

ATFS Newsletter May 2005

April 30th – No Saturday Classes due to Math Foundations Contests.

May 15th – last day to submit summer intention forms (attached)

May 28th – last Saturday slot for 2004 - 2005

May 30th – ATFS will be closed

Please note that All Saturday students will need to re-schedule for April 30th if they have not already done so. There will be no Saturday classes in June/July and August. Please set up another week day time slot for these months

Math Foundations Contests – April 30th, 2005

We are all geared up for our first Math Foundations contests. Enrollments are closed for now. All contestants have been sent Contest Rules, directions, topics and sample papers. The students are preparing all through their vacation and it is so nice to see them all working together in groups and teaching each other. As parents and teachers we need to emphasize that they need to take this as a learning experience. This will give them some level of training for taking further tests and is also geared towards building their confidence. So whatever your child does, please do congratulate your child for sitting through the test and having the courage to take this. Even though it is not just about winning – we do have some sponsors that are very generously encouraging the winners. Kahani – the bimonthly literary magazine dedicated to empowering, educating and entertaining children of South Asian descent living in North America will generously reward the 1st place winners of Level 1, 2 and 3 with a one year free subscription. This is a \$29.00 value. India New England will be rewarding all 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each level with a 2 year free subscription of their prestigious newspaper. In addition to that, the first place winners for each level will feature in India New England with their pictures. All other winners will also be mentioned. All contestants will be generously given free 6-month/1-year subscriptions to the most popular south Asian Newspaper of this area – India New England. Press Releases with winner names will also be sent to other newspapers and newsletters in the area. In addition to sponsor prizes, ATFS will be rewarding all participants with participation certificates and 2nd and 3rd

place winners will receive medals. The 1st place winners will receive the prestigious ATFS trophy.

Another one of our sponsors – American Express will be available on site for free consultation. While your children are taking the contest, you could be saving money for them with Amex.

We do thanks all of the sponsors for generously rewarding all participants and winners.

ATFS Prize Distribution Ceremony – April 30th, 2005

ATFS prize distribution ceremony is being held the same day at 3:00 p.m. most of the children receiving prizes will also be there for the contest. But for those who have not signed up for the contest, please be sure to attend this function. This is the time of the year when children need to be rewarded for all the effort they have put in last year and also be motivated to continue to do even better next year. We are so proud of all the 23 or so students who have successfully completed last semester with us and have come out with flying colors. A total of 100 medals will be given out. Be sure to witness this. It will surely be an exciting day for all of us. What your child will receive has already been communicated to you. There two students who will receive the prestigious ATFS trophies as well.

In addition to the regular medals and certificates, we will also be giving out ATFS Brilliance Award each year. Applications will be invited well in time each year. The decisions for this year have been made and we'll all find out on April 30th. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Dr Anil Saigal, Professor of Engineering, Tufts University will preside over the ceremony. For those who don't know him, he is not only a very respected professor in his field but also one of the founding members of Lokvani – the email newsletter.

Progress Reports

Progress reports for the last semester, along with a list of medals/Trophies that your child will be receiving have been mailed to you. If you have not received it, please let us know.

Summer Camps 2005

It is that time of the year again and I thought you would like to have a glimpse of our day camp here at ATFS. We will start on 5th July and go on till 26th August. Here's an effort to describe what all was done last

year during the camp. Hopefully this will help you decide if ATFS is the place for your child during the summer.

The academic day starts at 9:00 a.m. but some parents dropped off their kids between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. – on their way to work. Being at home, we have the flexibility of opening up for the convenience of parents and not just the staff. The children were at liberty to utilize this time for the summer reading that they needed to do. The group last year consists of children starting from 5 years of age to 11 years. We started at 9:00 with stretching exercises as a group in the beautiful green lawns outside. This not only gave an opportunity to appreciate nature and the fresh environment in the morning but also got us all ready for a busy day ahead. Soon after, we all gathered under a tree in a BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair) classroom, to talk about a Math topic such as Geometry, which is understood differently by each age group.

“Radius, son of Sir Cumference and Lady Di of Ameter, wants to be a knight more than anything. To earn his knighthood, he needs to venture alone on a heroic quest. With only a family of medallion for luck, Radius dodges dangers and dragons. The ultimate challenge lies in a mysterious castle with a maze of many angles.” As students heard the story of how Radius succeeds, little did they realize that they had learnt some important concepts during the Math story. For little kids it was a story (Sir Cumference and the Great Knight of Anglewood) that introduced the concepts of Circumference, Radius, Angles and Diameter in the form of Characters but for older kids it was an application of how Diameter and Circumference of a circle are related to each other. This was followed by individual worksheets that helped them reinforce concepts learnt. The students had a quiet guided study hour. This led them straight into a Language Arts session where they either wrote their own story or learnt the usage of various parts of speech. That took us right around lunch hour where they enjoyed lunch with their friends and moved on to the playground until it was

time to gather once again in the cool classroom indoors to read another story but this time the aim was to build Hindi Vocabulary. All along the story, children were encouraged to ask questions and build their very personal Hindi Dictionary which they shared with others to build a classroom database that they got quizzed on each Friday. The next hour was a variety in itself. Depending on the day of the week, the kids either learnt Hindustani classical music or Yoga from certified teachers or sat and did some creative crafts or painting with our talented staff. By that time the sun starts to move to the western side of the sky giving us a tempting shade on the eastern side of the house. That's where our next lesson on Science was. Depending on the theme of the week, the children were researching or documenting or collecting scrap here and there to build a 3 dimensional model of either the Solar System or the Human Respiratory System or even an Electric Circuit to run a mini motor. Science in everyday life and how we utilize basic concepts for our use was the underlying idea for the discovery boxes that the children were building. Each discovery box had activities, books, experimental materials and models related to the Topic. While the children collected all of this information and developed these boxes, they were gathering enormous amounts of Knowledge that will stay with them in years to come.

And before we knew it, the day was over and kids were ready to leave for the day with the goals and imagination of what they will do tomorrow.

While some kids just sit and watch TV in an air conditioned room considering themselves lucky that there is no school or camp during the summer, Others were utilizing their summer hours gaining self confidence, giving shape to their imagination and doing scientific exploration. BTW they were also developing love for nature, art and academics.

Our goal is to provide an environment where children feel at home and be proud of who they are while they do activities that continuously stimulate their minds.

I would be happy to talk to you if you would like to discuss this or need more details.

The intention forms attached are due May 15th. Camp is filled out on first cum first serve basis. So please be sure to submit forms sooner rather than later if you plan to send your kids here.

Email – newsletter

Starting this month, the Aadhaarshila newsletter is being circulated through email as well. It is open for anybody and everybody who may be interested in our activities. In addition to our regular activities, the email version also promises to publish children's work like poems, stories, essays etc. that are good examples for others to follow. We will also be including math puzzles and problems for fun.

If you or your friends would like to sign up, please subscribe through our website.

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