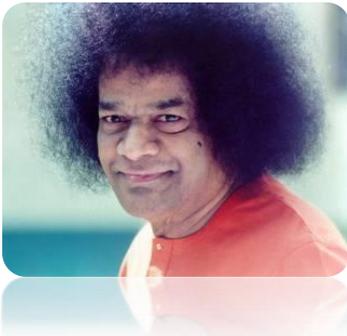




Sathya Sai School of Toronto - Canada

Parent Information Letter # 4 | Jan 27, 2020



Truth, Right Conduct,
Peace, Love, Non-
violence - these values
are the goals, the bases,
the roots, the keys of
human progress.

~Sathya Sai Baba

Scholastic Book Fair

JAN 28-31

Report Cards Go Home

JAN 30

Pizza Day

JAN 30

P.D. Day (No School)

JAN 31

Parent-Teacher
Interviews

JAN 31

Open House (half-day)

FEB 7

Open House Feb 7: Admissions for Sept 2020 03

Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 – *Half-day School*

6:45 – 7:15 School & classroom browsing

7:15 – 8:30 School presentation in gym followed
by sign up for interviews/testing

No After School Program on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

Year-End Concert 2020: JK-3 Non-violence: caring & sharing 05 Grades 4-8 Non-violence 18



*From the Principal's Desk**Revathi Chennabathni*

January 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Well-wishers of Sathya Sai School of Toronto-Canada,

Welcome Back to Sathya Sai School.! Happy, healthy and prosperous New Decade 2020 to you and yours.

It is that time to express gratitude for all team members who were instrumental in planning, preparing and executing the Year-end Concerts (YEC). This year's YECs were no exception. Teachers, parents - current and alumni - as well as volunteers, all came together as one big family and poured their love and put in their effort to make primary and junior YECs - a success. A heartfelt thank you for all your love and nourishment in empowering the unique triple partnership that exists at our school.

Thank you for your generous donation to the annual Mitten Tree Drive at our school. Please mark the upcoming Family Nights in your calendar – Primary Division's Family Night on February 28, 2020 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm; Junior & Intermediate Division's Family Night on March 27, 2020 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm respectively. We look forward to your participation at both these events and also at the Parent-Teacher Interviews on Friday, January 31, 2020.

Parents, please ensure that your child(ren) are properly dressed for the winter season with necessary winter gear. Unless the temperatures are below -15°C, all students go out during lunch recess to get fresh air. Please check the weather each day. In case of inclement weather, school will remain closed under such conditions. Your child(ren)'s class teacher will notify you accordingly via telephone call.

Kindly abide by the Sathya Sai School Parent Patrol Team's instructions for a smooth and SAFE flow of traffic during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. Please refrain from parking in front of the school as that place is designated for private school vans that carry more than two students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Revathi

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Upcoming Events**Scholastic Book Fair: Jan 28-31**

During recesses and all day on Jan 31.

1st Report Cards go home: Jan 30

Report cards will be sent home for JK to 8.

Pizza Day: Jan 30

Pizza lunch served for students who ordered.

P.D. Day: Jan 31

No school for students.

Parent-Teacher Interviews: Jan 31

Interviews all day. Mandatory for all parents.

Open House: Feb 7

Half-day school. Open House @ 6:45PM.

Parent Council Meeting: Feb 10

P.C. members to attend.



Open House Feb 7

Admissions for Sept 2020



Age requirements for all grades are as follows:

JK	born in 2016
SK	born in 2015
Grade 1	born in 2014
Grade 2	born in 2013
Grade 3	born in 2012
Grade 4	born in 2011
Grade 5	born in 2010
Grade 6	born in 2009
Grade 7	born in 2008
Grade 8	born in 2007

Founded by Universal Teacher Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sathya Sai School of Toronto-Canada balances academic excellence with character education. It is a unique independent school that is open to everyone, regardless of their social, religious, cultural, economic or ethnic background.

Friday, Feb 7, 2020

- 6:45 – 7:15** school & classroom browsing
7:15 – 8:30 school presentation in gym followed by sign up for Interviews (JK-Gr2); Admission Tests (Gr3-8)

Attending this event is mandatory for those seeking admission to the Sathya Sai School for the academic year starting September 2020 and for anyone who would like to acquaint themselves with the vision and mission of the school.

Twenty-four students will be accepted in the Junior Kindergarten program. Children born in the year 2016 are eligible to apply for JK admission.

Applications will also be accepted for admission to Senior Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 against possible vacancies in those Grades.

Application forms may be downloaded from our website www.sathyasaischool.ca. We request all interested parties to download the form and bring it filled out to the Open House, along with the application fee. Parents with completed forms will obtain their interview or admission test appointment at the sign-up desks in the Gym, at the conclusion of the Open House presentation.

Admission to the Sathya Sai School involves student/parent interviews and student test (for JK to Grade 2) or admission test only (Grades 3 to 8) and these will be conducted on March 7, 2020. Every year, a waitlist is created based on the results of the interviews and tests, and this list is used to fill vacancies as they may arise up until the end of December 2020.



Growing Garland



Photos taken by different people from different angles.

