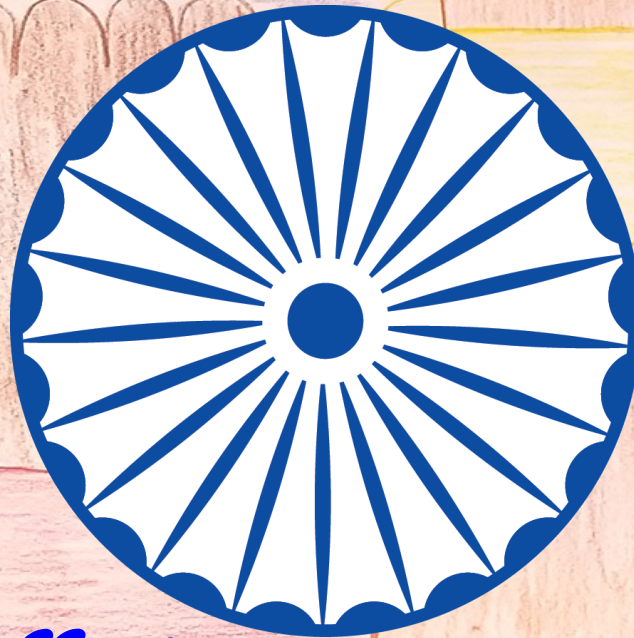


NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY

Arts And Literary Journal

2017

World is One Family



“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”

Organized By:
Agraj Seva Kendra
NBT India Day Committee
North Brunswick Township High School
nbtindia.org



SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

NORTH BRUNSWICK

We cordially invite everyone to the
3rd NBT Science Symposium
to be held on

Sunday, May 6, 2018

North Brunswick Township High School
98 Raider Rd, North Brunswick, NJ-08902

Please visit our website:

www.nbtscientists.org

Contact: sciencenbt@gmail.com

Presented by: NBT Science Symposium Committee (A Service Project of Agraj Seva Kendra)
in Association with North Brunswick Board of Education and Department of Parks, Recreation
& Community Services, North Brunswick

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017

NBT India Day Executive Committee

Chair Person:

Gangadhara Vakkalagadda

Co-Chair Persons:

Surendar Revuri
Hemal Dhavalikar
(Fundraising)

Volunteer Coordinators:

Mona Patel
Sudharani Kankanala

Treasurer:

Govinda Rajan

Cultural Program

Coordinator:

Blisse Vakkalagadda

Academics Coordinator:

Rohini Singh

Decorations Coordinator:

Mona Patel

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- North Brunswick Township Board of Education

nbtindia.org
732-801-4814
NBTIndiaDay@gmail.com

MESSAGE



Gangadhara Rao Vakkalagadda Ph.D

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the NBT India Independence Day Celebrations on Aug 19th, 2017, to commemorate India's 71st Independence Day. With the support of North Brunswick Board of Education, North Brunswick Township High School, the local businesses and the volunteers, we are able to celebrate this event today. This small event has matured since its inception and all participants take pride in making this event memorable. The mission of this event is to provide a platform for the youth to develop leadership skills while volunteering in team roles and showcasing their talents, as well as guiding younger children along a similar path.

The theme chosen for this year is "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.**" Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is a Sanskrit phrase found in ancient Hindu texts such as the Upanishad, which means "**World is one family.**" It's an appropriate theme because given the wars and the acts of terrorism going on in the modern day world, it's very important to spread the message of unity and harmony across the world. Once a person rises above regional differences, and thinks at a global level, he/she can see that the whole world is ONE in many ways. It's just a matter of one's outlook. Whether it is language, cultural, religious or culinary habits, we need to look for attributes that tie us together, instead of separating us based on differences.

As a part of this event, we conducted competitions to promote awareness of the theme among the youth. The competitions included essay writing, artwork and

public speaking. Apart from these competitions, children of all ages from the community have trained within the last 6-7 weeks to present various cultural items .

The executive committee and volunteers have helped put this event together to encourage the children of North Brunswick and the neighboring areas. Each youth and adult volunteer has contributed time beyond his/her means to make this event a great success. I admire their dedication and the enthusiasm to keep the cultural roots alive in the community. I am very happy to represent the executive committee for this event knowing that each member has worked hard to represent India, its culture, and its values.

My special thanks to Mr. Pete Clark, the Principal of North Brunswick High School, who has inspired the community to come together and celebrate this event.

