## JCYC PATHSHALA PHENOMENA

Jain Center of Southern California Pathshala Newsletter

December 2020

## Pathshala running as normal - virtually

- Over 370 registered students attending classes conducted by over 80 teachers.
- Pathshala classes are running smoothly on a virtual platform.
   Teachers and students have embraced the virtual environment and leveraged technology to keep the classes interactive

### Robust level of additional pathshala activity

- Sutra Classes launched in November 2020. First phase includes classes for students between ages 7 and 12
- Toastmasters classes being held prior to regular pathshala classes.
- STEAM classes being held for younger students
- Pathshala Children participate in major events celebrating Paryushan and Diwali



Students from the Mommy and Me class began the festive season with the making of lanterns symbolizing light and knowledge.



#### In This Issue

- Sutra Classes 2.0
- Halloween Fun
- JCYC Children shine during virtual Diwali Program
- Our children find ways to help the needy
- Coaching the Senior Students on Technology

### Sutra Classes 2.0



nunciation, the meaning, and memorization.

We've been conducting Sutra Classes for a number of years now, but it was difficult for students to go to the coaches in the midst of the pathshala days that were packed with classes and other activities. So what we have now is a slightly different approach, that we feel will make the coaching sessions more feasible.

Phase One of the new Sutra Coaching program began in November with over 40 students between the ages of 7 years and 12 years. While students are taught a variety of stutis in the religion classes, there is often not enough time to spend on the details of proper pronunciation and memorization. The sutra classes will provide additional coaching to students on elements of enunciation, pro-

The coaching classes will be held on Sunday mornings on non-Pathshala days. The sessions are designed to help students with the correct pronunciation of the words as well as with remembering the sutras. Classes will consist of fewer than 10 students, allowing coaches to provide a lot of individual attention.

Students can choose to pursue one of two tracks:

#### Chaityavandan Vidhi:

The Chaityavandan Vidhi program is to educate and teach students, per Shwetambar tradition, starting with Chaityavandan Vidhi, Bhaav puja. Students will start in Level 1 and move to Level 2 or Level 3 based on their assessment with the Sutra Coaches during the first couple of classes.

#### Jin Darshan Vidhi:

The Jin Darshan program prepares the student to carry out the rituals of Bhaav puja during a visit to the temple per Digamber tradition. The advanced program includes learning puja duha and Six Essentials for more advanced daily activities. At the onset of the program, all students will start in Level 1.

#### **Future Phases**

Once Phase 1 is up and running smoothly for both tracks, the program will be expanded to include students over 12 yrs of age and possibly adults. The program will also incorporate other vidhi and puja rituals.

If you would like more information on the Sutra program, please reach out to the following:

For the overall program: Smriti Shah at <a href="mailto:smriti.shah9394@gmail.com">smriti.shah9394@gmail.com</a>
For Chaityavandan Vidhi: Pinal Modi at <a href="mailto:modi.pinal99@gmail.com">modi.pinal99@gmail.com</a>
For Jin Darshan Vidhi: Sonaly Dudhekar at <a href="mailto:rkitectsd@gmail.com">rkitectsd@gmail.com</a>

### Celebrating Diwali the Jain Way

A virtual celebration jointly presented by JCNC and JCSC.



# Children shine during virtual Diwali program.

The communities of Jain Center of Southern California and Jain Center of Northern California collaborated in a virtual program illustrating the significance of each of the key days of Diwali festival.

- Children participated in a variety of skits, dances, songs, discourses and puja vidhi on each of the 5 key days: Dhanteras, Chaudas, Diwali, New Year's Day and Gyan Pancham. Participants also included adults
- Given the virtual nature of the performance, participants got creative in presenting group sessions. Dances were a group effort of individual participants performing from their own home front. Skits were performed both in person as well as on a virtual setting.



It was hard to tell where the in person performances began and where the scenes slipped into virtual elements.

Many of the animation effects and digital settings were put together by the children.

It was also a very successful collaboration effort together with participants from Jain Center of Northern California. This will likely lead to many other joint ventures between JCSC and other centers.



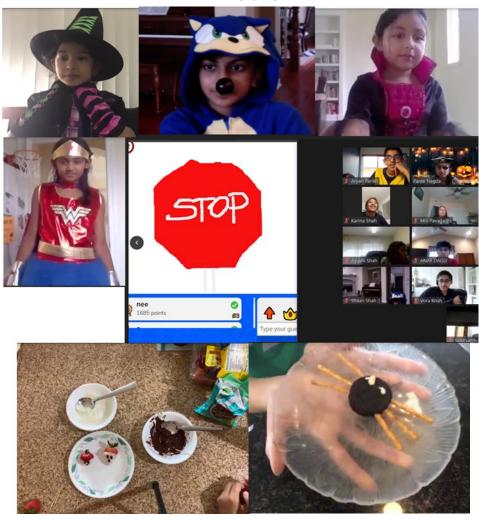


JCYC tradition of monthly activities continue with Halloween

### **Fun Halloween Frolics**

Our JCYC Committee continued the tradition of enjoying Halloween fun with the younger members of the pathshala.

- They spotlight the superheroes and fairy princesses that dressed up for the occasion in a fun costume contest
- It was not possible to distribute candy, but the Committee members
  demonstrated how to make some easy treats for the occasion. Oreo
  cookies and pretzels turned into cute critters while Strawberries and white
  chocolate turned into funny looking ghost faces.
- There were also a variety of games for the participants to join. Children moved across breakout rooms, enjoying the different activities.