During the New Year's Day special prayers held at Sathya Sai School on January 1, 2020, the garland placed on our Founder Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Baba's photo began to grow. Principal Dr. Revathi said in her address to parents at the Year-End Concert, "The growing of the garland indicates the love of our Founder Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Baba for this school and his students. We are eternally grateful to the Founder Chancellor for being our beacon of the Five Human Values."

On January 1, 2020, the garland hung on the foyer photo of Sri Sathya Sai Baba started to grow during special prayers, and continued to grow through the first week of school, Jan 6th – 9th. Then it stopped growing and for the first time that we are aware of, it grew again on Jan. 16th & 17th.

Year-End Concerts 2019

For the second time at the Sathya Sai School, the Year-End Concert consisted of two different programs, performed by five classes each, on different days.

NON-VIOLENCE: Caring & Sharing

YEC: December 13, 2019

Performances by JK to Grade 3 students

Principal's Welcome

Dr. Revathi warmly welcomed everyone to the 19th Annual Year-End Concert and the 4th anniversary of same in this building.

In honour of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, this year has been marked as the International Year of Non-violence. This has been the inspiration and theme of our school's Year-End Concert for the Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 classes, with the sub-values of Caring and Sharing.

Sathya Sai Baba has said that, "The heart of compassion is a temple of God." Non-violence does not only mean no physical violence. It means that you should not even cause by word, look, or gesture any harm.

This concert was brought forth with love by the students, teachers, parents, and volunteers.



JK: Young Voices Spread Universal Human Values

with Ms. Gabiana, Ms. Pandit, and Ms. Khosla

Against a backdrop of the world globe with young children happily playing, the four-year-old students came on stage in contrasting costumes, the girls in orange and white checkered skirts and bows, with white-flowered headbands; the boys in white shirts and black-suspended pants. They looked very sweet as they recited the "Five Values" poem by Carole Alderman. This was followed by the Roger Whittaker song "I Am But A Small Voice".

The poem and song were accompanied by actions to reinforce their message. The students actions and energetic movements touched the audience's hearts, as they performed in a spirit of unity – delivering messages about Oneness and love for all mankind.

Five Values

by Carole Alderman

There are five values
that I can not see
five values that are you and me

The first is TRUTH
that rings a bell inside

The second is LOVE
to give not hide

The third is PEACE
we feel when the mind is still

The fourth is always doing RIGHT
when out of view
as well as within sight

Fifth, totalling the other four
is called NON-VIOLENCE
which means being kind in what we do
and say and think in mind



I Am But A Small Voice

By Roger Whittaker

I am but a small voice
I have but a small dream
The fragrance of a flower
In the unpolluted air

I am but a small voice
I have but a small dream
To smile upon the sun
Be free to dance and sing
Be free to sing my song everywhere

Come young citizens of the world
We are one, we are one
Come young citizens of the world
We are one, we are one

We have one hope, we have one dream
And with one voice we sing

Peace, prosperity
(Give us peace, prosperity)
And love for all mankind
Peace, prosperity
(Give us peace, prosperity)
And love for all mankind





SK: Can't Stop the Feeling

with Ms.Gadhavi, Ms.Jhawar, Ms.Alagendra

The narrator announced, "Our SK friends will perform the song, "Can't Stop the Feeling" ...as they believe real happiness lies within each one of us. As our Founder Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Baba says, 'May all the people of the world be happy.'"

The students came onstage with beaming faces, the girls dressed in sparkling and black frocks, the boys dressed in vests, bow ties, and shiny grey cummerbunds around their waist.

Full of happiness, they danced to the Justin Timberlake song, moving around the stage in varied dance formations. They were full of fun and energy, filling everyone in the audience with their high spirits.

As a finale, the students descended the steps from the stage and walked through the middle aisle of the audience, waving sparkling pompom wands at smiling parents and family members.



Can't Stop the Feeling! by Justin Timberlake

Ah, yeah, ah, yeah
I got this feelin' inside my bones
It goes electric, wavy when I turn it on
All through my city, all through my home
We're flyin' up, no ceilin', when we in our zone

I got that sunshine in my pocket
Got that good soul in my feet
I feel that hot blood in my body when it drops (ooh)
I can't take my eyes up off it, movin' so phenomenally
Room on lock, the way we rock it, so don't stop

But you dance, dance, dance
And ain't nobody leavin' soon, so keep dancin'
I can't stop the feelin'
So just dance, dance, dance
I can't stop the feelin'
So just dance, dance, dance, come on....





Grade 1: You Can Count on Me

with Ms. Sharanigan and Ms. Kulendran

Bright red and white colours greeted the eyes as the Grade 1 students came onstage to perform the song, "Count On Me" by Bruno Mars. The girls were in red dresses with white flower belts and head bands. The boys were dressed in white shirts with sharp red bowties and red cummerbunds around their waists, with contrasting black pants.

As they sang, their actions dramatized the meaning of the lyrics, while their sweet smiles conveyed the feeling of true friendship – "you can count on me like 1, 2, 3... 'cause that's what friends are supposed to do..."

Their gestures and movement in lines were gracefully performed, creating a happy and lively feeling of friendship. The students were lovingly prepared by Ms. Sharanigan and Ms. Kulendran.

