



# हिन्दी वाणी (HINDI VOICE)

HINDI VAANI—NEWSLETTER OF THE WELLINGTON HINDI SCHOOL

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Issue 10—September 2009

## PROMINENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HINDI SCHOOL STUDENTS

by Kashmir Kaur (parent)

**W**ellington Hindi School children made an imposing appearance on air at around 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12 August. Sashi Jokhan who hosts **Sangeet Sargam** at Access Radio (783AM) made them welcome in her Wellington studio which was a first time experience for most of these kids. That day's **Sangeet Sargam** session, themed "Indian Independence".

After a tour of the studio with Sunita Narayan (Coordinator of Wellington Hindi School), the children were briefly interviewed by Sashiji, before they sang India's national anthem on air.

"I felt a little nervous but with everyone else present in the studio, I could sing it well," said a first timer on air, 8 year old Supriti Singh. Supriti hopes to make more visits to the studio in future.



*On Air singing the Indian national anthem with parents' support.*



*About to go on air are the Hindi School students, from left are Mrinali Kumar, Supriti Singh, Alisha Singh, Upaasna Prasad, Anjali Gupta and Aditya Gupta*



*Hindi School students in front row are Anika Kumar, Mrinali Kumar, Ananya Arora, Krishna Narayan, Supriti Singh in the picture with the Acting Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency Kunal Roy.*

On India Independence Day, 15 August, another esteemed opportunity was given to our children at the India House in Lower Hutt. The gathering was hosted by the Acting High Commissioner His Excellency Kunal Roy.

The Hindi School children stole the show by singing both the national anthem and the national song. The ceremony was attended by many Indians who came in their colourful attire to mark India's 62<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day on a land far from India.

# Events, Experiences.....

## A LEARNING EXPERIENCE - Anuksha Narayan



Spending time in a rural secondary school in Fiji was definitely a different experience. After attending Rampur College for about a week I certainly noticed the extremities between teaching and learning styles in New Zealand and Fiji.

Apart from the obvious variances, for example use of technology, I was interested to see the relationships held between pupil and teacher. Though I have always known that students in Fiji have held high respect for their teachers, witnessing it was

another story. One of the major differences I noticed was the values and priorities of schools in Fiji and schools in New Zealand.

Students in New Zealand are encouraged from an early age to challenge and question their peers. Such a focus has been directed on this that in some ways it is almost as valuable as the academic aspect of education. Where as in Fiji there is a clear distinction between who the teacher is, who the students are, and who supplies the knowledge.

There is high value on academic aspects - this does not mean that students in Fiji do not challenge peers, but the emphasis to do so is definitely of less priority in early schooling years. I cannot judge whether this is good or bad because the academic levels of Rampur's students was immense. Children in form 1 were learning things I hadn't learnt till I was at least form 4. This made me realise that the learning capacity of children is astonishing. I'd been asked which thought was better - New Zealand schools, or Fiji schools? Answering this is difficult as both have their merits. There are clearly different values held by schools in Fiji and New Zealand.

The experience taught me valuable lessons and gave me insight into the kind of teacher I would some day like to become.

## HINDI SCHOOL MEETS OUR NEEDS - A parental view.....

Our son Tanish started school beginning of this year. As he started to enjoy his studies and activities at school, we began to realize that he was losing touch with his mother tongue (Hindi). In spite of our efforts of speaking Hindi at home with him, he seemed to be losing interest and became shy of speaking Hindi. As parents we were alarmed at this situation and soon became aware of Tanish's difficulty in having a conversation over the phone with his grandparents who live in India.

We got in touch with Sunitaji, who runs Sunday Hindi school in Wellington. Sunitaji understood our dilemma and explained about the Hindi classes for children. We started to take Tanish to Sunday school. It's a fun learning center with lots of story telling, singing and dancing but never losing sight of children's learning goals.

At the Hindi school we found families of different language backgrounds with single aim of preserving and advancing our children's cultural identity. Tanish settled down pretty quickly and has started to speak and practice Hindi language. Last week I saw this happening with Tanish taking pride in writing his name in Hindi. This has given him a lot of confidence and it has brought us much joy.

We make it a point to be regular at the Hindi school and in fact, we as parents are enjoying socializing with other families from India who come there. It has become cultural and social point for us adults as well. We congratulate Sunitaji and her team on such a fantastic work they are doing and extend our support to them in whatever way we can.

Dhanyabaad. Taruna and Tapesh Trivedi, Wellington

## THE CHANGING FACE OF WELLINGTON

AsiaNZ Foundation released their latest report on: "Asians in Wellington: Changing the ethnic profile of the capital city". The report was launched on 1 September by the mayor of Wellington, Her Lordship Kerry Prendargast.

