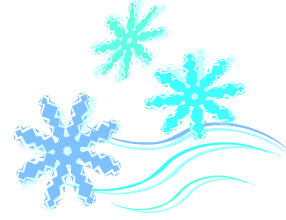




Newsletter



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS OF GGSA

December 2011

'Tis is the Season

Now that the Thanksgiving Holiday is over, the momentum of celebration is still up in the air. We have just finished the celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday, and continue to celebrate by collecting toys, food, and winter clothes for the needy this winter. The organizers would like to thank everyone who participated in sharing with the less fortunate.

This month we continue to extrapolate on the very concept of Seva which was one of the discussion topics held by SikhRI earlier this year with our students. Although a very innate concept of the Sikh Religion, GGSA faculty continues to find creative venues to teach, and incorporate it for the students. It is crucial that you, as parents, participate, and involve your children in continuing to make Seva an integral part of their lives, as our Gurus' wanted.

It is important for children, and all of us understand that Seva is not something we do around the holidays or in the Gurdwara. Besides the GGSA members who spend numerous hours in planning, implementing, and teaching our children, we also have dedicated staff who continue to volunteer on a monthly basis at Stamford Women's Shelter.

If every family participates even just once a year, it would make a tremendous difference, and help the organizers, receivers, and us personally on many levels. Having your little ones participate in Toy Drive (ends Dec 10th), is a great way of teaching them to share their material goods.

The air is filled with jingles and holiday music! You can't help but want to buy, oh! one more holiday décor for the house, and maybe another winter themed, cozy night suit for your child. And what the heck, lets bake another batch of holiday cookies, and have lots of fun making a snowman! Let's hope the weather cooperates, and we end this year on a safe, joyous, and a pleasant note.



December Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to.....

13th Muntara Kaur

15th Tegh Singh

16th Simran Kaur

16th Tanveen Kaur

18th Harleen Kaur

21st Ravjot Singh

26th Gurveen Kaur

30th Kirit Singh



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER....

Sunday, December 3rd: Children's Divan

Please encourage your kids to participate in kid's divan every first Sunday of the month. Please get your child ready with Bani, Shabads, or Speeches. We will focus on themes for the month.

Location: Norwalk Gurdwara at 11:15 am – 12:30 pm

Every 1st Sunday of the month is half-day at GGSA followed by Children's Divan. Please send email to neena2007@gmail.com or call at 203-563-9737 for any questions.

Pump up the Vaja!

Saturday, December 10th: Toy Drive

We would like to share a toy and bring a smile. Please bring lightly used toy or new toy to give to the needy. We have reserved a table for GGSA Kids to take part in a gift wrapping party. Pizza and refreshments will be served to the participants.

Location: St. Luke's 141 Franklin St, Stamford, CT @11:00 -2:00 pm.

Please call Reena Kaur or Tejinder Kaur (listed below) for more information and check out: <http://www.thedailystamford.com/neighbors/volunteers-are-lifeblood-lifeworks>

Saturday, December 19th: Stamford Women's Shelter Sewa

By Sikh Community 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Location: The Women's Shelter Stamford Street: 8 Woodland Place, Stamford CT. Preparation at Norwalk Gurdwara 4 - 6 pm
 Serving Women's Shelter 5:30 – 6:30 pm

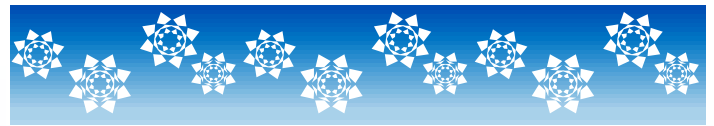
Contacts: Reena Kaur 203-595-9642 or Tejinder Kaur 203-219-3167.

Sewadaars Welcome!

Sunday, December 25th & Sunday January 1st:

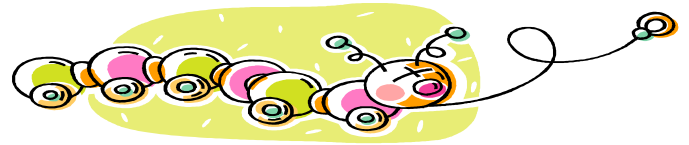


No Sunday School! GGSA Holiday!



LET'S CHECK IT OUT!

Library Hours: Come and inspire yourselves and your children by checking out a book from the school library. Open Sundays 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm (except the 1st Sunday of the month).



Book of the Month is: The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Translated in Punjabi. Follows a progression of a caterpillar until he eats so much that it turns into a cocoon, and later a beautiful butterfly!