Count on Me by Bruno Mars

[Verse 1] If you ever find yourself stuck in the middle of the sea

I'll sail the world to find you

If you ever find yourself lost in the dark and you can't see

I'll be the light to guide you

Find out what we're made of

When we are called to help our friends in need

[Chorus] You can count on me like 1, 2, 3
I'll be there

And I know when I need it

I can count on you like 4, 3, 2

And you'll be there

'cause that's what friends are supposed to do oh yeah
oooooh, oooohhh yeah yeah

[Verse 2] If you're tossin' and you're turnin'
and you just can't fall asleep
I'll sing a song beside you

And if you ever forget how much you really mean to me

Every day I will remind you

Find out what we're made of

When we are called to help our friends in need

[Chorus]

You'll always have my
shoulder when you cry
I'll never let go
Never say goodbye

[Chorus]

You can count on me
'cause I can count on
you





Grade 2: It Could Be Worse

with Ms. Shah, based on a Yiddish Folktale by Janea Dahl from her 'Drama Notebook'

A skit full of humour and wisdom was presented by the Grade 2 students, under the direction of Ms. Shah, enacting the Yiddish folktale, "It Could Be Worse".

A family of parents and four children, plus two pets, lived together in a one-room house. The family was always getting in each other's way and arguing, except for the mother who would sit knitting in her rocking chair with the cat at her feet.

The father could not take it any longer and when he spoke to his wife about the family problem, she replied, "It's not so bad," while she knitted away calmly.

Finally, they decided he should consult with the village Wise Man whom they had heard about.

In a series of scenes, the Wise Man advised the father to bring into the house the animals that he owned. First the chickens were brought in. This created only more noise. The children ran wildly through the house and the dog chased the chickens. Next, the Wise Man advised that the rooster should be brought inside.

After each addition, the father said that he couldn't take the noise, the children were still fighting and now the animals added more commotion to their home. Each time he approached his wife with a complaint, she always replied, "It's not so bad," and continued knitting away calmly.

The father made another trip to the Wise Man who advised him to bring in all the other animals (goat, pig, sheep, donkey, horse and cow) and his troubles would be over. But now the house was even more crowded and chaotic and the mother said, "Now it's getting bad,"

and advised one more trip to the Wise Man. This time the Wise Man agreed with the father that the situation was unliveable, and advised the father to take all the animals out of the house.

Finally, there was quiet in the house, the children were playing again and mother was knitting again. The father made a final trip to the Wise Man to thank him for making his life sweet again. He said the house is so quiet and there is so much room. The skit ended with the mother's final words: "It's not so bad."

The students were dressed in peasant clothing, and the animals' costumes added drama to the domestic scene. The Wise Man dressed in white, with a long white beard and walking stick, added a note of authority to the well-enacted story.

Grade 2: Sainté nuit, Silent Night

with Mr. Kpodjie

Following the skit, the Grade 2 students sang a Christmas carol in French and English, under the direction of French teacher Mr. Christian Kpodjie.

Sainté Nuit, Silent Night

Sainté nuit, doucé nuit
 Tout est calme, pas de bruit
 Les bergers s'accourent tous joyeux
 Amenez de beaux cadeaux
 Tout est pleine d'allégressé
 Dans la paix du ciel

Silent night, holy night
 All is calm, all is quiet
 The shepherds are so happy
 Bringing in their beautiful gifts
 All is so very peaceful
 Under the snowy sky







Grade 3: Stone Soup

with Ms. Mohan

The musical skit, 'Stone Soup' was delightfully presented by the Grade 3 students, under the direction of Ms. Mohan. 'Stone Soup' is a European folk story in which hungry strangers convince the people of a town to share a small amount of their food in order to make a meal that everyone enjoys, thereby teaching them the value of sharing.

The play is an adaptation of this folk story, and was written by Ms. Revathy Mohan. Songs and music were originally by Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse.

The farmer/maiden costumes and village backdrops created a vivid impression of a rural town and its people. Three strangers passing through the village brought fear to the local people, who refused to open their doors to feed the hungry strangers any food.

The strangers were self-reliant and happy and used a "magical recipe to feed [themselves]...Stone Soup." This made the villagers curious, and one by one they came to add some carrots, potatoes, herbs, and other items to make the soup better. In the end, everyone ate some of the Stone Soup, admitting that it was truly delicious.

The three strangers explained that, "It's not the recipe that makes the soup delicious. It's the caring and sharing. Life with caring and sharing makes life a delightful one."

The village people admitted, "Now we see what sharing can do. You with your kind-heartedness and wisdom taught us a lesson about caring and sharing."

The storyline was interspersed with dancing and singing, making the presentation very lively and happy, bringing alive the message.

Stone Soup Song 1

Whoever heard of soup from a stone (rap & chorus)

If this town had only known
We could each have a had our own
Stone Soup- Soup from a stone

Potatoes, Onion, Leeks and Beans (rap)

A meal that fit for kings and queens
A big fat feast, you see what we mean
Stone soup-soup from a stone

Whoever heard of soup from a stone (chorus)
If this town had only known
We could each have had our own
Stone soup-Soup from a stone

Rich and Creamy, Hot and steamy (rap)
Tasty and Healthy, fresh too
Hot out of the pot, We've got a lot
Stone soup-soup from stone

Look at Old Town Now! Song 5

Once our town was a sad little town.
I was lonely and mad.
But, now I've seen just what sharing can do,
and that soup from a stone isn't bad.