Auckland University geographer Dr Wardlow Friesen's report looks at Asians in Wellington and the changing ethnic profiles of New Zealand's capital city. The report notes that after Auckland, Wellington has the second-largest number of Asians in its population. Mayor Prendargast commended the report as a "fascinating snapshot of Wellington's transformation into a truly international city". To read the full report, visit: <http://www.asianz.org.nz/our-work/knowledge-and-research/outlook-series/outlook10>

## DIVERSITY FORUM 2009

The annual diversity forum was held on 23-24 August in Wellington. Amongst many topics discussed in various foras was the issue of community languages organised by the Office of Ethnic Affairs. Community languages are generally referred to those languages that are not classed as official languages and not taught as international languages in schools.

Our Coordinator, Sunita Narayan spoke on the challenges and benefits of learning community languages, with a focus on practical ways to support learning of Asian languages in the context of New Zealand's increasing Asian population and growing trade links with Asia.

# Activities .....



*Learning healthy cooking with Aparna Roy*



*Practising a Yoga "asna" with Aparnaji*



*Making rakhis and cards for Raksha Bandhan*



*Cards for Raksha Bandhan*



*Rakhis made by the children*



*Trying out Bharata Natyam during a workshop run by Prabha Ravi, Director & Teacher of Natraj School of Dance*

# Jokes, Recipe, Lesson.....

## Our thanks to:

- Dr RK Gupta for donating \$1100 to our school
- Vivek Kinra, Director NZ Academy of Bharata Natyam & Mudra Dance Company in our fundraising efforts
- McDonalds, Petone for providing us with vouchers to give to children as prizes—Hutt branch
- Karishma Goundar & Ratnabali Bose for giving up their time to teach the girls dance
- Dilip Matthews for teaching the students music
- Kashmir Kaur for the article on the front page of this newsletter
- Srimati Pramila Sepaha (Preeti Gupta's mum) who has sent ghagras from India for the girls dance at the annual function

## DIWALI



**D**iwali is celebrated to honor the return of Lord Rama, his wife, Sita, and his brother, Lakshmana, after a 14-year exile in the forest.

During Rama's exile, the evil king Ravana of Lanka lured him away from his hut and then kidnapped Sita while he was away. After many years and the help of an army, Rama defeated the evil king Ravana of Lanka and rescued Sita. After he rescued her, his exile was up, and he was able to return home.

Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil. To celebrate the return of the victorious Rama, the whole city of Ayodhya is believed to have lit up their houses with lamps in an expression of joy.

## NOTICES

Food & Lifestyle Festival (to celebrate World Vegetarian Day), 20 September, Overseas Terminal from 10-4pm

Kirtan Samelan, FIA Hall, Halford Place, Petone - 10 October

Diwali Mela - 18th October, TSB Arena

FIA Fundraising dinner night, Horticultural Hall, - 28 November



## Raita

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups yoghurt
- 1 cup grated cucumber
- 1 cup grated carrot
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- Salt to taste , Chilli powder to taste
- Chopped coriander leaves to taste



### Method:

Mix all dry ingredients together. Chill and serve as an accompaniment to any curry or can be used as a dip.

## Important dates:

Wellington Hindi school annual function  
Newlands School Hall 12 September 5pm

## Wellington Hindi School terms

Term 3—26 July –27 September  
Term 4—11 October –13 December

Ed-ul-Fitr—late September  
Pitr Paksh— 4-18 September  
Navratam—19-27 September  
Diwali—17 October

## JOKES

**Boss: Where were you born?**

**Sardar: India ..**

**Boss: which part?**

**Sardar: What 'which part'? Whole body was born in India .**

**2 sardar were fixing a bomb in a car.**

**Sardar 1: What would you do if the bomb explodes while fixing.**

**Sardar 2: Dont worry, I have one more.**

**Sardar: What is the name of your car?**

**Lady: I forgot the name, but it starts with 'T'.**

**Sardar: Oh, what a strange car, starts with Tea. All cars that I know start with petrol.**

## LESSON CORNER

### Some basic words

English	Hindi	English	Hindi	English	Hindi
yes	haan हाँ	boy	ladka लड़का	long	lamba लम्बा
no	nahi नहीं	girl	ladki लड़की	dirty	ganda गन्दा
I	mae मैं	man	aadmi आदमी	clean	saaf साफ
you	tum तुम	woman	aurat औरत	hot	garam गर्म
you	aap आप	car	gadi गाड़ी	cold	thanda ठण्डा
we	hum हम	big	bada बड़ा	cheap	sasta सस्ता
they	ve वे	small	chhota छोटा	expensive	mahnga महंगा