

JCYC PATHSHALA PHENOMENA

Jain Center of Southern California Pathshala Newsletter

Pathshala begins the year smoothly on virtual platform

- Close to 360 children attend Religion, Language, Culture and Life Balance Classes being held on Pathshala Days.
- Sutra Classes have also started for students between the ages of 7 and 12.
- We are very grateful to all our teachers and pathshala leads for a successful start to another Pathshala year on a virtual platform. Our teachers have made every effort to make the classes interactive in a zoom environment and develop ways to engage students.
- Virtual Back-to-Pathshala was held in November. Parents had the opportunity to meet with teachers and understand the curriculum for the classes that their children are attending.
- Our older JCYC Clubhouse members found ways to celebrate the season's festivities with younger members on a virtual platform.
- We are keeping the option open to consider some version of partial in person classes after our children have had a chance to be vaccinated and if circumstances continue to improve.



Families enjoy the tradition of Diwali while practicing social distancing. Children welcome the festival with rangoli designs and bright diyas.



The JCYC Clubhouse children dress up for the event they together for Halloween.

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November 2021

Our children lead the community in Shatrunjay Pat Dharshan

Observing Kartiki Poonam with Pat Darshan vidhi led by pathshala children

Our pathshala Students coordinated their efforts to lead the community in pooja vidhi for the Shatrunjay Pat Darshan.



The Pat Darshan was conducted in person in the main hall at the Jain Center. The children demonstrated their ability to perform the Pat Darshan vidhi which included 5 Chaityavandan and Khamasana.

Watch the full Darshan Vidhi led by our children by following the link::

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBHH0IrC Ew

The children demonstrated their ability to say the sutras with fluency and clear enunciation of the words. Vaishali Mehta, who organized this effort by the students, mentioned that the children knew the Chitya Vandan vidhi, but additionally spent the prior week practicing the full list of Sutras that were part of the vidhi in preparation for the Pat Darshan. The Pooja vidhi was conducted in person on November 21. As we move towards further opening of the Jain Center and conducting more activities in person, there will be greater opportunities for students to participate in other Jain Center as well.

Children that would like to participate in similar broad community pooja and Darshan vidhis can contact Vaishali Mehta at vaishulis@yahoo.com.



Parents help children track the virtues and austerities they practice during Paryushan.

Paryushan Activity: Yam & Niyam

It has become a tradition for our children to participate in Paryushan austerities and track them on the Paryushan activity sheet. We invited children to participate in the activity again.

The following children demonstrated great dedication and discipline by completing the elements of Yam (virtues) and Niyam (discipline) for each of the days of Paryushan / Das Lakshan.

Khub Khub Anumodana to each of our young shravaks and Shravikas.

Name	Age	Total Points Achieved	Max Points Possible	%
Aria Shah	8 yrs	560	640	87.5%
Aarya Jain	8 yrs	525	640	82.0%
Antra Shah	11 yrs	640	900	71.1%
Reyan Jain	4 yrs	525	640	82.0%
Dhwanay Shah	4 yrs	395	560	70.5%
Jaini Shah	4 yrs	320	560	57.1%
Jia Shah	4 yrs	395	560	70.5%
Karya Jain	8 yrs	350	560	62.5%
Manit Shah	5 yrs	560	640	87.5%
Milan Shah	9 yrs	485	720	67.4%
Prisha Shah	6 yrs	320	560	57.1%
Ria Nahar	11 yrs	475	720	66.0%
Rishabh Nahar	8 yrs	405	640	63.3%
Siddhant Khapra	13 yrs	450	720	62.5%
Siddhant Khapra	13 yrs	250	900	27.8%

The Yam-Niyam practices include practicing activities such as saying stutis in front of a Tirthankar's photo, doing a Navkarvali or reading a Jain story. Other activities include practicing austerities such as not eating any root vegetables, doing beshnu or ekasanu or upvaas.

Even the very youngest members of our 3-4 year old Toddler class practiced the activity each day of Paryushan and/or Das Lakshan.

It shows the tremendous will power and discipline that our children have in carrying out the activities for a continued period of time. Many parents were inspired by their children's capabilities, to practice some of the austerities along with their children.

Aangi Design

Some of our young members also celebrated Paryushan with a graphic rendition of the angi they were planning to do on Bhagwan's pratima. We share the Aangi we received from Jia Shah (4 yrs) and Devan Shah (6 yrs) on the last two pages of this

Phase 1 of Gujarati Text books rolled out

Pathshala year 2021-2022 will be the first year for teachers and students to begin using the newly creted Gujarati text books.



One of the challenges for the Gujarati Language classes over the years has been the unavailability of appropriate teaching material.