Some teachers highly recommend it. It's a great way to learn colors, food names, and days of the week in Punjabi

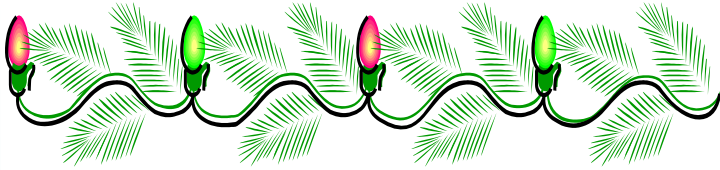
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- All excused absence email to ggsa-parents-owner@yahoo.com by 8:00 a.m. Sunday.
- GSA website will be updated regularly including newsletter <http://www.gtbf.org/ggsa>
- If you have any objections to your children's pictures in the newsletter or the website, please let the school administrators know.
- Please update your children's birthdays with the GGSA administrators.
- When you come to Sunday School, please Teko Matha in the back during Ardaas, and come to the class immediately so we can start on time.

DECEMBER GURPURABS

DEC 21ST Sahibzadey (Elder) Jyoti Jot

DEC 26TH Sahibzadey (Younger) Jyoti Jot



What's Happening in Our Classrooms...

'Panj Takhats' Lead the Way....

While the parents and faculty attended Open House in October, students from 10th to 12th grades took charge of teaching their younger peers.

They continue to take this responsibility of leadership by formalizing their roles and creating teams of what is called "Five Takhats." Each Takhat will have a captain and a co-captain who will have a team of younger students under them. This program is coordinated by Inderpal Singh and Gurmeet Kaur.

Each month, a Takhat will be responsible for leading the morning Assembly. The goal of forming these Takhats is so the older students have an ownership and pride in their Sunday School. The younger students would also feel that they belong to a "team."

"It's very important that the parents hold their children who are captains and co-captains accountable for their role. This program cannot succeed without their leadership." Inderpal Singh, one of the coordinators of "Panj Takhats"

Furthermore, these teams of "Panj Takhats" would participate and rotate in regular sevaas in Children's Divan, Sunday School fire drill, and provide a support system to the faculty and other students of GGSA.

Most importantly, younger kids will have a Big Brother/Big Sister to look up to. Gurmeet Kaur hopes that it is taken a step further where kids will feel they can reach to their captains and co-captains for any type of support.

What's Happening in Our Classrooms (cont....)

ਝੁਝੁਝੀ Teachers Respond....

My class is learning a poem on Guru Nanak Dev Ji to celebrate his birthday, and I am hoping they will be able to recite/read/sing on next Children's Divan.

Swaran Kaur

Our Chotey Sahibzadeys are learning to recognize the first letters of their names in Gurmukhi and can say 'my name is' in Punjabi. They are learning what other things start with those letters.

Their favorite is when we do the song head, shoulders, knees and toes etc... In Punjabi, they always say 'can we do it super fast'.

We end class with the first pauri of Jap Ji Sahib, and nearly all the children know it, and can say it by themselves. They are very proud when they do this. May be we will do it at one of the kids divans.

Kuldip Kaur

Since I have a co-teacher, we play games in teams. Show and tell is very popular.

My class took part in Children's Divan with a Kavita, 'Sach Kehna available in the book <http://kiklikids.com>

Narvin Kaur



Do you have any ideas, stories, or articles you would like to share with your Sikh Community? Please email Gurmeet Kaur @gurmeetznw@gmail.com

All stories and writings subject to GGSA Team approval as contents must be relevant to GGSA and the Sangat.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What Does Seva Mean to You?



"Seva means when you give money [to Gurdawara]" -Anshvir Singh

"Doing important things for other people." -Manleen Kaur



"Helping others... like passing out napkins." -Bismaad Singh



Seva means "doing good deeds" -Sukhmani Kaur

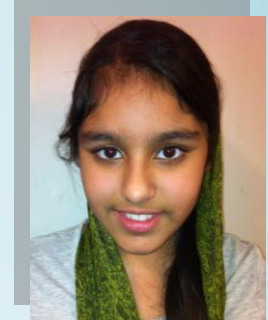


QUESTION OF THE MONTH (CONT...)

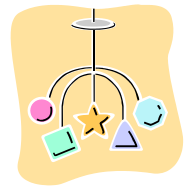
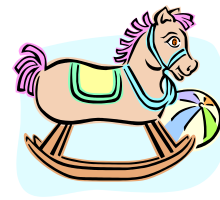
"Seva means helping someone." -Gurveen Kaur



"People helping others and treating everyone equal." -Kiran Kaur



Congratulations to the Families of New Babies!!!!



Our very own GGSA Faculty, Chotey Sahibzadey Teacher, Harleen Kaur and Inderpal Singh welcomed a son, **Gursevak Singh**, on September 20th.Gursevak will boss his two older sisters, Japleen and Harsimran Kaur.

