

BVIS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

HOLI FESTIVAL AND EASTER EGG HUNT

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UPCOMING BVIS-EVENTS:

- Plantation Drive at Sarva Dev Temple in First week of May
- BVIS Potluck dinner and Sanskar Graduation June 13
- BVIS Picnic Jul 12 at Hopkinton State Park
- Navratri Festival in October
- Diwali Celebrations in November

March 22, Sarva Dev Temple, Oxford MA. It was typical cold day of March but sunny and warm (with jackets on!) enough for Easter egg hunt and colorful Holi. BVIS Holi celebrations started with Pundit ji performing Pooja. Temple ambience was so calm and relaxing that everybody was immersed in echoes of salokas. Kids were also listening! Pot luck lunch was delicious and aroma of all the different flavors matched the fervor of the festival and was whetting the appetite. Kids couldn't wait for Easter egg hunt, so they ran outside right after the lunch to find hidden eggs. Little ones and big ones were so happy to find hidden eggs filled with candies and other goodies. Finally, there were colors all around and everybody was full of joy. Families and friends hugged and daubed each other with lots of gulal (Holi color).

Thanks to Temple Management, Ramnik Mayor(BVIS President) and all the volunteers for organizing it.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It is spring time again – vernal equinox. After dreary short days of winter, it is so much relief to see days getting longer and longer. Hope everybody is busy planning for the summer vacations and getaways. We at BVIS are also busy planning for this year's summer picnic and other activities. After colorful and fun filled Holi festival in March, we are now all geared up to play and have fun at BVIS annual picnic in July.

EDITORIAL BOARD : NEERAJ DESAI,

AMANDEEP SINGH



WATER HEATER PROBLEMS

Lot of Pulte homeowners (with farmers brand water heater) may find themselves without hot water when their Water heater switches off. After you reset the thermostat (top one) it runs fine for a few days and it again stops working. Solution to this problem is to get a new lower thermostat (\$7 at Home Depot/ Lowes) and replace it, which is easy to replace. Make sure you switch off power before you do any such electrical work.

!WARNING!

This is just an advice for one such problem. Your problem could be different and might need help from an expert. Use your own judgment before following any such advice.

ABOUT RADON

Radon is natural occurring radon gas and is colorless and odorless. It can seep into homes thru tiny cracks in the basement floors. The data shows that one out of four houses may have levels above the 4pCi/L action level, however, the only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to do a radon test. Worcester County has high radon levels.

Long term exposure to radon may increase the risk of developing lung cancer.

So test your home for radon. Radon test kits are available at Home Depot/ Lowes and online. Refer to www.mass.gov/dph/pubstats.htm or

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/states/massachusetts.html> for more info.

MERCURY IN ENERGY SAVING BULBS!

Compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) helps save energy but release mercury vapors which are harmful to human and to the environment. Although mercury in these bulbs is a health hazard, special handling upon breakage is currently not printed on the packaging of household CFL bulbs in many countries. If CFL is broken then it needs to be disposed properly. Whenever CFL is broken, open the windows for 15 minutes and have kids leave the room. Carefully scoop up glass and use sticky tapes to pick up remaining fragments. If vacuuming is needed then remove the vacuum bag and put all the debris in a plastic bag and put it outside with normal trash. Check with local authorities to see if it is ok to dispose it with regular trash. For more info check out following link:

http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf



“Celebrate Earth Day 2008 and learn more at <http://epa.gov/earthday> . Plant a tree or conserve energy, switch off lights or take a break from the TV.”



SANSKAR CLASSES HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007-2008

September 23, 2007 Field trip to Tougas Farm Northborough for Apple Picking

December 2007 Christmas Toy Donations to Burncoat Center-We delivered a total of 35-40 gifts to the Burncoat Center and the counselors were ecstatic about the number of items we brought from the kids' wish list! We really provided a bright spot for these otherwise troubled kids

January 6, Ski Trip to Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, MA.



So far kids learned about various states of India - culture, language and tasted authentic food. Every month for Sanskar class kids' train goes to different houses in the neighborhood to learn about their native state and taste delicious food. Thanks to Mitul Dalal for organizing the class and all the families (listed below) who hosted Sanskar class at their houses.

- Mitul and Michelle Dalal for Gujarat class
- Amandeep Singh and Jaswinder Kaur for Punjab class
- Kamal & Jamuna (have to get last name) for Tamil Nadu class
- Sudhakar & Sandhya Guralla for Andhra Pradesh class
- Krishna and Sushila Majeti for West Bengal class
- Pankaj and Neetu Gupta for MP, Delhi class



Kids after wrapping the gifts and making banner for Burncoat Center

Gulal is dry color used for playing Holi. Red , green, yellow and many more... to form rainbow of colors and have fun!

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS-SITAR

Kids are also learning about various Indian musical instruments at Sanskar classes. This section will feature new musical instrument every time.

The sitar is a plucked stringed instrument. The Sitar has delicate strings along with a gourd reverberating hollow generating a rich sound. The great poet, musician and statesman, Amir Khusrau is generally accredited for conceiving Sitar during Khilji Mughal Emperor's period. Indian Instrument Sitar has got its name from a Persian term 'Seh-tar' that means 'three strings'. Famous Sitar players like Pundit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Vilayat Khan have contributed a lot and made it famous worldwide.



On the web www.bvis.org

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**Any suggestions or comments, email
to aman615@yahoo.com.**

**BECOME A BVIS
MEMBER AND MAKE
A DIFFERENCE IN
YOUR COMMUNITY**

BLACKSTONE VALLEY INDIA SOCIETY

BVIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2008

As the BVIS president for 2007, it is my pleasure to introduce BVIS Executive Committee for 2008. I have full confidence in the new executive committee and their working. We are making some significant changes to the Committee structure.

Core Committee

President - Ramnik Mayor
Vice President - Niraj Desai
General Secretary - Anurag Sharma
Asst. General Sec.- Amandeep Singh
Treasurer - Abhay Chavan
Asst. Treasurer - Kishore Barde

Sanskar Committee

Mitul Dalal
Anuja Gokhale
Sudhakara (Education Committee)
Neetu Gupta

Executive members list:

Dharmesh Shah (prepare Bylaws - Board)
Sanjay Kharidia (prepare Bylaws - Board)
Kishore Barde (prepare Bylaws - Board)
Satish Narayanan (Web Committee)
Milind Kale (Event committee)
Suhas Kasar (Finance Committee)
Ragavan Ramalingam
Krishna Majeti
Pritesh Patel
Kandarp Patel
Shripad Nandurbarkar
Manil Asija

- Dharmesh Shah

BJ's Membership Drive

BJ's Wholesale Club offered discounted membership for BVIS members and also promised to donate \$5 of membership fee to BVIS . It went really well and we raised \$50. Thanks to all the members and Dharmesh Shah for putting lots of efforts into this drive.

GRAFTON COMMUNITY DAY

Grafton Community Day is on April 26— help clean up and beautify Grafton. Trash bags and gloves can be picked up from Selectmen's office at Municipal center. Buggy whip Catering will be serving lunch at 12 noon at The Commons as a special thank you. Please contact -Dharmesh Shah shah1844@charter.net or Geoffroy Herabara geoffroy@charter.net. Last year BVIS members participated in this effort to cleanup area around Milford Road.

BVIS PLANTATION DRIVE

Also BVIS will be doing a Plantation Drive at Sarva Dev Temple in Oxford in first week of May. Please plan to join that as will.



HAPPY HOLI