



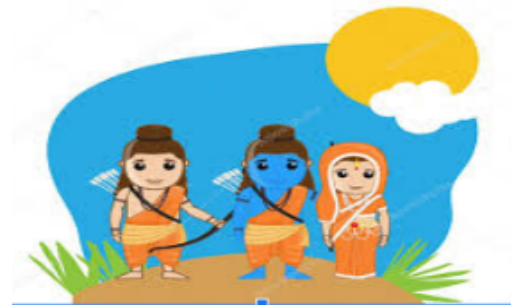
TERM 1 & 2 NEWSLETTER

# CHINMAYA MISSION CRAIGIEBURN



**Welcome to the CMC family**

# BV 1

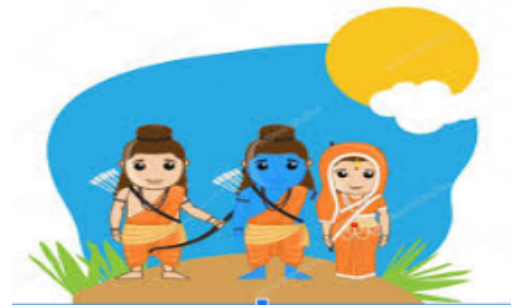


## Alphabet Safari and Ramayan

For the Balavihar 1, the topics for the year are "Alphabet Safari" and "Ramayana".

We have been focusing on ensuring the children are familiar and able to chant the opening and closing prayers including the pledge. Kids have been studying the 'Alphabet Safari', focusing on one alphabet every week and learning the values attached to the letter like 'C for Cleanliness' and 'G for God'.

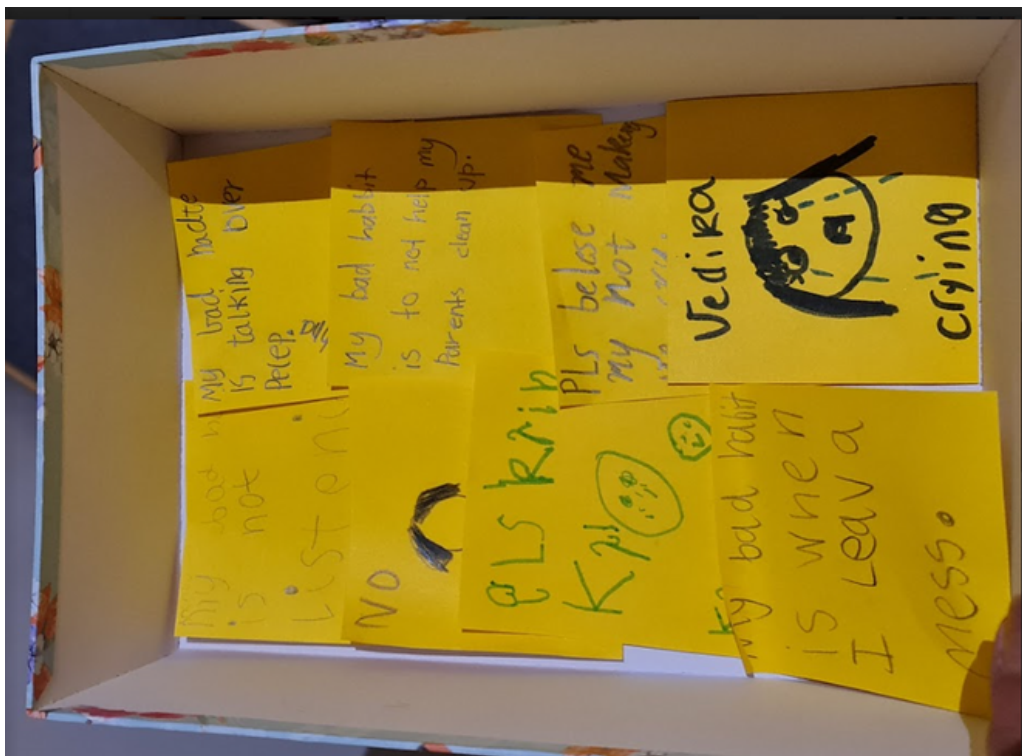


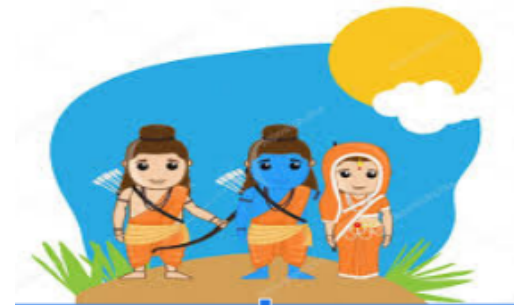


## Alpahabet Safari and Ramayan

In **Bal Ramayan** kids enjoyed the stories and the values learnt from this epic. We taught the kids about the various characters and learnt ideal human values demonstrated in the story. We celebrated Ram & Sita's wedding in the class with kids dressing up for the occasion and offering to give up a bad habit or perform a helpful deed as a gift to the Ram and Sita.

