

AT THE PIER...

Are you ready to board?



By the touch of Lord Nṛsiṃhadeva's hand on Prahlaḍa Mahārāja's head, Prahlaḍa was completely freed of all material contaminations and desires, as if he had been thoroughly cleansed. Therefore he at once became transcendently situated, and all the symptoms of ecstasy became manifest in his body. His heart filled with love, and his eyes with tears, and thus he was able to completely capture the lotus feet of the Lord within the core of his heart.
(SB 7.9.6)

ISKCON PHOENIX – AT THE PIER

FROM THE EDITOR

From all of us at ISKCON PHOENIX, we pray that you and your loved ones are keeping in good health, both physically and spiritually.

Another school year has come to an end, but this year is particularly special. While it is true that the current situation has been a stressful one, it is also true that we have been able to spend more time with our families and are learning to adapt to a "new" normal. We have also been able to reconnect with family and friends and reach out to those in need. Maybe we discovered hidden talents, maybe we learned to make better choices; to take the positives and discard the negatives, to work together.

At ISKCON PHOENIX, we have made a few adjustments to our programs and services to ensure the safety of our resident devotees and everyone in general. We implemented online classes for Sunday School, Bhakti-Vriska, and Sunday Feast Programs. We were also able to take our daily temple programs live via Facebook, including daily Deity darshan. As soon as the lock-down was enforced, our online programs went on!

ISKCON Phoenix recognizes the great efforts made by our enthusiastic, amazing Sunday School teachers, Nama-Priya devi dasi (Madhava Class), Mother Smita Papadkar (Giri-Govardhan Class) and Mother Sujatha Samynathan (Gopala class). Their efforts went above and beyond to ensure the continuity of the program, and they did a wonderful job!

Our appreciation to the parents who so graciously assisted and continue to help: Mother Rupavilasini devi dasi, Mother Jayshree Dixit, Mother Laxmi Potta and Suresh Laxmanan Prabhu.

And of course, our gratitude to all the parents who made sure their children were attending and connecting on time😊

"Take care of this children, they are the future of our society" Srila Prabhupada



Too stressed to chant? Just remember Krishna, His pastimes, His Mercy.

Always Remember Krishna Never Forget Krishna

Chant and be happy 😊



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...



Aaroosh, 12: I have not gone to school in 3 weeks, and that is what my parents and teachers expect me to do. This is unusual, but these are unusual times. The world is gripped by the pandemic. As we

trek this unusual time, and maybe treacherous time, I would like to share my thoughts on this pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, I cannot play with my friends. It is boring to stay at home all the time and I hope it ends soon. Everyone is telling me to practice social distancing so that we don't spread the virus. My school is now taking online classes and I am still getting used to it. However, I am enjoying spending more time with my parents and sister. I chant 2 rounds of Mahamantra every day, and It has helped me in calming my emotions of sadness, boredom etc. This is why we should chant the Holy name of Sri Hari every day.

I heard in the news that people were eating wild animals, and that created the virus. Due to this, lots of people are suffering. I sometimes wonder why many people have to suffer for other people's mistakes. I think it is because we have to share this planet and have to accept the consequences of others' misdeeds. This pandemic was caused by not living in harmony with nature. The Lord taught us not to hurt animals. This is why we must educate people in Krishna consciousness.

I feel blessed to have been initiated on the path of Krishna consciousness. It is showing me the path of Dharma, which is living in harmony with nature. And I am thankful to share this path with you.

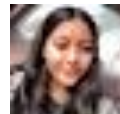


Adithya: I think this virus will end soon. If we keep chanting and praying to Krishna this virus will end

Ananya: I think Krishna is different from us because he is already pure and liberated, and Krishna does not have any sins. We/devotees have to earn Krishna's mercy in order to return to him.

Nikhil: Krishna is different from us as we are in material bodies whereas he is the supreme personality of godhead. Unlike us, he is pure, all loving, and transcendental. Our relationship with him is master and servant.

Piya: My realization about understanding Krsna is that He will always be present in me even if I think that sometimes he might not help us in our hard times. Krsna is different from us because He is god and we are his devotees, He is the supersoul.



Presta: Krishna is different from us because He is a super soul and the controller of the universe, while we are his kids, his creations, and we should always know that we will forever be below Krishna.

Ranjana: Hare Krishna! Krishna does not have any desires, unlike humans. He can control everything in the world, but he never did. If humans had a choice of world domination, they would definitely take the offer. Only those who fully separate themselves from desires and are selfless will be one step closer to Krishna.