- They spotlight the superheroes and fairy princesses that dressed up for the occasion in a fun costume contest
- It was not possible to distribute candy, but the Committee members
  demonstrated how to make some easy fun "crawling" treats for the occasion. Oreo cookies and pretzels turned into while Strawberries and white
  chocolate turned into funny looking ghosts.
- There were also a variety of games for the participants to join. Children moved from one breakout room to another, enjoying the different activities.

## Doing their part to help others

## A few of our favorite things: Blankets of Love

Each year during the holiday season our children open their hearts and reach out to help those that are exposed to the elements in the cold of winter.

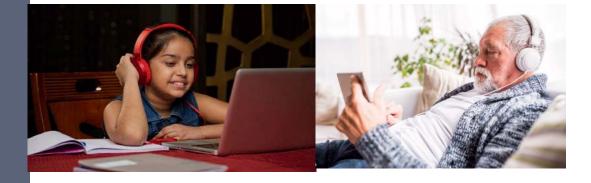
Despite the stay at home orders, our children were eager to do their part to help make blankets that would be distributed to those that are staying on the streets. Younger siblings also got involved in the coordinated efforts. A total of 25 blankets were put together by the children.



The blankets will be passed on to the American Red Cross who will distribute them to individuals that are homeless on the streets of Anaheim.

## "Coaching" our Seniors on Technology

The move to a virtual meeting has presented unique challenges, particularly to our senior members. Many struggle with both hardware or software issues and could use help operating their ipads and laptops as well.



Our middle –school aged students will take on the role of "technology coach" in a pilot program where they will provide help to our seniors with hardware and software technology related questions. Most of the one-on-one sessions will take place virtually allowing each student to address specific questions from their "senior student".

# Upcoming Phenomena at Pathshala

Here are some key events coming up over the next 2 months

The period between October and December is observed with a series of festivals. See if you can find them in the puzzle

January - March 2021										
Januar	y 3 & 10, 24	<u>Feb</u>	uary 7 & 21	March 7 & 21						
9:30 am	Prathna	9:30 am	Prathna	9:30 am	Prathna					
10:00 am	Religion Class	10:00 am	Religion Class	10:00 am	Religion Class					
11:30 am	Language Class	11:30 am	Language Class	11:30 am	Language Class					

All Events and Activities listed will be conducted on Zoom

### **Seasons of Festivals**

G	Р	A	L	N	D	Z	A	T	S	С	M	A	L	С
Χ	N	В	R	I	Ε	A	Ε	A	R	Ε	A	N	Ι	S
В	U	Ι	M	E	Z	M	M	Y	K	Р	Н	D	Y	С
Ε	0	A	V	N	Н	Τ	Y	M	V	M	С	Н	В	Y
L	L	Χ	A	I	S	Н	J	Ε	T	S	N	A	A	J
I	Y	M	I	I	G	Τ	S	Н	A	G	A	N	Χ	0
F	K	F	R	N	Н	S	Α	U	Y	R	P	Τ	W	D
D	Α	Н	L	J	G	L	K	S	D	K	N	Ε	Н	Α
K	С	R	M	Z	L	D	Z	N	Z	Q	A	R	A	N
R	Τ	N	M	0	R	A	Α	В	Α	0	Y	Α	K	D
A	W	Ε	W	K	C	C	G	Y	Χ	Н	G	S	K	I
Q	R	Ε	A	R	T	A	R	V	A	N	Τ	J	U	Α
M	Ε	С	Н	A	U	D	A	S	T	E	M	N	N	M
N	A	Y	M	В	I	L	0	L	I	R	F	Z	A	Н
V	Ι	В	Z	G	Y	В	W	Y	P	S	G	J	Н	В

AYMBIL OLI BOXING DAY CHAUDAS CHRISTMAS

DANDIA DHANTERAS DIWALI DUSHHERA

HANUKKAH KWANZAA NAVRATRA NEW YEAR

HALLOWEEN GYAN PANCHAMI

## We want to hear from you

As we move forward with the Pathshala phenomena, we want to incorporate more of the things that matter to the pathshala community. Let us know if there is a particular topic or story you would like us to cover or highlight. Send us some photos and a little narrative of an occasion that you know of that we should share with the readers.

Send your ideas to pathshala@jaincenter.org. Put "suggestions for the Phenomena" in the subject line.

We are still looking to add to our Teachers' group. If you are able to connect with children and would like to give back to our youth, apply for a teaching position. We are looking to recruit from both our first and second generation community members!

JCYC Pathshala is a part of the Jain Center of Southern California.

### **Pathshala Contacts**

Pathshala: Poorvi Parekh

Office Admin: Komal Desai

Registration: Jigar Shah,

Rupen Patwa,

Religion Lead: Smriti Shah

Julie Shah

Gujarati Lead: Mita Mehta

Hindi Lead: Ritu Jain

Culture Class: Dip Sanghvi

Life Balance Class: Hina Shah

Communication: Viren Shah

Security: Shailesh Mehta

Toastmasters: Deven Shah

Snack Duty: Ritesh Desai

JCYC Committee:

Committee Mom: Dipti Doshi

Committee Youth Coach:

Namrata Deliwala

Co-Presidents: Savan Shah, Sahil Kale