



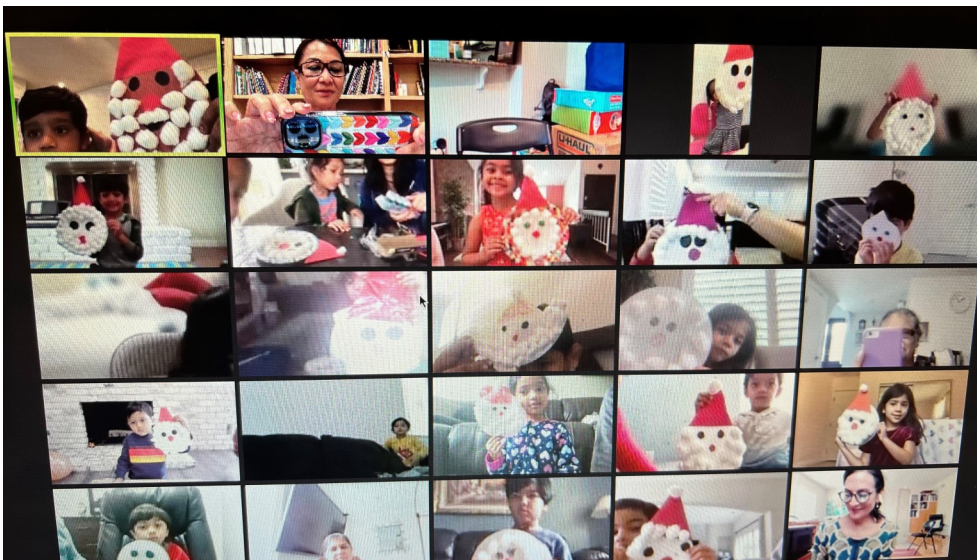
# JCYC PATHSHALA PHENOMENA

## Together we continue to overcome the limitations of the pandemic

- We have heard from many of our parents and students that they miss interacting in person with their friends and teachers and would like to get back to in-person classes.
- At the same time we are mindful of the risks posed by existing and new variants of the COVID virus that are highly transmissible. When the number of new cases subside and circumstances continue to improve over the coming months, we will move slowly to in-person classes.
- We appreciate all our students, teachers and parents for remaining engaged in the virtual environment. Together we will work towards a gradual return to normal in-person classes during the second half of the pathshala year.
- The wellbeing and safety of our students and teachers remains the top priority. We will work with proper guidance from medical and education professionals to follow proper protocols to conduct in-person classes.
- There will be early and frequent communication with parents and students as we move individual classes to in-person environment. Please read about our preliminary guidelines for when we move to in-person classes on page 7.



Our children took an afternoon of their weekend to clean our Jain Center. Cleaning the glass along the stairs in the cultural complex.



Students from the 3-4 year old Class sharing their winter project during class

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## Toddler Class share their festive winter project

# Getting in the spirit of the season

The class for 3 year and 4 year old children mixed it up with their class activity over the month of December. In addition to the regular religion curriculum, the teachers, including Priti Khara, Hasmitaben Parekh and Jeni Sarvaya, found ways to get the students in the spirit of the season.

The students of the Parent-and-me class tried their hand to make fun Santa Claus faces for their class project. Each student provided their own rendition of the face with big eyes, the red nose, hair and beard. This is the first class that



students start in the Pathshala. Given the duration of the pandemic, for most of these children, the pathshala experience has only been virtual. The teachers have made the class interactive over this time by including physical activities such as yoga as well as seasonal art and craft projects. In early December the class took advantage of the good weather and low number of COVID cases to have an outdoors in-person class.

## Toddler Class children and their parents take advantage of Sunny California winters to have an outdoor class



We applaud parents and teachers for working together to take small steps towards some in-person interaction when circumstances allow. It is a testimony to the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect that sets the foundation for our pathshala