Lastly, I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of founders, previous committee members and volunteers who have contributed to making this event popular.

Enjoy the celebrations!

Thank you,

Gangadhara Rao Vakkalagadda
Chairperson,
NBT India Independence Day Celebration Committee
2017

Messages

Brian Zychowski



Pete Clark



Dear Community Members,

As Superintendent of the North Brunswick Township Public Schools, I am grateful to the India Independence Committee for their commitment and efforts hosting this community function. Celebrating “WORLD IS ONE FAMILY” will enhance the cultural and learning experience for all attendees. The program will illuminate the positive societal impact of diversity while making it a fun-filled Saturday morning.

Students from all cultures should be apprised of the timely and timeless contributions of Mohandas Gandhi. His vision and ideals influenced the work of Martin Luther King and the struggles of Nelson Mandela.

Much like the significance of July 4th, 1776, the Independence Day of India, August 15th, 1947, is a celebration of freedom and the birth of a NEW NATION. A nation must never forget its past as its history is the laboratory of progress for future generations.

India's independence was the inspiration of nationalist movements and provided a roadmap for liberation throughout the globe. India's struggles for decolonization are a model for all people and must never be forgotten. It is among the many reasons why I am grateful to the India Independence Committee for their commitment and efforts hosting this community function.

We, as a people of freedom with global connections, need more Gandhi's amongst us and more days of celebration representative of the ideals of India's Independence Day.

Sincerely,

Brian Zychowski Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
North Brunswick Township Public Schools

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM
PETE CLARK
NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP HIGH
SCHOOL

It is my honor and privilege to welcome all our guests who are attending this year's “World is One Family” event to commemorate India Independence Day on August 19, 2017, at North Brunswick Township High School.

The North Brunswick Township High School Community is a very proud participant joining the NBT India Independence Day Celebration Committee, to be part of this event to reflect the diversity of our school and community to celebrate India's Independence in 1947.

I want to congratulate the NBT India Independence Day Celebration Committee for inviting all our students to reflect their heritage. I am also very proud of the NBTHS students for their participation to showcase their cultural talents.

“Enjoy this Special Day and Special Event!”

Respectfully,

Pete Clark
NBTHS Administration



Messages

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017

Govinda Rajan



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

On behalf of Agraj Seva Kendra and on my own behalf, I congratulate NBT India Independence Day Committee for bringing out this India Independence Day event together with the theme “The World is One Family”

Scores of volunteers spent hundreds of hours to create and present this event. This event gives a chance to the students of Indian Origin to learn about their rich Indian culture and to learn about diversity, besides giving them a wonderful opportunity to teamwork and lead.

I thank the Township of North Brunswick and the Board of Education of North Brunswick School District for their encouragement and support. I thank Pete Clark and the North Brunswick Township High School for partnering and making this event a success.

Sincerely

Govinda Rajan
CEO
Agraj Seva Kendra



Dear Shri. Govinda Rajan and the NBT India Day Executive Committee,

On behalf of the *Rotary Club of Plainsboro-North & South Brunswick* it is my pleasure to extend our greetings to ‘NBT India Executive Committee’ on the occasion of the India Independence day.

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that the students of North Brunswick are being provided volunteering opportunities along with those for cultural awareness and those that highlight the importance of community integration.

I congratulate Agraj Seva Kendra, an invaluable organization for such dedicated community service and charitable projects. We are happy to offer our support this year as well for your laudable cause.

We at the *Rotary Club of Plainsboro-North & South Brunswick* share with you the goal of community service with a selfless attitude. As you know, Rotary is in the service of humanity and communities all over the world.

Recently we have completed several projects such as Stop the Hunger project, Knitting with Love by donating hand knitted hats to cancer patients, Fundraising for Military/Veterans, Donation of food items to local township food pantries, support to Suma Foods for the annual “Ganesh Visarjan” and helping Home Front by building the play ground. We also support a community based Interact Club in North Brunswick township.

On the international front, we supported “Amma Nanna Anadhasram” in India and “River Blindness” project in Africa.

We sincerely wish the event and your organization success in this and future projects.