Congratulations to Talwinder Kaur and Kamalpreet Sing. They had a baby girl on August 31st, **Asees Kaur**, who has an older brother, Nirvair Singh.

Gurmeet Kaur and Maneet Singh were blessed with their first Baby boy **Kanvar Bir Singh** on October 10th.



Guru Gobind Singh Ji Academy

ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਅਕੈਡਮੀ

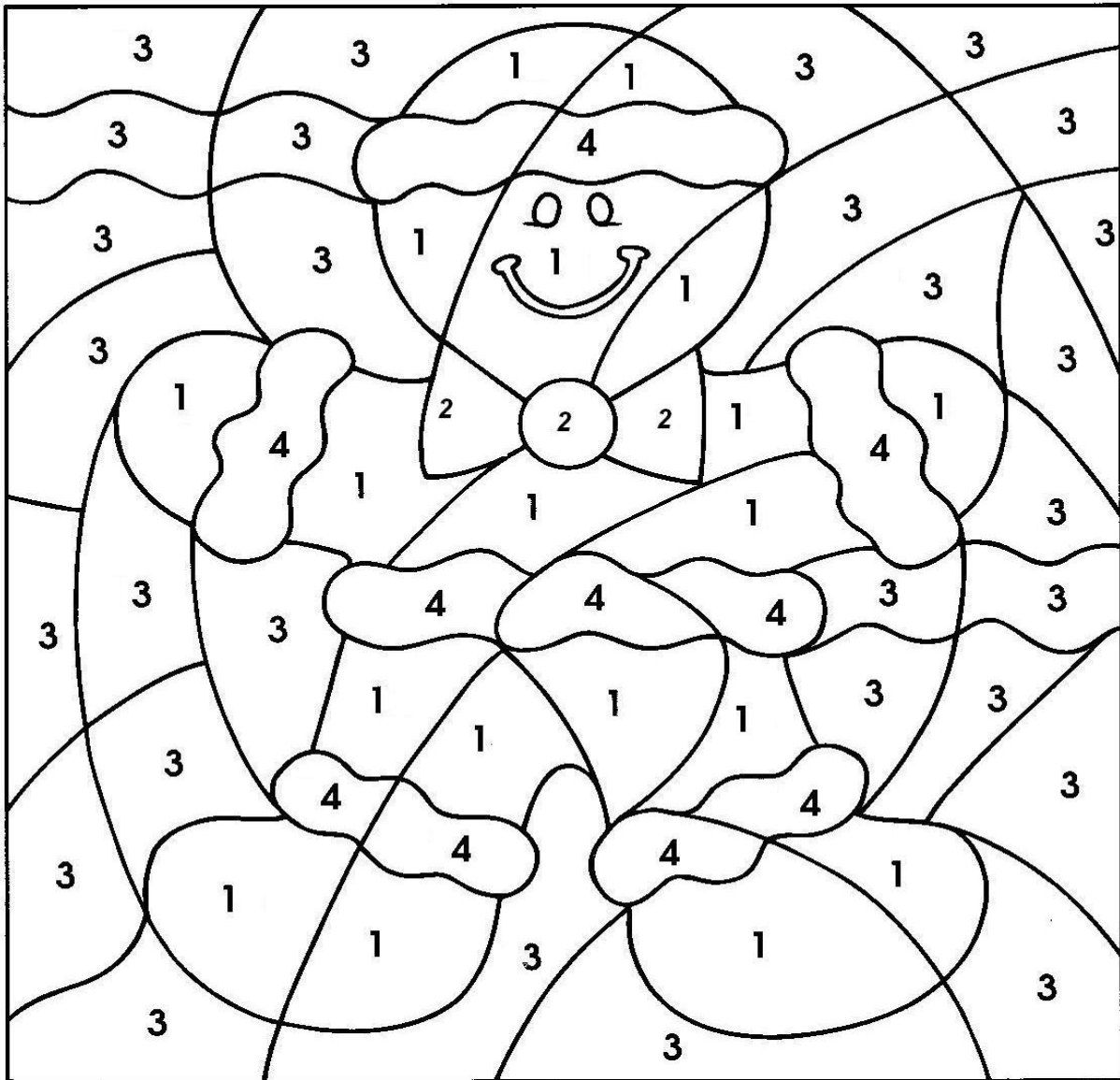
Compassion || Faith || Courage || Dedication || Sovereignty



KIDS CORNER

by Sharan Kaur

1-Brown 2-Red 3-Green 4-Yellow



NAME: _____

Color in the picture to earn a place on the bulletin board!