Tanishtha: Understanding Krishna means to be completely devoted and in service of Him. We can only truly realize Him when we have lost our attachment to the material world. Though that doesn't mean that you shouldn't give up, because Krishna will help you understand Him if you continue devotional service. In this way Krishna is not even comparable to us, He is the Supreme Lord, who knows all, He is the all pervading. We are much more insignificant compared to Him, but in the end we are also part and parcel of him.

What did we do?

Madhava Group

Madhava class followed a systematic study of Bhagavad Gita this year. We started this year with Chapter 5 and have completed till Chapter 11. The study includes not just review of the verses, rather having a deeper understanding of the content and practical application. The students are also learning presentation skills, where they get selected verses for the week and they prepare for the presentation. We implemented Google classroom earlier in the year that allowed us to have interactive discussion and ongoing participation. The chapter studies were also followed by quizzes to assess the students' understanding. Through provoking questions were posed to understand the deeper realization of the students.

Along with this, we also reviewed the initial sections of Vaisnava etiquette. We also reviewed some of the common prayers like Narsimha Prayers, Damodarastakam, Jagannathastakam, Tulsi prayers. The students enthusiastically participated in festivals and performed in the band during the annual

Ratha Yatra. With the COVID-19 situation, the students quickly transitioned to the Zoom platform and continued to remain engaged. The students have shown great demonstration of taking responsibility and being accountable for their assignment tasks.

In spite of all the challenges, it was still a very rewarding year for Madhava class because of Sri Sri Radha Madha Hari's mercy.



Nama Priya devi dasi,
Teacher



Giri-Govardhan Class

Giri Govardhan class studied the Brahma Samhita Prayers in this session which describes the beautiful features and qualities of Lord Sri Krishna.

We read stories related to those qualities. Some of the stories were Lord Narsimhadev story, Sakshi Gopal story, killing of Banasura demon, Jada Bharata story and many more. Through these stories they understood the omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent nature of Krishna. They also learnt that Krishna is the lover of cows, brahmanas and His devotees and how He is eager to save His devotees from the material miseries of this impermanent world. We also read about His loving reciprocation and wonderful pastimes with His devotees.

The students enthusiastically participated in various festivals through Vaishnava drama, bhajans, and dance and shloka recitations at the temple and during the Ratha Yatra. Due to the current pandemic situation our learning has shifted from personal to virtual classes on zoom without any obstruction and students are actively attending the classes and taking quizzes on kahoot.it which is keeping them excited. We have started with Introduction to Bhagavad Gita as it is where they are learning stories from the Mahabharata. We will continue with an in-depth study of Bhagavad Gita in the coming session.

Overall, it has been a very wonderful year with the blessings of Sri Sri Radha Madhav Hari and senior devotees in the spiritual, intellectual and all rounded development of the students.



Smita Papadkar,
Teacher



Gopala Class

Srila Prabhupad says, "Sow the seed of Krishna Consciousness at an early age".

Gopala class consisted of children of age 3 to 7 years. This developmental stage is described by Psychologists as the growth of cognitive, social and physical development - the magic years that involve the "why" questions. There is no better age to start instilling values and morals from our scriptures as children begin to explore the world with all the "why" and "what".

Gopala class aims at imparting holistic education to aid the development of long-lasting Krishna consciousness on a shared desire to love and serve Krishna by creating a fun learning environment. A two part curriculum was followed.

Part 1



The curriculum was covered over a 14-week period, with the final week being the presentation week. The curriculum focused on The Stories of KRSNA - The

Supreme Personality of Godhead Volume 1, slokas from Bhagavad Gita As It Is, Vaishnava bhajans, rhymes, and craft activities. We all love listening to KRSNA book pastimes, so did the students. Hearing the narration of Lord Krishna's pastimes gave the students an opportunity to tap into their imagination, gain the right perspective about the pastimes and nurture the faith deeper. They enjoyed the narrations on the Birth of Krishna, Damodar lila, Pralambasura, Whirlwind Demon and much more. Students would eagerly wait to recite slokas, rhymes to follow along with the stories and craft activities.

Part 2

The curriculum was covered over a 9-week period, covering the 9 processes of devotional service instructed by Prahlad Maharaj. In addition



to learning the actual process, the personalities and stories related to each of the processes were also covered. Students

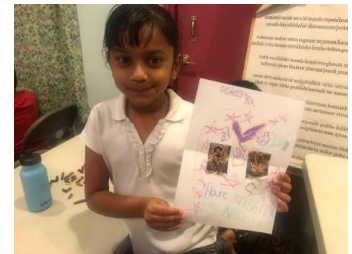
enjoyed exploring one process a week, followed by rhymes, stories and fun craft activities. Spiritual homework and quizzes were incorporated. Spiritual homework gave students an opportunity to practice the devotional processes at home in fun and engaging ways. Students had a platform to create and share with others what they have learned. They created wonderful offerings such as, designing their own creative prasadam/bhoga offering plates, crafting pushpam, archana plates, bookmarks, gratitude cards for Sri Sri Radha-Madhav Hari and much more!!