Sincerely,

K.Sudharani

(Sudharani Kankanala) President



Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick
P.O. Box. 171, Kendall Park, New Jersey 08824
www.plainsbororotary.org



Program

- Welcome Address – By Gangadhara Vakkalagadda
- Pledge of Allegiance — Aruhi Vakkalagadda
- Flag Hoisting Ceremony
- Jana Gana Mana (Indian National Anthem) — Led by Blisse Vakkalagadda
- Star Spangled Banner (American National Anthem) — Aparna Ramani and Anusha Vakkalagadda
- Vande Mataram (National Song of India) — Led by Blisse Vakkalagadda
- “Ganesh Pancharatnam” – By Chinmayi Nrithyalaya School
- Guest Speakers
- “East Meets West” — Middle & High School Dance Participants
- “Folk Beats” — Elementary School Dance Participants
- Awards Presentation – Sponsored by Rotary Club of PN&SB
- “Classical Indian Dance Presentation” – By BharataKalakshetra
- Speech – By Jessica McNaulty
- “Celebrations” - Adults Dance Participants
- “One World”- Fashion Show
- “Hum Honge Kaam Yaab/We Shall Overcome” – Led by Blisse Vakkalagadda
- Vote of Thanks – By Surendar Revuri

Masters of Ceremony: Aparna Ramani and Riya Patel

EXHIBITS

Art and Poster Display - NBT India Day Participants

PROGRAM DETAILS

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Led By: Aruhi Vakkalagadda

Flag Hoisting Ceremony

India proudly became a free, democratic nation on August 15, 1947. The freedom movement led by Gandhi, based on the principles of “Ahimsa” and “Satyagraha”, has inspired many people across the globe to bring about change in their own country. The National Flag of India or the “tiranga”, the “tri-colored” represents India, the world’s largest democracy, and is hoisted to honor the country. The color saffron represents renunciation in action, the white in the center represents purity of thought, and green represents prosperity and our close connection with the earth that sustains us. The Dharma Chakra represents the Wheel of Dharma and is a reminder that it is our duty to commit to right actions in life.

Jana Gana Mana – National Anthem of India

The Indian National Anthem “Jana Gana Mana” was written and composed by the Noble Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. The poet asks Vidhata, The Creator, to bless his country, his fellow countrymen and most of all benedictions for a bright future for his country. He evokes in us a pride for the States and regions, the magnificent mountains and rivers that form the majestic land of Bharat and the people of Bharat who sing the glory of their Creator.

May my country’s future rise high and may she always bask in victory captures the crescendo - Jai Ho! Jai Ho! Jai Ho!

Chorus Led by: Blisse Vakkalagadda

Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

By: Aparna Ramani and Anusha Vakkalagadda

Vande Mataram – National Song of India

Vande Mataram, the National Song of India is a poem from the famed novel Anandamath written by the poet Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1882.

Mother India is described in all her glory in this beautiful poem written in Sanskrit and Bengali. The beautiful rivers, plentiful fruit orchards, the cool breeze, the rich harvest, all inspire the poet to sing praises of his motherland. “I bow to you Mother,” says the poet humbly as he bursts into a melodious song, his heart filled with wonder, pride and joy as he describes his country.

Chorus Led by: Blisse Vakkalagadda

“Ganesha Pancharatnam” – Classical Indian Dance (Kuchipudi) Presentation

The first item of the day is a traditional invocation of Lord Ganesha titled ‘Ganesha Pancharatnam.’ It is a set of shlokas in praise of Lord Ganesha, composed by Jagadguru Sri Adi Sankaracharya. The dancers portray the various aspects of Lord Vinayaka as the son of Goddess Parvati. The elephant-faced God is the one who always delights the hearts of the devotees. The killer of demons, the protector of the Gods, the salvation giver to the disciples, son of Lord Shiva is praised by the dancers.

The song is set to Ragam Ragamalika and Talam Tisragati

Participants: Siri Dommata, Saanvi Kunisetty

Teacher: Sridevi Mungara (Chinmayi Nrityalaya)

“East Meets West” Dance by Middle & High School Students

A Bollywood dance performed to a medley of songs.

India Wale – We are proud to be Indian. We just need a place in one others’ heart as we fight together.

Cold Water – This song is about taking care of your friends. No matter how difficult the circumstances, you must always stand by your friend.

Wakka Wakka (This time for Africa) – Song of 2010 FIFA world cup, held in South Africa. This event brought the world together through soccer and Shakira’s song and united people all over the world.

