन्यः अनुभवः अविस्मरणीयः । ये ये SAFL मध्ये पठन्ति पूर्णानुभवं प्राप्तुं तैः मेधशिबिरम् अवश्यं गन्तव्यम् ।

धन्यवादाः ।

Nataraj Shivaprasad
SAFL Alumni, Grade 10
Wootton High School, Rockville, MD

SAFL Alumni Association (SAA)

गते ग्रीष्मकाले श्रावणमासे बेङ्गलूरुनगरे, संस्कृतभारत्याः मेधाशिबिरम् अभवत् । शिबिरे १६ छात्राः भागं ऊढवन्तः। तत्र १४ छात्राः high school तः आगतवन्तः परन्तु आवां द्वौ स्नातकौ, अग्रे विश्वविद्यालये भवावः । तर्हि, "अग्रे कथं संस्कृतपठनं कर्तुं शक्नुयाव?" इति पृष्ठवन्तौ । इदानीम् तन्निमित्तम् एकम् उत्तरम् वर्तते - SAFL Alumni Association.

SAFL Alumni Association (SAA) मध्ये सर्वे SAFL स्नातकाः (graduates) भवितुम् अर्हन्ति । अतः, यदा वयं सर्वे विश्वविद्यालयं गच्छामः, तदा एकं SAFL network भविष्यति । संस्कृतभारत्याः साहाय्येन वयं संस्कृतपठनं, पाठनं च कर्तुं शक्नुमः । अनन्तरम् अमेरिकादेशे, अस्माकं महाविद्यालयेषु, अन्यत्र च संस्कृतं प्रसारयामः । तदर्थं SAA अस्माकं साहाय्यं करिष्यति, साधनसम्पत्तिं च दास्यति । SAA माध्यमेन वयं सर्वे छात्राः संस्कृतप्रवासार्थं गन्तुं शक्नुमः । मित्रैः सह संस्कृतचर्चां, पठनं च कर्तुं शक्नुमः । तत्कारणेन यत् वयं SAFL-program मध्ये पठितवन्तः, तत् सर्वं न विस्मरामः ।

SAA विषये आवां उत्सुकौ स्वः । छात्राः यदा महाविद्यालयं प्रतिगच्छन्ति, तदा तत्र संस्कृतपठनं, संस्कृतप्रचारं च कुर्वन्ति इति अपेक्षावहे। स्नातकछात्राणां योजनेन, कार्यकर्तॄणां साहाय्येन एतत् कार्यं निश्चयेन सफलतां प्राप्स्यति इति आवयोः दृढविश्वासः ।

धन्यवादाः ।

Rohan Yaradi
SAFL Alumni
Class of 2021
Cornell University

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SAFL Alumni
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University of Houston

SAFL Summer Camps 2017

Newsletter

SAFL

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