So, take a look at Old Town now!
We are sharing our delicious chow.
And, from now on we will take a vow
to get along somehow

Chorus

So, come on, come on, we can dance all night.
Come on, come on, everything's alright
Come and take a look at the Old Town now.

So, take a look at Old Town now!
We have found new joy and life, and how!
But, now before we can take a bow,
Just look at Old Town now!

Chorus

Just take a look at Old Town now.
Hey, look at us now!







Finale Song

Grade 3 with Mr. Labrada More

“We Are the Children of the Sathya Sai School” was sung by the Grade 3 students, accompanied by Music teacher Mr. Labrada More on keyboard.

Production Credits

Choreography: J. Chawla, I. Spaley

Sound: V. Mistry, R. Mohan, D. Labrada More, M. Rughani, S. Shah

Backdrops: Sathya Sai Centre of Toronto-York, M. Mohan, M. Rughani, N. Namasivayam

Props: JK-Grade 3 Parents, P. Hannides, H. Lad, K.Spaley

Costumes: JK-Grade 3 Parents, P. Manoharan, V. Chandrasekar, S. Iyer, N. Kapadia, M. Lad, M.Mohan, N. Parakat, V. Ravi, G. Varathan, J. Chawla, I. Spaley

Safety Management: S. Balasubramaniam

Stage Management: A. Som, J. Chawla, H. Lad, M.Rughani

Lights: Pramod Pankajakshan

Videography: S. Khanderia; **Photography:** S. Sribavan

Vote of Thanks

Mr. Anindya Som, SK PC Rep, delivered the Vote of Thanks. He congratulated students for the wonderful job they all did, commenting that it was his privilege to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone. A big round of applause was requested for every parent, teacher, and volunteer who worked tirelessly to assist the students in their lip syncing, coordination, singing and dancing.

Thanks were given to our Founder Chancellor for giving us:

-- this school and the values: learn to give and not to take; learn to serve and not to rule.

-- and the chance to come together in these events.



NON-VIOLENCE

YEC: December 19, 2019

Performances by Grade 4 to Grade 8 students

Grade 4: Making New Friends

with Ms. Urman

The grade 4 skit was a well-enacted story-within-a-story on friendship, that was also about non-violence and transformation. It is a cat-and-mouse story, but with a values twist.

The Grade 4 students appeared onstage in grey or black mouse costumes, with pink bellies, nose and ears, and whiskered faces. The scene was the interior of a house. The mice were having a conversation about the cat that was a threat to their safety. It was suggested to put a bell on the cat's neck when he is asleep, so that they could hear him coming and escape. At that moment the cat appeared and the mice all ran away...except for one mouse that was caught by the cat. As the cat was ready to eat the mouse, the mouse pleaded not to be eaten, saying that one day mice will help him out and save his life.

The mouse proceeded to tell the story of the mouse and the lion. Once when a lion was taking a nap, a mouse was running up and down upon him and woke him up. The lion was annoyed and about to eat him, but the mouse begged for forgiveness and promised to do something to help the lion one day, and would never forget the promise. The lion agreed to let the mouse go. Later, the lion was caught by hunters and tied up. The hunters left in order to find something on which to carry the lion. At that moment, the mouse came and saw the lion tied up. When the lion asked the mouse to help him, the mouse gnawed through the ropes and freed the lion, telling him that mice are good at keeping their promises.

Returning now to the original tale, the cat thought it was a great story and said that he had lost his appetite for mice. However, he was hungry and didn't know what to do. All the mice in the house returned and said they would bring the cat food from the kitchen. The cat was happy because no one had ever made a feast for him before. He said he would tell other cats not to eat mice and "we can all be friends instead."

Count on Me

by Bruno Mars

Grade 7 with Mr. Labrada More

(see page 9 for lyrics)





Grade 5: Mahatma Gandhi – An Inspiration

with Ms. Sharma

This was a well-put-together musical dance drama which gave the audience a taste of the widespread influence of Mahatma Gandhi's life. The curtains opened upon a "statue" of Gandhi in front of the world globe.

The play was written by Ms. Sharma and well-enacted by her students to bring forth well-known public figures who were inspired by Gandhi's non-violence movement, as well as depicting several significant events in his life that helped shape his philosophy and actions. Albert Einstein, Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela were present, sharing their views of Gandhi's importance to humanity's future. Martin Luther King Jr. was quoted saying:

If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought, and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore him at our own risk.

We were told that Gandhi "helped change the fate of millions of people around the globe," through major movements which he inspired such as anti-colonialism, anti-apartheid, non-violence, and the movement against untouchability. He influenced

political leaders, civil rights leaders, authors and poets.