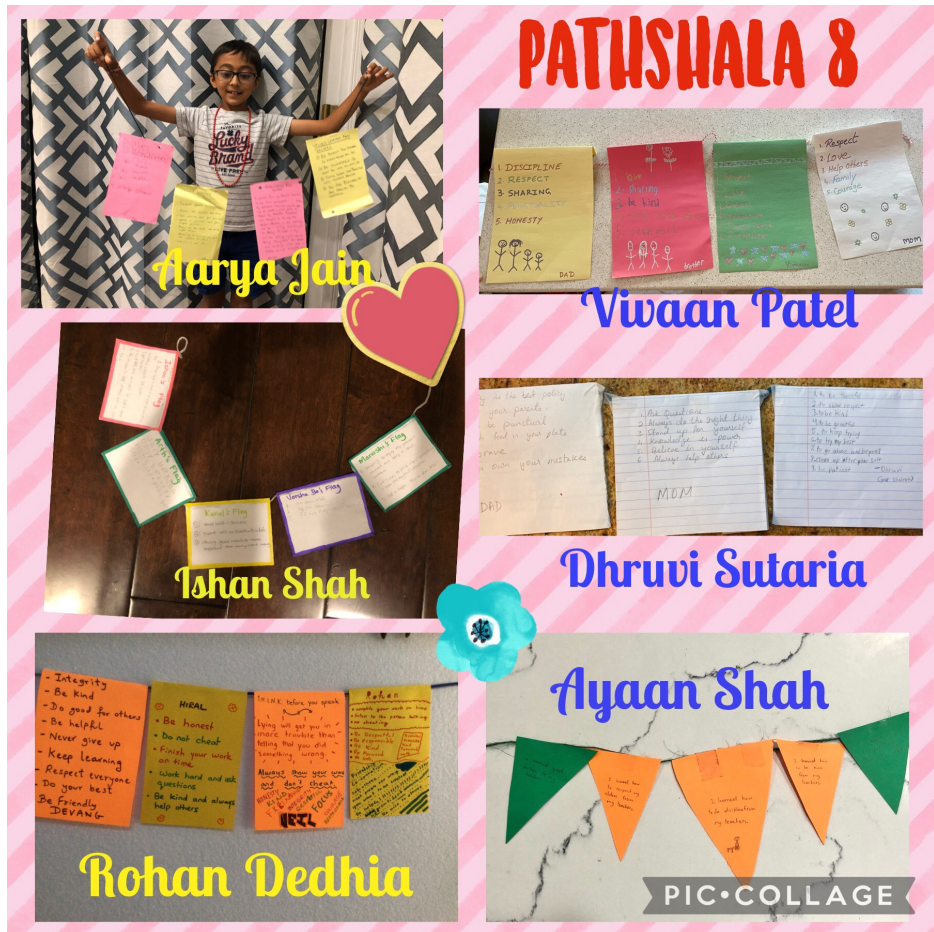
Children display good advice that spans across generations

# Pathshala-8 students portray “Family Talk Work”

Students of this 8-year old class were given a family project to create a strong of flags.

Arpita Shah, Amita Desai and Parul Jain expressed their sentiments towards the kids’ work:

“ Each family member wrote a list of values that they learned from their teacher(s) and then strung the flags together to create a banner. On one of the banners, there is three generations' list of advice. Our students and their families had done an amazing job making the flags with such heartfelt words. It was wonderful to see the list from 3 years old to 70 years old family members coming together to make the banner filled with amazing advice from experiences. The Pathshala 8 teachers are so proud of all of the kids. “



One outcome of the remote class environment has been the ability for family members, that would otherwise not be part of the class, to become involved in class activities with their children. It has also been a way for teachers to conduct the classes from wherever any location. Some of our dedicated teachers have conducted classes from India! That’s true commitment!

# Appreciating the veterans and the current volunteers of our Pathshala Community

The teachers and volunteers came together to honor the veterans of our pathshala community. Sailes Jain, Sachi Jain, the founders as well as “Papa & Mommy” of our Pathshala retired in 2020 after 30 years of dedication and service to growing the pathshala in both numbers and scope of activity. Under his leadership children made Jain Center and pathshala a part of their lives and the foundation of their culture and values.



Also honored were Narendraji and Surekhaji for their service as leads for Technology and Hindi classes over multiple decades, and Smriti Shah for her many years of leading the Religion segment. Falguni and Pinal Doshi were recognized for their contribution in growing the commitment and engagement of high school age students through community activities and Winter Camp.

The pathshala community has over 90 teachers across religion, language, sutra, culture and life balance classes. There are another 30+ volunteers that help with administration, security, technology, snacks and classroom coordination. It's like running a small school.

Some of the teachers have served in their capacity for over 30 years while others have joined in the last few years. New teachers and volunteers that joined pathshala over the last 2 years had an opportunity to interact with veterans. Many of our new teachers and parents were once students of the pathshala program themselves and look forward to their children building the same memories that they have from their childhood.

Prior to the pandemic, a regular pathshala day would draw over 1200 people to the Jain Center around pathshala related activity. This includes over 430 pathshala students as well as their parents and grand parents. There are also classes for adults and seniors on pathshala days.

The Appreciation event was held in the outdoor area of the new school property in early December. The segment was added to the Jain Center complex to accommodate more classroom space needed to meet the growing needs of the pathshala community.

Teachers and Volunteers show they know how to have a good time.