The students had opportunities throughout the year to share their learning during various festivals by presenting slokas, Vaishnava

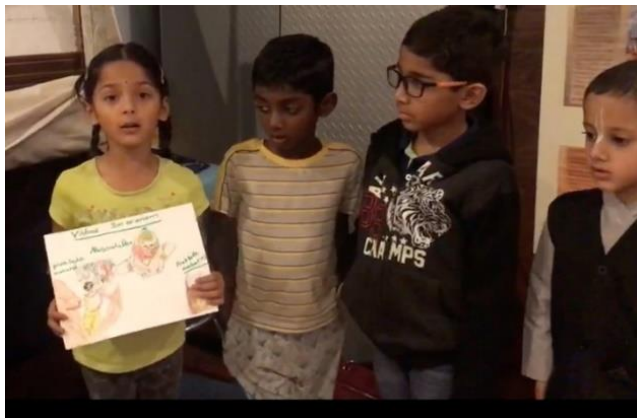
bhajans/rhymes and celebrated Krishnaween as well!!

Since the pandemic, vedic classes have been pivoted virtually on zoom and students are learning the Dasavataras.

The "Seed of Krishna Consciousness" is sprouting and being nourished with the guidance, support and blessings of Sri Sri Radha-Madhav Hari and the senior devotees!



Sujatha Samynathan,
Teacher



*"We should not take credit for
the service that we render. We
should consider it a privilege to
have the opportunity to be given
some service"*
(HH Niranjana Swami)

A “NEW” NORMAL

No doubt our life as we knew it has changed overnight. It's been a challenge for everyone to try to adapt to a new everything! We suddenly had to learn how to manage work, school, shopping, doctor's visits, temple visits and many other things from the “comfort” of our home. But according to social media, this “comfort” is not very comfortable, and then, there is the extra cooking and cleaning!

We were told to keep “social distancing”, but we are still socializing and probably much more than before –not on the desired personal platforms- but we are still connecting with others outside our homes. So, unless we are incommunicado, we are still socializing, we are just keeping physical distance. Many times, a phrase can cause an impression in our minds and we tend to immediately focus on that impression. If this impression happens to be a negative one, unfortunately, we fill up our minds with more and more negativity, leading to stress, apathy, anger, etc. Yes, the past 2-3 months have been overwhelming, stressful, painful, **but** if we are one of millions of people who are healthy, have a place to live, have food to eat and have loved ones around us, then we should consider ourselves blessed and should be thankful for what we have –and for what we do not have as well.

This time of lock-down, mask/gloves wearing, and extra hygiene protocols have been tough for children, teens and young adults as well. As adults, we can understand, or at least try to understand to the best of our abilities the new protocols. Things are changing so rapidly around us and we have to try to make our decisions with utmost care and maturity, and yes, with a lot of thought and patience as well.

Children, however, do not know what's going on. They just know that their happy times at the playground with their friends and going to school have come to a halt. If your children happen to be teenagers or young adults, well, they may not be very thrilled either, because their sense of “freedom” (normal at this stage in their lives) is gone and they are now having to “enjoy” more quality time at home with their parents and siblings 24/7.

It's a new learning time for everyone around the world. We can either choose to sit down and stress about it, or we can choose to accept what is happening and think for a moment that this too, is a temporary situation. An extremely awful situation, but temporary nevertheless because everything in this material realm is temporary.

Life will continue, we need to learn to recognize the situations and put our best efforts forward, understanding that this is the only thing we can do. *We are not controllers.* We cannot control our future, but we can have the best attitude to overcome the adversities and **we need to keep our faith strong.** No virus, no weapon, no natural disaster can ever destroy that.

Let's take these testing times as an opportunity to reconnect with our loved ones, with our family; but also, it is a good time for a little introspection, a good time to balance things and prioritize. Engage your children in kirtan, reading and discussion of Bhagavad Gita; have a Q&A session, many interesting conversations start this way.

So, while we are connected to so many social platforms, let's remember that the prime connection begins at home.

Physical distancing has also affected our temple, like many other places of worship, business, etc. At ISKCON Phoenix, strict protocols

were put in place to ensure the well-being of our resident devotees and the community in general. The devotees continue serving our presiding Deities without interruptions and upholding the attention and quality required for this service; even in the midst of financial struggles for the temple. They are missing the association of devotees, congregation and well-wishers.