Adult Mentor: Blisse Vakkalagadda
Youth Leaders: Riya Patel, Suhani Seth, Meghana Arza, Rhea Thakur, Abhishree Kaushik, Aniska Jain.

Participants: Abhishree Kaushik, Aniska Jain, Ishani Patel, Meghana Arza, Ojal Khubchandani, Rhea Thakur, Riya Patel, Shaili Likhar, Suhani Seth.

“Nagada Sang Dhol” Dance by Elementary and Middle School Participants

A Bollywood dance performed to a folk song from the state of Gujarat, India. This is a song on Shabari, an ardent devotee of Lord Rama. She was so devoted that she would taste the berries to check for sweetness before offering them to Lord Rama. Even though this act of hers was wrong, the wise Lord saw devotion in her eyes and blessed her for good acts. Shabari, who is eagerly waiting for the arrival of Lord Rama at her hut, starts singing to express her joy and happiness on seeing Lord Rama.

Adult Mentor: Blisse Vakkalagadda
Youth Leaders: Aruhi Vakkalagadda and Anusha Vakkalagadda

Participants: Anish Bokka, Vaibhav Chari, Saanvi Kunisetty, Sriteja Malladi, Sunidhi Mitikiri, Eva Patel, Jia Patel, Haley Rutkowski, Ojas Shrivastava, Anusha Vakkalagadda, Aruhi Vakkalagadda.

Academic (Art, Essay, Civics Poster and Public Speaking) Awards

Awards presentation for the Art, Essay, Civics Poster and Public speaking competitions conducted as a part of NBT India Day celebrations, sponsored by Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick. RCOPN & SB is actively involved in projects at local, national and international level.

Classical Indian Dance (Bharat Natyam) Presentation

Students will present two performances - a traditional Bharatnatyam piece and a “Classical Fusion” of Tishra (in 3 beats) Alarippu. The Alarippu (meaning flowering bud) is traditionally the first dance piece that Bharatanatyam dancers learn and perform. Today, this will be performed to Beethoven’s classic “Für Elise.”

Participants: Shravanti Bhaskar, Sriya Ghankot, Srinidhi Kesavan, Aruhi Vakkalagadda
Teacher: Anuradha Renganathan (BharataKalakshetra)

“Celebrations” Adult Dance

Giddha is the most popular folk dance in the Punjab region of India and Pakistan. This dance is performed only by women, usually at festive or social events. Giddha usually has a narrative that the dancers enact and sometimes deal with contemporary domestic issues. The dance has spread across the globe and places such as London, Edmonton, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Vancouver, are no strangers to this exciting and mesmerizing dance.

Adult Mentor: Naina Raina
Participants: Meera Chari, Ambika Kaushik, Srivani Mitikiri, Vina Patel, Naina Raina, Indu Shrivastava, Blisse Vakkalagadda.

“One World” Fashion Show

As a celebration of the program theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” meaning “the world is one family,” participants come together to showcase diverse cultures (in the form of costumes, songs and dances) from USA, India, Russia, China and Spain.

Adult Mentor: Naina Raina
Youth Leaders: Ajitia Nair and Hansika Madesh

Participants: Varun Chari, Saanvi Kunisetty, Hansika Madesh, Pramod Mitikiri, Adhya Mukunda, Ajita Nair, Eva Patel, Jia Patel, Ojas Shrivastava, Anusha Vakkalagadda, Aruhi Vakkalagadda.

“Hum Honge Kaam Yaab” Chorus

This song is the Hindi version of the famous English song 'We shall Overcome' -- a song with origins in early 1900s in America. It became quite famous there during the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Chorus Led by: Blisse Vakkalagadda

Vote of Thanks

Vote of Thanks by Surendar Revuri

National Anthem of India

Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka, jaya he
 Bharata-bhagya-vidhata
 Punjab-Sindhu-Gujarata-Maratha-
 Dravida-Utkala-Banga
 Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga
 Uchchala-Jaladhi-taranga
 Tava shubha name jage
 Tava shubha ashish maenge
 Gahe tava jaya-gatha
 Jana-gana-mangala-dayakajaya he
 Bharata-bhagya-vidhata
 Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he
 Jaya jaya jaya, jaya he!