Through the term kids have learned various bhajans, slokas, art and craft activities related to their lesson plans.

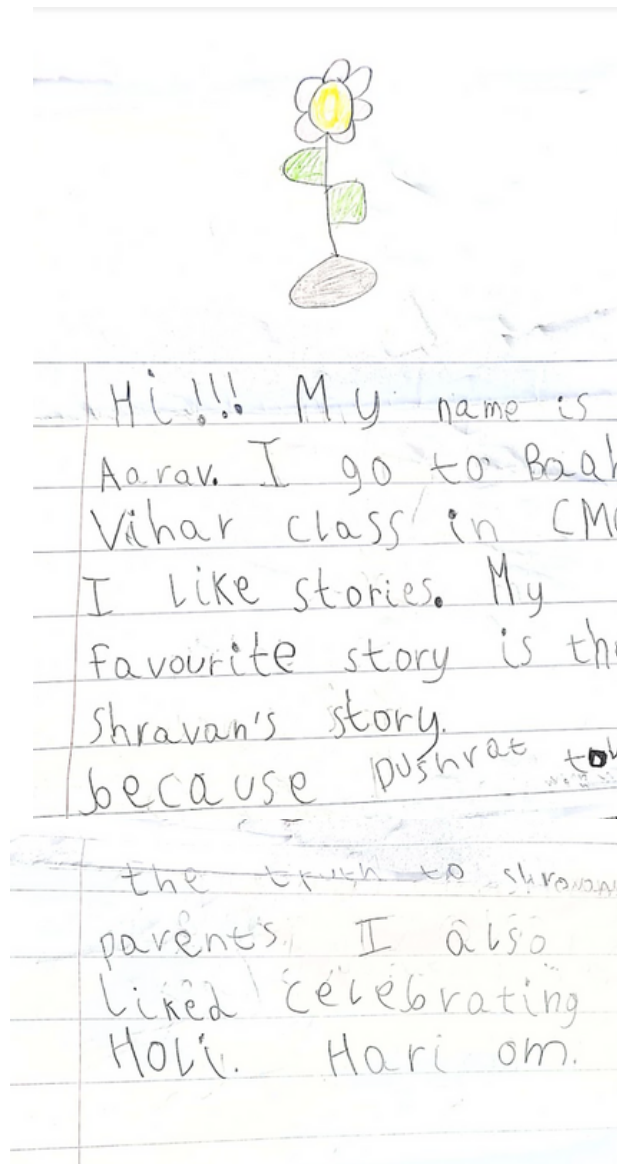




## Testimonials from children

Below are a few pages written by children about the stories, activities and bhajans we've been performing in the classes.

Such feedback helps the child to express themselves, and the teacher and parents to get much needed feedback on how the young mind is perceiving various activities in the class.





## Bala Bhagavatam

Hari Om,

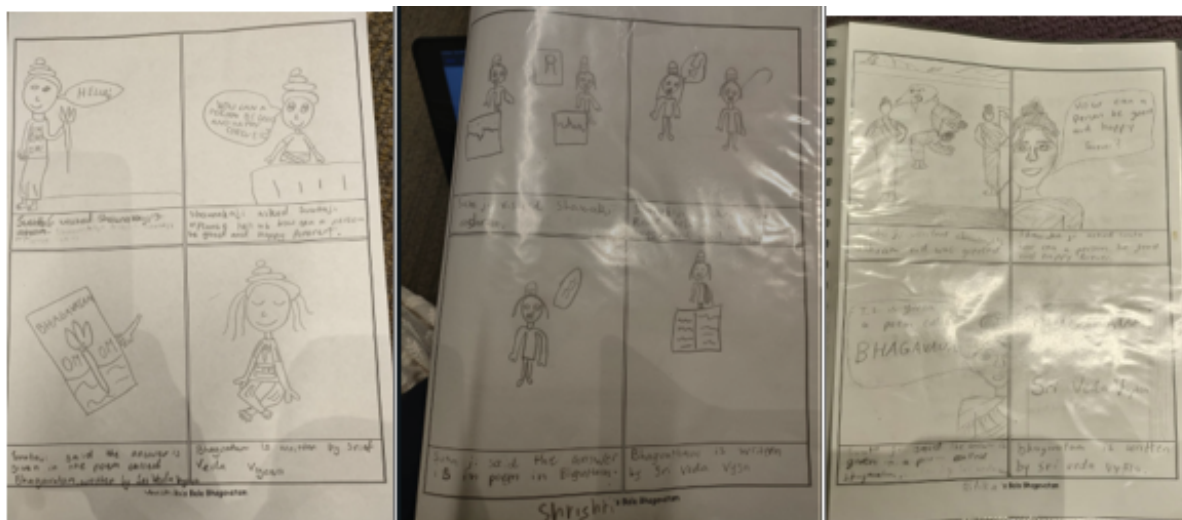
In term 2, we introduced the Bala Bhagavatam text to children. The children had several classes on the background of Bala Bhagavatam text where they learned about the author Shri Veda Vyasa.