Until the temple reopens, please take a look at our online programs, including Daily Darshan on Facebook Live @iskconofphoenix

We are also continuing Srimad Bhagavatam classes every morning from 7:35am to 8:05am and Bhagavad Gita class Mon-Thurs from 7:05pm to 7:35pm, also on Facebook Live

Summer program is about to start on June 1. Please check out the flyer for more information.

From all of us at ISKCON PHOENIX, stay healthy, stay strong in Krishna Consciousness, keep chanting and

ALWAYS REMEMBER KRISHNA

NEVER FORGET KRISHNA



ONGOING PROGRAMS

- ❖ Japa chanting*
5:00am to 5:55am and
6:30pm to 7:30pm
- ❖ Srimad Bhagavatam Reading*
Everyday (Teleconference)
5:55am to 6:15am
- * Teleconference Details:
US Dial in number:
209-399-9680 (no code required)
- ❖ Srimad Bhagavatam Class
Every day 7:35am to 8:05am
Facebook Live
- ❖ Bhagavad Gita class
Mon-Thurs 7:05pm to 7:35pm
- ❖ Sunday Feast Program (Join us for
Arati/Kirtan/Discourse
Every Sunday starting at 5:00pm
Please visit our Facebook for more
information)
- ❖ Bhakti-Vriksa Program (Bhagavad-Gita
studies every Friday 7:00pm to 9:00pm
online. For information contact:

Sri Govinda Das
281.799.1777 (All)

Ishvara Gauranga Das
480.519.3975 (Chandler/Gilbert)

Nama Priya Devi Dasi
480.299.4074 (Chandler)

Manoranjan Swain
425.324.7556 (North Phoenix/Scottsdale)

Kevala Bhakti Das
201.312.5987 (Ahwatukee/Tempe)

**Summer Camp begins
June 1,
register your child today!**

Communication from the Child Protection Team

-ISKCON Phoenix – 04/23/2020

Hare Krishna!

Dear all,

I pray this letter finds you in good health, both physically and spiritually.

As physical distance continues and more virtual communication increases, it is important to ensure the safety of our children while using computers or smartphones.

ISKCON's Child Protection Office has shared the following important tips. I am just going to add a note regarding privacy issues in various social media platforms. Many of us have different media accounts, and at various times, they encourage us to play games, like choosing our favorite colors, animals, etc., with the pretext of "finding out" what kind of person we are according to their "test". But what we really giving is some personal information, who we are, what we like and even how we think. So, next time a pop-quiz appears on your screen, think if the information you are about to give about yourself is worth sharing, and the same when it comes to your children.

Right In Your Own Home – Cyber Safety for Youth (From ISKCON's CPO)

Keeping children safe requires adult supervision and guidance throughout a child's development in all areas of life, including school, recreation, home and within spiritual community. We tend to have our guards down at home considering it a safe space. Giving children access to the world wide web allows people and experiences that necessitate adult monitoring right into your home.

Open conversation between adults and children about online safety is more imperative now than ever with kids learning at home and depending on technology to connect them to their otherwise-distant friends, family, and teachers.

In addition to the potential threats of digital viruses, malware, phishing scams, loss of privacy

and gaming addiction, children could be victims of cyber bullying, inappropriate content and predators. As the days turn into weeks and months of life at home, here are some practical suggestions to minimize online risk.

- * Monitor your child's device(s): Consider spot-checks. Review privacy settings on social networks. Look for any new apps that have been installed. Review their browsing history. Consider adding parental control software.
- * Have open discussions about content: Online safety conversations look dramatically different depending on the age of the child. However, no matter what the age, discuss expectations and family values around acceptable content — both sharing it and receiving it. Having age appropriate discussions with your child about their interactions online can help ensure they are having safe, healthy, respectful experiences.
- * Keep software and apps updated: Keeping device software and apps updated protects users from outside risk.
- * Moderate the use of technology: Children can lose their entire day surfing, gaming and watching videos. Establish screen limits, schedule device breaks, no phone zones (during meals, family worship, bedtime) and install software that features time limits.
- * A firewall can help block would-be attackers from gaining access to one's PC and home network. Comprehensive security solutions protect devices from malware and other threats.
- * Address peer pressure: Kids may share personal photos with friends that are inappropriate. Compromising photos can be used for bullying or blackmail. Discuss peer pressure with your child and how to respond. Remind them that nothing shared online is private.
- * Look out for scams: Talk about the many forms scams can take, such as phishing, malware, catfishing and clickbait.
- * Don't friend strangers: Predators create fake social media and gaming account profiles specifically to befriend children. They manipulate children to share their personal information, plans, and location. Discuss these risky scenarios and be aware of your child's friend circles. Be aware of what kind of chat apps your child is using.
- * Maximize privacy on social profiles: Help kids maximize privacy settings on social profiles.