Meaning:

*Thou art the rulers of the minds of all people,
 dispenser of India's destiny.
 Thy name rouses the hearts of
 Punjab, Sind, Gujarat and Maratha,
 Of the Dravida and Orissa and Bengal;
 It echoes in the hills of the Vindhayas and
 Himalayas, mingles in the music of Yamuna
 and Ganga and is chanted by the waves of the
 Indian Sea.
 They pray for thy blessings and sing thy praise.
 The saving of all people waits in thy hand,
 thou dispenser of India's destiny,
 Victory, victory, victory to thee.*

Vande Mataram

Vande mātarām
 Sujalām suphalām
 Malayajaśītalām
 Shasya śyāmalām
 Mātarām
 Vande mātarām
 Shubhra jyotsnā
 Pulakita yāminīm
 Phulla kusumita
 Drumadalaśobhinīm
 Suhāsinīm
 Sumadhura bhāmimīm
 Sukhadām varadām
 Mātarām

Meaning:

*Mother, I salute thee!
 Rich with thy hurrying streams,
 bright with orchard gleams,
 Cool with thy winds of delight,
 Dark fields waving Mother of might,
 Mother free.
 Glory of moonlight dreams,
 Over thy branches and lordly streams,
 Clad in thy blossoming trees,
 Mother, giver of ease
 Laughing low and sweet!
 Mother I kiss thy feet,
 Speaker sweet and low!
 Mother, to thee I salute.*

Hum Honge Kaam Yab / We Shall Overcome

*Hum honge kaamyab, hum honge kaamyab, hum honge kaamyab ek din
 Ho ho mann mein hai viswaas, poora hai viswaas, hum honge kaamyab ek din*

*We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday
 Oh deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day*

*Hoogee shaanthee chaaro aur, hoogee shaanthee chaaro aur, hoogee shaanthee chaaro aur ek din
 Ho ho mann mein hai vishwaas, pura hai vishwaas, hoogee shaanthee chaaro aur ek din*

*We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace some day
 Oh deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day*

*Hum chulengey saath saath, daaley haathon mein haath, hum chulengey saath saath, ek din
 Ho ho mann mein hai vishwaas, pura hai vishwaas, hum chulengey saath saath, ek din*

*We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand some day
 Oh deep in my heart, I do believe, we'll walk hand in hand some day*

*Hum honge kaamyab, hum honge kaamyab, hum honge kaamyab ek din
 Ho ho mann mein hai viswaas, poora hai viswaas, hum honge kaamyab ek din*

NBT India Day Executive Committee 2017



Gangadhara Vakkalagadda
Chairperson



Surendar Revuri
Co-Chairperson



Hemal Dhavalikar
Co-Chairperson
(Fundraising)



Govinda Rajan
Treasurer



Sudharani Kankanala
Volunteer Coordinator



Blisse Vakkalagadda
Cultural Program
Coordinator



Rohini Singh
Academics Coordinator



Mona Patel
Volunteer/Decorations
Coordinator

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017

If tolerance, respect and equity permeate family life, they will translate into values that shape societies, nations and the world. – Kofi Annan

NBT India Independence Day Participants 2017

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017

Youth Leaders



Abhishree Kaushik
Choreography- High
School Dances



Ajita Nair
Fashion Show



Anishka Jain
Choreography- High
School Dances



Anudeep Revuri
Website/Journal



Anusha Vakkalagadda
Choreography- Elementary
School Dances



Aparna Ramani
Emcee & Program
Coordinator



Aruhi Vakkalagadda
Choreography- Elementary
School Dances



Ashwin Gokhale
Competitions



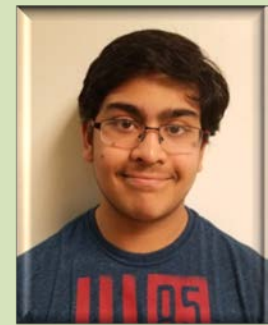
Hansika Madesh
Fashion Show



Rhea Thakur
Choreography- High
School Dances



Riya Patel
Choreography- High
School Dances & Emcee



Vedant Iyer
Competitions

For non-violent person, the whole world is one family. He will fear none, nor will other fear him.
---- Mahatma Gandhi