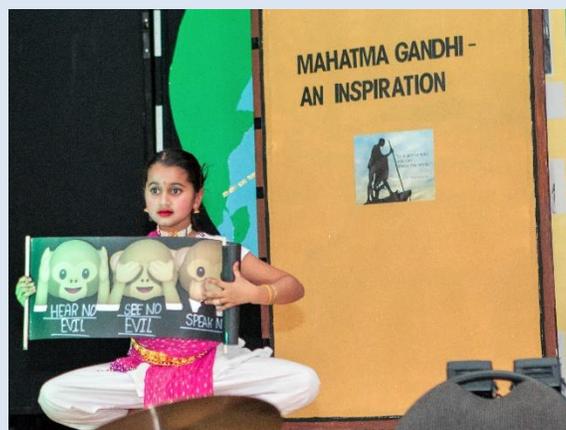
One scene brought to life Gandhi's being thrown off a train in South Africa, where he was travelling as a lawyer to work on a case, because he was "coloured" and travelling in first class.

Another scene revealed Gandhi leading a protest in South Africa against the Black Act's issuance of identification cards to all Indians and forceful taking of their fingerprints. He and his supporters burned their ID cards, to "eliminate the difference of colour by silent protest". They were beaten, but did not resist. Many such campaigns resulted in the repeal of unjust laws in South Africa, and later in India, and helped to change the destiny of millions of people.

The costumes students wore were quite realistic, from the train attendants jackets and caps, to the India dress, and of course Mahatma Gandhi's iconic dhoti and glasses.

The drama ended with a lovely dance to a song that extols humans:

"who feel the pain of others,
who help those who are in misery,
who do not indulge in self-conceit,
who respect the entire world,
who keep their words, actions and thoughts pure."







Grade 6: War and Peace

with Mr. Kandavel, based on The Mahabharata

This was a pensive exploration of the battle between dark forces and the light, that results in war or peace. As the curtains opened, the audience was transported far back in time. The backdrops and costumes of the actors were descriptive of a royal court of India some 5,000 years ago. The narrator introduced the scene, explaining that “The Mahabharata is an epic that tells the story of two sets of first cousins – the five sons of King Pandu or commonly referred to as the Pandavas, and the 100 sons of the blind King Dhritarashtra, who are known as the Kauravas. The Kauravas behaved viciously towards the Pandavas in many ways from the time of their childhood. Their malice displayed itself when they took advantage of the eldest Pandava, Yudhishthira, in a rigged game of dice. The outcome of the bet in this game resulted in the Pandavas losing their share of the kingdom and going into exile for 13 years. Following the completion of their exile, the Pandavas sought the return of their rightful kingdom. However, King Dhritarashtra did not seem willing to fulfill the original bet. The Pandavas, with their allied kings, were left to ponder their options, including war.

The play presents their deliberation on how to proceed with their Kaurava cousins. Though the allied Kings sought war against the Kauravas,

Krishna said it was not right to talk about war at that moment, that war should be the last resort. There was a heated discussion between those who insisted on the Pandavas rights and Krishna’s insistence that “waging a selfish war violates Mankind’s code.” He insisted that since so many people will die during this war, it was best to seek reconciliation and let the Pandavas ask for their rights. They should give the other side a chance to make peace. It was decided to send an ambassador.

Thereupon, ambassadors were sent on both sides to seek a peaceful solution. However, the son of King Dhritarashtra did not want to give up his rule of the kingdom to the Pandavas. King Dhritarashtra was torn between his ambition for his son to become king on the one hand, and on the other, his duty to the citizens of his nation to protect Truth and give back the Pandavas their rightful kingdom.

In the end, the Pandavas had no choice but to take back their kingdom through a great war. It resulted in their victory, but at great loss of revered elders and loved ones.

The final narration told the audience: “the Kaurava clan’s fate were only brought upon themselves through the absence of Non-violence in the heart. This eternal story is an inspiration for all of us. It is your armour and also your weapon. Transform the battlefield of your heart into a holy ground.”







Grade 7: Non-violence: A Work in Progress

with Mr. Nankivell

Sathya Sai Baba appears on stage talking to himself: "Hmmm, it is indeed true, violence does beget violence. Can we break the cycle though? Can we remove it entirely?"

The play is an imaginative journey through time with a time machine, built with the goal of repairing a broken world. The scientist/professor who built it wanted to re-write history, by taking power from "evil and selfish people abusing their power" and giving it to "those who restrain themselves and use it responsibly."

The first scene takes place in a future 2050 AD. The "World Reconstruction Research Council" did not approve of the trip by the time machine, fearful of its impact – that things might end up with an even worse catastrophe in the present time. However, the professor had spent years developing the time machine and decided to try it out one night, working from the present into the past, activating the machine and disappearing.

Some of her student assistants discovered that she was gone and as the machine activated itself with flashes and loud noise, Sathya Sai Baba suddenly emerged from the machine. He declared to the assistants that we all have divinity within us. Introducing himself, he explained that he is an embodiment of the five human values, that he brought out the morals to the world, spreading teachings and starting hospitals and schools, helping many people's lives significantly. He invited the students to come with him to do some work together.

However, as they travel through time, they discover the professor's interference had changed things, but not for the better. The machine takes them first to the 1500s in Canada. They learned that the First Nations had created their Great Law of Peace and laid aside violent ways. However, one of their great warrior chiefs turned back to violence when a woman came and gave them magical weapons and technology to fight against invaders from across the ocean. The invaders were driven out, but some of the warriors wanted to expand the Great Peace through violence, with the power that only "comes from the point of a spear."