Delete any profile or post information that unintentionally gives away personal data such as the names of family members, pets, school, hometown, and birthdays. Hackers can piece together this information to crack passwords or create authentic-looking phishing scams.

* Consider a family VPN: When using a public network or unsecured home network, Virtual Private Networks are a popular way to safeguard a family's online activity from outsiders. VPN encryption can protect a child against several virtual threats. For more detailed information on a wide range of topics from age-specific online safety to guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, visit

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

ISKCON Phoenix is holding online programs for children and adults to keep in touch and to keep our faith strong. If you have not joined any of these programs yet, I invite you to check them out. For information please visit our Facebook Page or website.

Please email me at smdd@cox.net if you have any questions.

Thank you and stay strong in Krishna Consciousness.

Your servant in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

SyamaMohini devi dasi
CPT-ISKCON PHOENIX

"Spirituality is all about realizing our connectedness with God, the universe and each other"

Anangamanjari Devi Dasi



HARE KRISHNA TEMPLE - ISKCON OF PHOENIX

100 S. Weber Drive, Chandler, AZ 85226 | (480) 705-4900 | www.iskconphoenix.com



Summer Programs - June 1st thru July 31st

Iskcon of Phoenix Summer Program is going online!

Using online platform, devotees will facilitate a virtual workshop for different age group children.

Age	Duration Day Time	Program Devotee
4 yr - 8 yr	8 Weeks Monday - Friday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Story time & Crafts Rupavilasini Mataji
7 yr & above	8 Weeks Monday - Thursday 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Bhagavad Gita Verses Suresh Prabhu
8 yr & above	8 Weeks Saturdays 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Vaisnava Bhajan Smita Mataji
11 yr - 15 yr	8 weeks Sundays 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	BG Study + Vaisnava Etiquette Nama Priya Mataji
13 yr - 18 yr	4 - 6 Weeks Wednesdays 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Relationships / Book of Our Life Syama Mohini Mataji












Sunday school Alumni

Our heartfelt gratitude to Ayush Rastogi for the outstanding service to SriSri Radha-Madhavahari! Here are the details of his service *in his own words...*

Hare Krishna!

My name is Aayush Rastogi, and I am a Boy Scout in Troop 285. On the dates of the March 14th and March 15th, we did a variety of tasks for the temple working 6 hours each day. We set up a wood fence at the back entrance of the temple, help clean up and rearrange the garden sector, added a new coat of paint, and did minor jobs such as trimming plants, sweeping debris and organizing materials. We had a lot of fun helping the temple out and everyone who participated- scouts, volunteers, parents- all learned many new skills.



Sincerely,

Aayush Rastogi

MEANING:

THIS SLOKA DESCRIBES ONE WHO OFFERS THEMSELVES TO THE LORD, THE PUREST OF DEVOTEES WHO NEVER GET TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT PASTIMES, PRAYING, CHANTING, OR DOING ANY KIND OF DEVOTIONAL SERVICE.

Sharing some works from the Madhava Class

Meaning: In this verse, Krishna is explaining how out of all the many-hooded Nagas, he is the greatest one, Ananta. And among the aquatics/water he is the demigod Varuna. Of the ancestors who have departed, he is Aryama. And among the dispensers of law (people who do not follow rules), he is Yama, the lord of death. Yama is one who gives punishment to miscreants and people who are very sinful are taken to his planet. Krishna is telling how he is all of these demigods, and they all represent him.

Verse 29



Brahma appears to Ananta



Ananta protects Vishnu

Verse 30: Pictures



Garuda is the carrier of Krishna.



This is a picture of Prahlada being burned in the fire because he was praying to Vishnu/Krishna, but he could feel no pain because he was so intent on Vishnu (if you see, he is still praying in while he is sitting in the fire).



10.18 SLOKA AND TRANSLATION:

VISTAREṆĀTMAṆO YOGAṂ VIBHŪTĪM CHA JANĀRDANA

BHŪYAH KATHAYA TRIPTĪR HI ŚHṚIṆVATO NĀSTI ME 'MRITAM

TELL ME AGAIN IN DETAIL YOUR DIVINE GLORIES AND MANIFESTATIONS, O JANARDAN. I CAN NEVER TIRE OF HEARING YOUR NECTAR.