Over the last 12 months the Gujarati teachers and Gujarati Leads have collectively been working on teaching material for each Gujarati class. The approach being taken is customized to help our students that are born and brought up in the US, to learn Gujarati as a second language. The material is designed to take a building block approach, allowing student to gain the skills in each class that will prepare them to learn the next level of capabilities in the following class.

This will be a 2-3 year project with the first phase focused on the first few grades of Gujarati language classes. The books contain a combination text book as well as work book material, inclusive of exercises and activities that reinforce the concepts learnt.

Students begin the program with a focus on conversational skills, learning day to day words and simple sentences that they can use to speak about themselves, their family and their day to day activities. There is an emphasis on recognizing specific phonetic sounds that are unique to Gujarati but not common in the English language. The curriculum goes on to build on these skills with an understanding of sounds, vowels, basic grammar and sentence structure.

Hard copies of the text books were distributed to students as the year began. Parents were invited to come to the Jain Center to pick up the book for their children. The books will continue to be refined and built out over the next few years .

Parents help children track the virtues and austerities they practice during Paryushan.

Clubhouse Treats for Halloween

The Clubhouse members continued their annual tradition of holding a Halloween fun treats day for the younger children.



Children both young and old dressed up for the occasion as superheroes and fairies and had the opportunity to get in the spotlight for others to see.

The Clubhouse kids also demonstrated a variety of Jain treats that children can easily make. This was followed by some fun kahoot games.



Upcoming Phenomena at Pathshala

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

December 2021 - January 2022							
Pathshala Days		Sutra Classes		Other Activity			
December 5, 12	lanuary 9, 23, 30	December 4, 19;	Jan 2,16, 29	December 5			
9:30 am Pr	athna	Saturday Class: 10	:00 - 11:00 am	In-Class Student Survey			
10:00 am Rel	ligion Class	Sunday Class: 9:00) - 10:00 am	December 18-19			
11:30 am Lar	nguage Class			Mini-Winter Camp (14 - 18 yrs) (in-person)			

All Events and Activities listed will be conducted on Zoom

What you see in the Temple

Down:

- 1. Bhagwan to whom temple is dedicated
- 2. Statue of God
- 4. Donation box
- 5. worship in song
- 8. siddha bhagwan's abode in symmetry
- 9. sandalwood paste
- 12. bell

Across:

- 3. monk
- 4. 24 Tirthankars around the Gabhara
- 6. meditation
- 7. Light
- 10. Bhagwaan's footsteps
- 11. home for the scriptures
- 13. chowry
- 14. God
- 15. Ornate the statue
- 16. Prayer and Adoration of God

Crossword Puzzle

See if you can identify these items that can be seen inside the temple. The words are in Gujarati/Hindi, so keep that in mind as you solve the puzzle.

JCYC Clubhouse December activities

December 4 & 11: Warm clothes and Greeting Cards Drive

JCYC Clubhouse is inviting community members to contribute to the following drives during this season of giving: The items will be collected in the parking lot next to the Jain Center.

- Lightly or unused warm coats in good condition for the needy. (collection time: 2-4 pm on the two days)
- Greeting Cards (Cards can be dropped off any time during the week at the concierge desk in the Temple building)

December 18-19: mini - Winter Camp (14+ yrs)

A mini in-person overnight Winter camp for our vaccinated high school age students.at the Jain Center.

For further details, contact the Clubhouse leads at <u>JCYCClubhouse@gmail.com</u>

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

<u>Office Admin</u>: Komal Desai

<u>Registration</u>: Jigar Shah, Rupen Patwa,

<u>Religion Lead</u>: Sonaly Jain, Raj Mehta, Arpita Shah

<u>Gujarati Lead:</u> Mita Mehta, Urvi Mehta, Manali Shah

Hindi Lead: Ritu Jain

Culture Class: Dip Sanghvi

Life Balance: Hina Shah

Security: Shailesh Mehta

Toastmasters: Deven Shah

Snack Duty: Ritesh Desai

STEAM Class: Rupal Shah

JCYC Clubhouse:

Clubhouse Coordinators: Namrata Deliwala, Sapan Doshi

Aangi design submitted by pathshala Childrren



Try your hand at a virtual aangi this Paryushan Parv. Select a Template and print the page. Draw your aangi design on the picture. Make your design using Jewels, ribbons, etc. as ornaments. Submit your design to pathshala@jaincenter.org by September 22, 2021 and we will share them in the next newsletter.

Mr Shak

Name: 16/19

Age: 4 5

Aangi design submitted by pathshala Childrren



Name:

Age: _