Sai Baba and group take the time machine and stop in the 500s AD, Middle East. They learn that someone had given pagan tribes of Mecca weapons. The result was that Mecca became a bloody city filled with fights among small religions vying for territory and the Muslim faith had been extinguished. Sai Baba asks whether it had been, proper to sacrifice peace and non-violence to reach this questionable state of Mecca, instead of the beautiful Mecca it would have been under the control of Muslims?

Their next stop is in the Middle East in 30 AD. There they meet Jesus and find out that though he was supposed to be crucified, died and buried, this never happened. Someone had come and threatened Judas, who then never gave Jesus up to the Roman authorities. Jesus said to the time travelling group, "You must be those who are sent to fix this." Sai Baba agreed this was correct. He said, "Without the violence and power of your tragedy, the world never learned your teachings."

The group next visited India in 500 BC. There they met the Buddha. Though he was supposed to be a spiritual teacher of universal compassion and non-violence, "another from the future arranged things" so that his family never became warriors and thus the Buddha never grew up to complete his mission. Sai Baba agreed, "Yes, the world suffers all the more for it."

The group returns "out of time". They see the professor running, with hands bound, and being chased by Ares, the god of war. He shouts that she will not leave and undo her work, because she has "amplified the bloodshed of this world many times over! You have rewritten history in a way I never could...and all thinking you were making peace..." The professor realized she couldn't fix things, that in trying to do so, she "undid all of our history and all of the good things too."

In the ensuing argument between the powers of non-violence and those of war, it is finally decided that humans need to survive, because without them the forces for violence have no power. Sai Baba declares that they will take the intruder back and make everything as it was before – they will arrive a moment before the professor had decided to use the time machine.

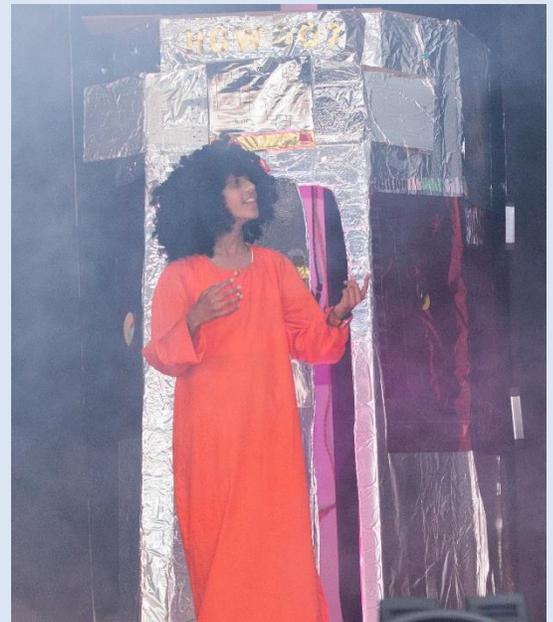
In closing, Sathya Sai Baba explained to the audience that violence is not the answer, but our history cannot



be undone. We must look to a better future. "The urges of violence will always be there inside of us, but we do not always have to listen." Due to the time of year that the audience was in, Sai Baba began to sing and the rest of the grade 7 students joined in singing:

Grade 7: Feliz Navidad

with Mr. Labrada More





Grade 8: 'Virtue is bold, and Goodness never fearful': A journey through books

with Ms. Menon

Famous books and their authors came alive in this witty and imaginative drama written by Ms. Menon to honour the "boldness" and "goodness" of authors between the 15th and 21st centuries who portrayed universal themes. The grade 8 students chose some prominent writers of each century who wrote about values and of their responsibility towards the world.

The stage was set as a library containing books on shelves, tables and chairs. A lovely Minuet dance preceded the drama, creating a moment in time from the past. Following this, the story of the drama began. Five students were asleep with their faces deep inside open books. They disappeared as the lights faded. As the lights came on again, characters emerged from the back of the shelves, greeting one another and praising the other's literary and moral contributions.

The authors were well-dressed in their period costumes, as the actors took us on a journey through time and books. Program notes on the authors provided concise introductions to the familiar and less familiar authors appearing onstage.

(15th–18th century) Shakespeare ("widely regarded as the world's greatest dramatist") and Dickens (a social critic and perhaps "greatest novelist of the Victorian era") were the first two authors to appear. Shakespeare admitted that his "stories used to teach a thing or two about values."

(18th–19th century) Jane Austen (who wrote "mostly about how education empowers women" and were enabled "to give back to the society") appeared next, quoting a line from Shakespeare. She was followed by Louisa May Alcott, who wrote "about women and sisters who stand by each other through difficult and changing times." Swami Vivekananda joined the group (the monk from India who "brought the essence and truth of Vedas to the west and the rest of the world.")

Shakespeare said he hoped his writings taught people "about virtues and goodness". Dickens declared his "characters had messages about poverty and charity."

Louisa May Alcott explained her characters were "principled and unpretentious, learning to be positive." Jane Austen stated that her characters "taught the world about loyalty and goodness." Vivekananda urged people "to open their eyes and see that, 'All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction. Love is therefore the only law of life.'"