The children also embarked with an interesting project of drawing their very own Bala Bhagavatam comic. We asked the children to draw comic strips illustrating the Bhagavatam stories they have heard in the class. The results has been amazing.

We also asked the children to begin and end their day with a simple greeting to Lord. We asked the children to visualise a form of the Lord who is dearest to them and then use either a simple greeting (eg: Hari Om, Good morning, Good evening) or a mantra (Gayatri mantra, Shri Ram Jay Ram..).

As a sevak, I found it was joyful to learn the Bhagavatam text along very enthusiastic class that came with lots of questions along with beautiful smiles.

I would like express my gratitude gratitude to Bhavika-ji and Sujeet-ji as well to the parents for all their support. May Gurudev's blessings be with us as we transition into the next term.



# Adult Discussion Group

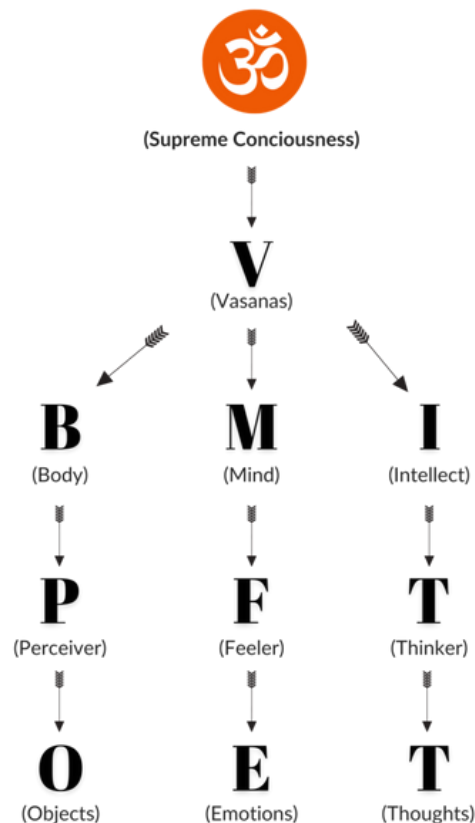
## The Basics of Hinduism

For the Adult Discussion Group, we have embarked on the journey to understand Hinduism as Sanatana Dharma. We are using Swami Aprozhananda's book to help us better understand Hinduism and learn about key elements, discuss and reflect as a group and to contemplate using sadhanas.

In the last two terms, we covered topics such as:

1. What is the goal of life?
2. The BMI chart and importance of controlling mind.
3. What are Vedas and Upanishads?
4. Formula for Happiness.
5. What is Dharma?

The parents and guardians actively participate in this Satsang therefore promoting the community feeling and overall harmony.



# Celebration(s)

## Holi

We celebrated Holi on the first day of our class in term 1. As the centre is new, the first physical class was held in mid-March and celebrating Holi brought the families together as a community.

The children played with dry colours safely prepared by the sevak team in a local park. The parents and guardians joined the fun as well.



# Celebration(s)

## Kite Festival

We celebrated Kite festival and an Open day in the first week of April. The kite festival was celebrated by partnering with WASEMA (<https://wasema.org.au/>) who sponsored the event by providing venue, kites, food and entertainment.

The children had fun assembling and decorating the kites. For many of them it was the first time they had played with a kite and were not sure how it all works. But when a few parents took the initiative and flew the kites put together by children right outside the centre, the children were overjoyed and joined the activity.





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## Kite Festival