## Enjoying the outdoor gathering

Teachers and volunteers enjoyed the morning with games and dance activities as well as art class. It was a good reminder to what we can all look forward to once we are past the pandemic related distancing measures.



Jitenbhai Vasa led the group in a dance as part of the game of four corners. Everyone participated in the game and tried hard not to get eliminated so that they could continue to enjoy the dancing.



The comradery and mutual cooperation among the teachers was most apparent during the pandemic as they worked together to help one another with ideas to make the virtual classes interactive and successful.

Teachers also proved to be avid students of new skills. There was a lot of enthusiasm to learn the art of painting. Each participant started with a blank canvas, some paint and a few brushes. Before long, they had created beautiful landscape design that looked very professional.



Many teachers relayed the feedback from the parents in their class that their children are looking forward to in person classes. Many of our teachers are doctors, medical professionals and teachers that are providing valuable feedback through this period to help us move forward proactively with caution and courage.

Three cheers for all our teachers and volunteers for all their hard work and commitment!

## High School age pathshala students continue their community service activities

# Clubhouse kids work around the limitations of the pandemic to give back

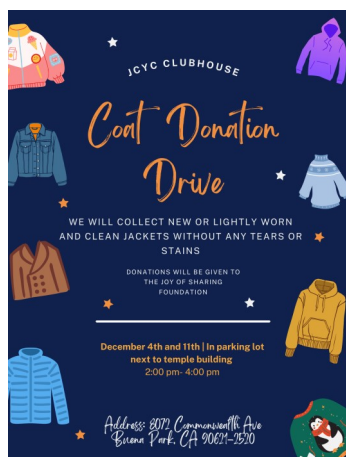
The JCYC Clubhouse kids continued their activities to help the community around them. They spent the month of December giving back to those around them.

In early December they spent a day cleaning areas of the cultural complex. This is an annual tradition usually done before the beginning of the pathshala year. As classes have been virtual and in-person activity at the Jain Center has been limited, the children held the clean up after the Jain Center lifted restrictions on in-person Darshan.



The clubhouse members are primarily high-school aged students and their activities consist partly of participating in various Jain Center activities alongside adult volunteers. The other part is to organize activities for younger children and other members of the pathshala community.

During this period of social distancing the children have been active in initiating community outreach activity. The students also held a warm coat drive to gather coats for the homeless. There was also a greeting cards drive to give to those missing their loved ones.



A big shout out to all our Clubhouse kids for all their dedication and community spirit!

January 2022 - February 2022				
Pathshala Days		Pathshala Classes		Sutra Classes
January 9, 23, 30		February 13, 27		Jan 2, 16, 29 Feb 6, 21
9:30 am	Prathna	9:30 am	Prathna	Saturday Class: 10:00 - 11:00 am
10:00 am	Religion Class	10:00 am	Religion Class	Sunday Class: 9:00 - 10:00 am
11:30 am	Language Class	11:30 am	Language Class	

All Events and Activities listed will be conducted on Zoom

## Glidepath to in-person classes

While nothing has been finalized at this point, we are looking to start in person classes in a gradual manner during the second half of the pathshala year.

Here are the measures we will likely take in moving to in-person classes:

- We will start after we have seen the number of cases subside to low levels. There will be communication sent from Pathshala Administration as well as class teachers as any transition plans are finalized.
- We will begin with in-person class for the oldest two age groups (P-15 and P16-17). This will be the respective religion classes, the Indian Culture and Life Balance Classes.
- Classes will be held following cleanliness and safety guidelines provided by the State and CDC and also in line with Jain Center policy.
- Students and teachers will be asked to show their proof of vaccination on the first visit. Temperature will be checked at each visit.
- Everyone will be required to keep their masks on during the time that they are on the Jain Center premises and in class.
- Parents will drop their children and may also do Darshan, but will be asked to not remain on premises while the children are in class. Our objective will be to avoid having any large gathering.
- There will be no open serving of lunch initially on pathshala days. Students will be provided with packaged snacks in a "to-go" brown bag at the end of class
- We will gradually add more in-person classes over time. Until notified otherwise, classes will continue on the zoom platform. Classes will be either in person or in zoom.
- There will not be any hybrid classes. All our teachers are volunteers and do not work as professional educators. We do not feel it right to burden them with additional technical challenges of conducting hybrid classes.

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

## Pathshala Contacts

Pathshala: Poorvi Parekh

Office Admin: Komal Desai

Registration: Rupen Pawa,  
Jigar Shah

Religion Lead: Sonaly Jain,  
Raj Mehta,  
Arpita Shah

Gujarati Lead: 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