Interspersed between scenes, was a well-performed and lively jazz dance. Boys were in black and white: top hats and suspended pants. Girls wore red tops and opened colourful umbrellas in a line dance. All danced to the song, "Let there be love".

Scene 2 introduced writers from the 19th – 21st century, emerging from behind the bookshelves in the midst of smoke and music.

Maya Angelou ("among the first autobiographies by a 20th century black woman) said in her writings, "we need joy as we need air, we need love as we need water and we need each other as we need the earth we share." Agreeing with her, R.K. Narayan (fictional writer whose "characters are an epitome of simplicity and good humour"), explained that in his books he strove to "show the importance of human relations and traditional values."

Responding to him, James Baldwin (who explored "intricacies of racial and class distinctions in Western societies") enjoyed the "everyday life experiences of ordinary people" in Narayan's books. He praised Maya for taking the duty to "always speak up for everyone." Maya in turn spoke of Baldwin's characters who are "embodiments of integrity, humility and passion...they come together from everywhere to make a new world."

Two more writers join them onstage: J.K. Rowling (creator of Harry Potter) and Chad Solomon (an Ojibway First Nations writer who learned that "no matter how old you are always be young at heart and laughter is the best medicine." Solomon passes on the message "that promotes equality, understanding and respect...and laughter." Rowling responds that she uses "laughter as a weapon to eradicate fear and negativity."

The scene ends on a positive note for writers. Even though their messages have been given and there are still problems in the world, it was agreed that writers



should “continue to do what they do.” They should continue to inspire through their characters.

In the final scene, the first five students reappear on stage, asleep with their faces buried in books. They all awaken and realize they had the same dream – of writers who came out of the shelves and talked about their writings. Though they were from different centuries, a message came through about reading. The students agreed that it would be good to be “submerged in books and plunge into changing the world!” “Let’s unite through books and create a world where virtue is bold and goodness is fearless.”

Their presentation ended with a contemporary dance, dressed in white and black shirts and pants. The choreography was full of moving lines, groups, and individuals showing their steps. All flowing with the music smoothly and happily.

Grand Finale: “Happy”

School Choir and Band with Mr. Labrada More

Song by Pharrell Williams

The choir and band are comprised of students from grades 4 to 8. The band is a fusion of international instruments, including flute, violins, glockenspiels, drum key, keyboards, guitars, clave, djembe, tablas, and veena.

The audience joined in the singing to this “Happy” song.

Chorus:

Huh, because I'm happy

Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

Because I'm happy

Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

Because I'm happy

Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

Because I'm happy

Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

Production Credits

Stage Manager: J. Chawla

Tech Support Lead: M. Rughani; **Tech Support:** Sukumar Runner; N Choksi; **Stage & Backdrop Help:** A. Som, M. Gupta, K. Patel, S. Shah, B. Chauhan, Pramod P., Oshani P.; **Sound:** V. Mistry, M. Rughani, D. Labrada More, S. Sharma, S. Nankivell

Choreography: J. Chawla, I. Spaley; **Props:** S. Poddar, H. Lad, Lojan S., S. Vemuri, I. Spaley, P. Hannides, Gr7 Students, Renuca S., V. Rughani, N. Anandarajah, T. Yogakumaran; **Costumes:** Grade 4, 5, 6, 8 Parents, A. Rajakuhendran, V. Ravi, Grade 7 Students, P. Manoharan, V. Venkata, M. Lad, V. Bungaroo, R. Mohan, J. Chawla, I. Spaley; **Backdrops:** Sathya Sai Centre of Toronto-York, M. Mohan, M. Rughani, N. Namasivayam; **Lights:** P. Pankajakshan; **Online Live Streaming:** M. Rughani; **Videography:** S. Khanderia; **Photography:** Mr. Sribavan

Vote of Thanks

Ms. Renuca Sivasubramaniam, PC Co-Chair, delivered the Vote of Thanks, with appreciation to everyone for attending. She acknowledged the school’s Triple Partnership of Teachers, Parents, and Volunteers for their support; the Teachers whose immeasurable effort was spent in training the students, saying their students put their full hearts into their performance. The music teacher and the Band and Choir were thanked for a delightful performance. Parents were thanked for taking time out of busy schedules to get the costumes. Students were thanked for all their practicing and revealing such hidden talent. Volunteers and Alumni parents were thanked for helping the school, even though their children have graduated – “they serve as a great example for the current parents and should be looked upon as role models.” Thanks were given to the A/V team, the technicians who ran the lights, smoke machine, and online live streaming; the dance choreographers, parking patrol team, cleaning team, the P.C. team for their hard work, and the audience for attending the Sathya Sai School of Toronto-Canada's Year-End Concert.











Visit to Kennedy Lodge

On December 18, 2019, the Junior and Senior Kindergarten students made a memorable visit to Seniors living at Kennedy Lodge. They brought holiday cheer by singing and dancing to several Christmas songs and giving hand-made cards to the Seniors.

Junior Kindergarteners gave two presentations:

- 1) Sang and danced to the tune of Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
- 2) Sang Santa Claus Is Coming to Town

Senior Kindergarteners sang three songs:

- 1) Give a Little Bit of Love Everyday
- 2) Dashing through the Snow
- 3) We Wish You a Merry Christmas

The SK students also made greetings in class to distribute to the elders.