NBT India Independence Day Participants 2017

Participants



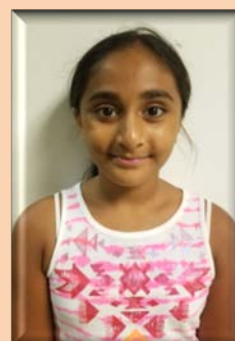
Aaditya Kaushik



Aanya Malhotra



Abhitej Bokka



Adhya Mukunda



Anish Bokka



Arya Utture



Eva Patel



Haley Rutkowski



Isha Shrivastava



Ishani Patel



Jia Patel



Navya Malhotra



Ojas Shrivastava



Pooja Menon



Pramod Mitikri



Ram Mukunda



Saanvi Kunisetty



Shaili Likhar



Sprihaa Singh



Sriteja Malladi

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017



NBT India Independence Day Participants 2017

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017



Sunidhi Mitikiri



Tania Ommer



Tanvi Sehgal



Vaibhav Chari



Varun Chari

Adult Participants



Ambika Kaushik



Vina Patel



Meera Chari



Srivani Mitikiri



Naina Raina



Indu Shrivastava

**SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO ARE NOT PHOTOGRAPHED
HERE BUT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS EVENT**

Special thanks to Velumani and Shashi for their support

"The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border." -Pablo Casals



Chinmayi Nrithyalaya (Smt. Sridevi Mungara)

Sridevi Mungara started learning Kuchipudi dance at an young age of 7. She continued her learning for over 15 years under the able guidance of Padmasri Dr. Sobha Naidu. She has performed in numerous cities across India and USA. She has also given Kuchipudi education lecture demonstrations for SPIC-MACAY in the USA and at CCRT, Hyderabad, India. She is also a recipient of the prestigious National Cultural Talent Scholarship, India. She has a Master's degree in performing arts with a specialization in Kuchipudi from the Central University, Hyderabad. With a strong desire to spread the Indian classical art form, she has been teaching for over 20 years and her students performed in various events and forums. Currently she teaches at her institute Chinmayi Nrithyalaya in Hyderabad and in US (New Jersey).

Chinmayi Nrithyalaya

Kuchipudi Dance Classess

by Natya Visarada Smt. Sridevi Mungara

with Over 20 Years Experience &

Senior disciple of Padmasri Smt. Dr. Shobha Naidu

**Classess on Yoga & Kuchipudi
for Adults & children above
5 Years.**

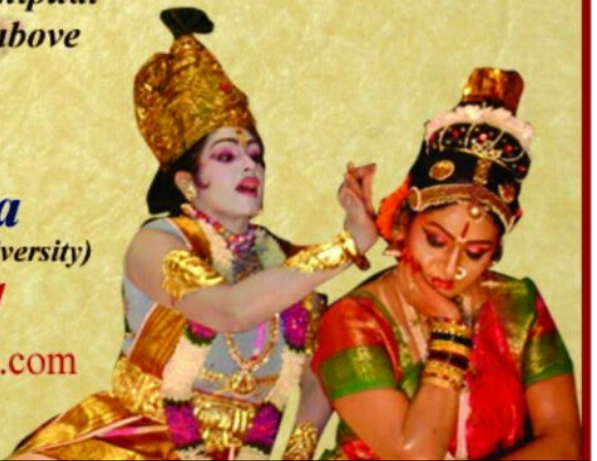
Contact:

Sridevi Mungara

(MA in Dance from Central University)

609 751 7851

sridevi_mungara@yahoo.com



"Classes starting in multiple locations"

BharataKalakshetra school of fine arts (Smt. Anuradha Renganathan)



Anuradha began learning Bharatanatyam at the age of 4, under the tutelage of Smt. Madhavi Chandrasekar (Alumni of Kalakshetra & Dr. Padma Subramaniam). Her first love of dance continued well into her teens and she decided to pursue it full time. She did her advanced level training at KALAKSHETRA, Chennai under the able guidance of pioneers such as Smt. Pushpa Shankar, Prof. A. Janardhanan, Smt. Krishnaveni Lakshmanan, Smt. Vijayalakshmi Krishnaswamy, Shri Sheejith Krishna, and Shri Mohanan. She also learnt Nattuvangam (Rendering dance cymbals) from Smt. Kamalarani (First lady Nattuvanar) & Shri Sheejith Krishna, Kalakshetra.

Receiving her Post graduation in Bharatanatyam, She performed all over India and Srilanka for numerous dance festivals. Anuradha continued teaching at Kalakshetra for 2 years. After marriage, she moved to New Jersey, where she started her school *BharataKalakshetra school of fine arts* in 2006, which has been named in fond memory of the amphitheater in her Alma mater (*Kalakshetra*, Chennai, India) where she discovered the artist in herself. Anuradha continues to impart this knowledge to the younger generations in United states with consistent effort and dedication through her school.

