

GLORY OF TEACHERS HIGHLIGHTED ON VHP'S CHILDREN CAMP –JULY 03, 2010

More than 60 children from all over the Sydney suburbs attended a camp to learn about their Hindu/Indian culture in Toongabbie Public School on 3rd July 2010. The camp was organized by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) of Australia.

The attending children and their parents were traditionally welcomed by Smt Susheela, Smt Sangeetha, Sow Padhmaja, and Smt Rohini. Smt Akila Ramarathinam, Joint General Secretary, VHP Australia inaugurated the camp. During her speech, she highlighted the importance of the children camp and mentioned that such camps inculcate the “Hindu / Indian” culture into the young children who are the foundation of country’s future.

The camp was aimed at promoting Hindu culture, traditions and their heritage to children, especially to those born in Australia. The parents/grand parents of these children come from India, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and Indonesia.

The camp commenced with teaching of “Guru Stotram” by Smt. Jayanthi Narayanan. This hymn praises the “Guru” (Teachers) and their role in guiding and directing a person to achieve his / her ultimate goal.

This was followed by introducing simple Sanskrit words that are used in day-to-day practice by Shri Narayanan and Shri Rahul Vedi. The “Yoga” session was the next one to follow and this was capably conducted by Smt Sureka & her team. The children then went out to the playground to play Indian outdoor games prior to enjoying a delicious Indian vegetarian lunch. The games sessions were managed by Shri Ramyavaran and Shri Joshi, members of Hindu Swyam Sevak (HSS) and Kum Puja Sashi, Kum Bhavna Satyamoorthi and Prashant Ramasubramanian, members of the Hindu Youth Australia (HYA) wing of VHP Australia.

The afternoon session commenced with making clay Ganesha models. It was amazing to watch Ganesha moorthi shaping up in a variety of forms as per children’s imagination.

The guests and children’s parents arrived in the afternoon to watch the children showcasing what they learnt during the day. Mr. Brown, Deputy Principal of Toongabbie Public School, Clr Kathie Collins of Blacktown Council and Mrs Kumaran, Primary Teacher of Toongabbie Public School enjoyed the children chanting the “Guru Stotram”, performing Yoga and presenting the Sanskrit words learnt on the day.

While speaking, Mr. Brown impressed upon the VHP that the school's premises is being put to good use for inculcating values to children. He thanked the VHP for inviting him to this value based workshop.

The Blacktown Councilor, Kathie Collins compared the old traditions of Aborigines to human evolution and mankind and how the aborigines maintained their identity. She was impressed by the Indian philosophy and the activities of the VHP in conducting workshops that significantly added value to human life.

One of the children who attended the camp, Abhishek Maran, summarized and presented the activities to the audience.

While proposing a vote of thanks, Shri Narayanan explained that prayers purify the mind. After all a purified mind is the best benefactor to receive divine blessings. The day's theme being teacher, he explained the difference between a relative teacher and an absolute teacher with a practical example.

Shri Narayanan thanked all the guests, parents and volunteers of Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia. He said that without the help of VHP volunteers and parents of children who stayed back to assist them, the camp would not have been a success.

The camp concluded with everyone tasting sumptuous “samosas” in the afternoon. When leaving, one could see the children started asking their parents when the next camp is going to be held.