These visits are much enjoyed by the elderly people, whose faces light up in the presence of the joyful and loving students.



Parent Council News

Safety First! In and Around School

1. Parent Parking Patrol to recruit parent volunteers

Starting January 27, through the end of the school year, there will be a rotating schedule by class, for parents to volunteer in the mornings for a 2-week period at a time. This information/schedule will be disseminated to parents' WhatsApp by the respective Parent Council Reps.

2. At Dismissal, parking in front of school is reserved solely for school vans

Signs that read "RESERVED FOR SCHOOL VANS" are being distributed to the school vans assigned to picking up students at dismissal time. These will be displayed on the dashboard of their vehicles.

Only School Vans with this sign are allowed to park in front of the school at dismissal time. Also, no double parking is allowed. These measures are being implemented to ensure the safety of students entering vehicles, while cars are passing to exit school property.

Letter from a Parent to JK Teachers

Dear Ms. Gabiana and Ms. Pandit,

I would like to share how Aria helped me yesterday after school while we were returning home.

After her dad dropped us at the front gate of our building entrance, he left for work. My hands were full with my bag, Aria's school bag and grocery bag. I didn't realise that Aria noticed it. We were talking while walking towards our house door. All of a sudden Aria said, "Mumma, your hands are full, so could I open the door?" These words touched my heart. Even without asking for help, she observed and extended her helping hand. It really made my day.

She took the key from my pocket and not only opened the door but also held the door for me, till I entered. I just couldn't stop myself from sharing this wonderful experience.

Thank you for everything

Aria's mom

Family Night

Feb 28 6-8 PM

JK to Grade 3

Book
your
calendar

Family Night

Mar 27 6-8 PM

Grade 4 to 8



Winter Snow at the School



The delicate beauty of winter in Toronto



Founder Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Baba to Students

Love, the basic principle of human nature

Just as the rays of the sun absorb water vapour from the sea, gather them into clouds, drop them as rain on earth so that they may flow as rivers back into the sea, the senses of man contact the world and collect experiences out of which the sacred and sustaining ones are selected, stored and utilised by the mind, as values, as instruments for individual and social uplift. They are Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Non-violence and Love. For the first four, the last value, Love, is the life-giving spring. They can be achieved most quickly by Love.

Love is the basic principle of human nature. That short ... word has immeasurable potentiality. Too often, it is confused with the affection of the mother for the child, the attachment between husband and wife, the dependence of friend on friend or the relationship of teacher and pupil. In every one of these, a trace of egoistic need can be discerned. Love untainted by ego is genuine Love. It is all-inclusive, pure, full and free.... Love can emerge from the heart and brighten with delight only after anger (the mastiff), pride (the boar) and the ego-sense (the buffalo) are put out of action and removed from the heart. So long as these beasts occupy the heart, man cannot escape being a beast. Being a human, what does he aspire for? Absence of grief and presence of Bliss and freedom to follow one's will. Grief and joy are like night and day, inevitable phases of life. Freedom for one's will can cause disaster to oneself and others. Man must know that he is the Spirit; that knowledge is all that is needed for one's Bliss.

You are dealing with tender children, as their teachers, guides and example. You have to equip yourselves for those roles by living the values that distinguish man. Establish the values in yourselves, practise them and derive Bliss therefrom yourselves. "As the king, so the subjects," says the proverb. Live the ideals and lead the children along. Let the urges for Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Non-violence blossom in their hearts. These spiritual treasures alone can ensure happiness and joy.

- *Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 18, Ch. 13.*



Human Value for Jan/Feb LOVE

LOVE

Forgiveness

Compassion

Caring

Consideration

Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.

~ H. JACKSON BROWN, JR.



Multi-Faith Festivals around the world

Jan 1

Gantan-sai (Shinto)



Jan 2

Guru Gobind Singh Birthday (Sikh)



Jan 6

Epiphany (Christian)



Jan 14/15

Makar Sankranti/ Lohri/ Pongal (Hindu)



Jan 19

World Religion Day (Baha'i)



Jan 25

Chinese New Year (Chinese)



Jan 25

Losar Tibetan New Year (Buddhist)



Jan 29

Vasant Panchami (Hindu)



Jan 30

Sadeh (Zoroastrian)



Uniform Note

Uniforms may be purchased every Tuesday, from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Important Dates: Jan/Feb 2020

Jan 24 Report Card Making Day (*No school*)

Jan 28 Scholastic Book Fair
- 31

Jan 30 1st Report Cards go home

Jan 30 Pizza Day

Jan 31 P.D. Day (*No School for students*)

Jan 31 Parent-Teacher Interviews
(*mandatory for all parents*)

Feb 7 Open House (*Half-day school*)

Feb 10 Parent Council Meeting

Feb 14 St. Paul's L'Amoreaux (*Gr3 & 7*)

Feb 17 Family Day Holiday (*No school*)

Feb 27 Pizza Day

Tax Receipts

Parents and School Well-Wishers,
It's almost tax time – please make sure your mailing address is current for tax receipt purposes.

Yours truly,
Ms. Recht, Admin.Asst.
Dr. Revathi, Principal