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World is One Family Awards

Awards Sponsored by Rotary Club of PN&SB

Essay Competition

<i>Category</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Grade 3 and Under	Ojas Shrivastava
Grades 4-6	Gowri Bajagur
Grades 7-9	Isha Shrivastava
Grades 10-12	Varun Chari

2D-Art Competition

<i>Category</i>	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner Up</i>
Grade 3 and Under	Ojas Shrivastava	Nidhi Mitikiri
Grades 4-6	Gowri Bajagur	-
Grades 7-9	Anishka Jain	Ishani Patel
Grades 10-12	Abhitej Bokka	-

3D-Art Competition

<i>Category</i>	<i>Participants</i>
Grade 3 and Under	Ojas Shrivastava
Grades 7-9	Riya Patel Isha Shrivastava

Public Speaking Competition

<i>Category</i>	<i>Participants</i>
Grade 3 and Under	Ojas Shrivastava
Grades 4-6	Saanvi Kunisetty
Grades 7-9	Ishani Patel Isha Shrivastava
Grades 10-12	Pramod Mitikiri

Civics Poster Competition

<i>Category</i>	<i>Participant</i>
Grades 7-9	Ishani Patel



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017

ESSAY

Art & Literature

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2017

Varun Chari, Category Grades 10-12

How many countries are in the world? 50? 60? 100? The UN currently recognizes approximately 205 nation-states. So many peoples, demographics, cultures, and religions. The notion that there are 7.5 billion of us seems unfathomable.

On the surface, it's quite easy to divide us, create barriers. Throughout history, practically every form of difference has been used to fuel discrimination. This cruelty is ripe in India's memory, where the British oppressed millions not so long ago. It might've seemed impossible to break free, but now India is a thriving country of over a billion, a thriving democracy.

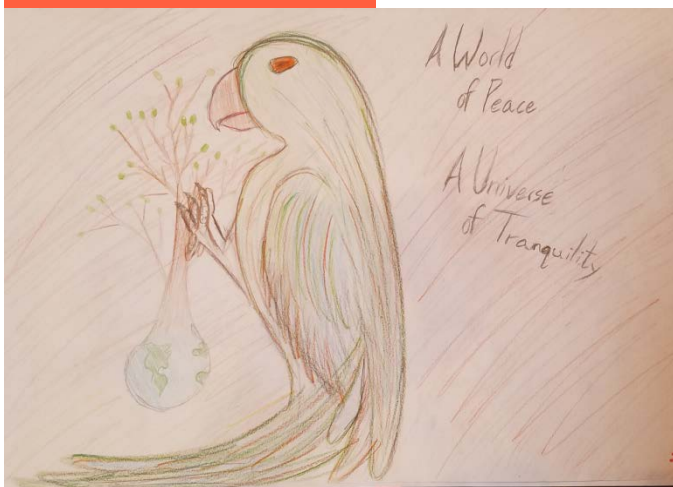
We find a similar story in the gay rights movement. Homosexuality has been long documented, since before the time of the Greeks. But gay marriage was only legalized in the U.S. in 2016. Even today, members of the LGBT community encounter hate in most of the world.

These situations might seem completely different. One nation fighting for freedom and self-government. Another minority, fighting for self-expression and acceptance. But how did these

groups achieve their victories? Through love and family. Minority groups aren't always in a position to speak out and seed change. Then, the main goal is to show the out group that we are all one people, and one family. India had powerful freedom fighters, most notably Gandhi. But they had to show the British the pain they felt for generations. Likewise, it was straight mothers, father, siblings, friends, and coworkers who could no longer stand and watch those close to them suffer from LGBT stigma.

It's up to us, all of us, to realize it's our similarities that matter. We all live, love, laugh, and are part of the same family. It's only when we acknowledge this that we can push for change.

ART



Abhitej Bokka, Category Grades 10-12

ART



Gowri Bajagur, Category Grades 4-6

ESSAY

Isha Shrivastava, Category Grades 7-9

What is a family? A family is a group of people who share similar goals, values, and ideas, so doesn't that make our world a family? We freely give out kindness, positivity, and motivation. Furthermore, we are supposed to flourish and grow, hand in hand.

When you consider the world as your family, you find it in yourself to care for others. You accept and love others as brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers. Therefore, you become more open-minded and thoughtful about things in your life. For instance, the concept "Vasudheva Kutumbakam" also known as "The World is a family" is influential in Hindu literature, and consequently, India is presently quite open to unfamiliar styles and cultures.

As a family, you inspire others and make them better people. For example, new development in one country affects other countries. Some places may think of this as a competition and strive to become better. Meanwhile, different countries will take this as a chance to improve. Whatever the case may be, everyone is benefitting from this. Similarly, to include the 'family concept', children learn from their parents' and siblings' mistakes and achievements. In summary, we're unintentionally making Earth a better place just by working together.

When people do all the things above – helping, caring, supporting, loving, accepting, and sharing with others – there are less problems in the world. Additionally, this Universe is our home, and all who are living in it belong to one family. Moreover, it's our nature to be kind, passionate, and to accept people. As humans we would be more successful if we lived as a unified, strong family.

We are all one family in the world. Building a community that empowers everyone to attain their full potential through each of us respecting each other's dignity, rights and responsibilities makes the world a better place to live.

--- Pope John Paul II

ART



Anishka Jain, Category Grades 7-9

ESSAY

Ojas Shrivastava, Category Grades K-3

What's the point of Vasudeva Kutumbikam? The point is having peace and respect. And to do that is to say good things. And how do you have the whole world your family? You should use words instead of weapons. That's how you can have peace and respect or else they will be more mean and you will have a lesser chance of having the world a family. Like each raindrop is important to a flower to be unique in a human way that's! How your family can be unique and that's how Vasudeva Kutumbikam works and if you want to have the whole world a family that is one of the ways that you can succeed in the future. And you can have a smart brain and can finish and can help in a lot of other things.

ART



Ishani Patel, Category Grades 7-9

ESSAY

Gowri Bajagur, Category Grades 4-7

From the ancient times, the message from India, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The world is one family) and its tolerance is well known in the world. A classic example which demonstrates this concept happened during World War II. Several countries came together as one to stop the cruel campaign of Germany and Japan.

When Hitler invaded Poland, the Polish people were in great danger so 500 Polish women and 200 Polish children were put on a ship to save them from the Germans. They sailed across many countries where they weren't allowed to port and enter, when finally, the ship reached India and came to Bombay.

The British governor didn't allow them to port there but when Maharaja of Jamnagar *Jamsaheb Digvijay Singh* heard about this, he became very worried so he allowed them to port at his kingdom.

He gave them shelter, food and free education to the children. He was fondly called "Bapu" by them. 9 years later (which is how long World War II lasted) the Polish refugees returned to their country. One of the refugee children later became Prime Minister of Poland.

To thank India for the massive amount of help they've given to Poland, roads and schools in Warsaw (Poland's capital) were named after Jamsaheb Digvijay Singh. Also, many articles were about him.

As you can see, this incident is a great way to describe the concept "The World is one family". If the whole entire world comes together as 1 single family, and help each other, then we can overcome all of our hurdles and prosper greatly, which will restore peace in the world.

ART



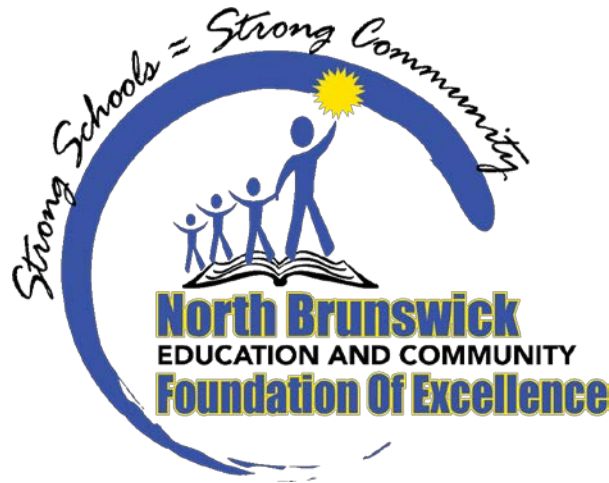
Nidhi Mitikiri, Category Grades 4-7

ART



Ojas Shrivastava, Category Grades K-3

To whom the love dwells, the whole world is one family.
--- Buddha



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