

# The Basil Beacon



MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2023

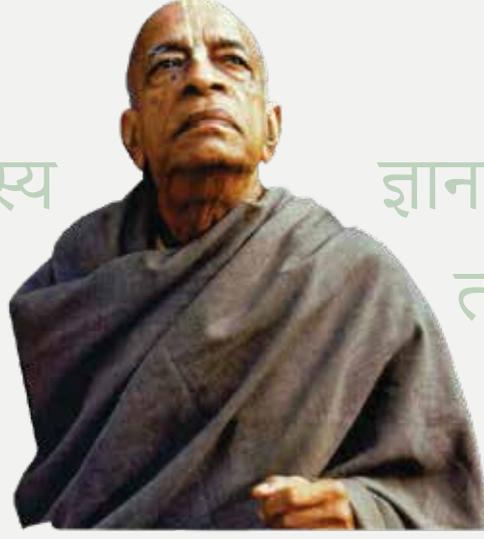


**BASIL  
WOODS**

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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चक्षुरुन्मीलितं येन



ज्ञानाञ्जनशालाकया  
तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः ॥

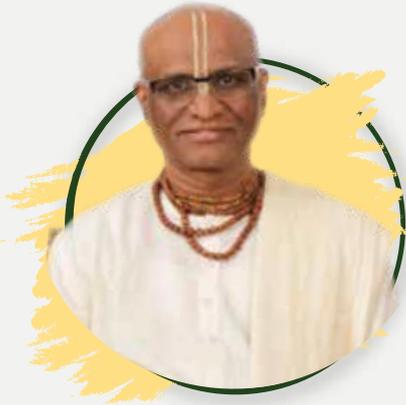
## *Our Inspiration*

# HDG AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

The exemplary ambassador of Indian culture and wisdom

Celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of His Divine Grace ( 1896 - 2021 )

## *Board of Trustees*



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**Justice Nitte Santosh Hegde**

Advisory Board Member to the Trust



# Message from the Executive Director

Dear Parents and Students of BWIS,

I hope this newsletter finds you well! Am writing to you today to share some exciting news about our school's first month in session.

BWIS commenced its fourth academic year this June. This month has already seen a number of exhilarating events. We kicked off the academic year with an orientation program and a unique mango festival, where we welcomed new students and gave an overview of the BWIS' approach. The school also organised Jagannath Ratha Yatra, the International Yoga Day celebrations, and held the Student Investiture Ceremony towards the end of the month. My best wishes to the newly elected student leaders for a fruitful tenure ahead.



**Alok Bhimesh**

Executive Director, BWIS

We are pleased to note that our students are off to a great start. They have made new friends and have positively engaged themselves with the school activities. Our teachers are doing an outstanding job in providing them with a challenging and supportive learning environment.

In addition to our regular classes, we have offered diverse club activities - that include robotics, financial literacy, archery, quiz and others.

I am so proud of the work that our students, teachers, and staff have done this month. We are off to a great start, and am excited to see what the future holds for BWIS. I look forward to working with you to ensure that our students have a successful year.

Hare Krishna!



# *Message from the Head of School*

Dear Parents and Students of BWIS,

I hope this note finds you in good health and high spirits. As we embrace the month of July, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your unwavering support and dedication towards the growth and development of our school community.

Values are the essence of our existence, and they shape the core of our character. At Basil Woods, we strive to instill values that transcend classrooms and textbooks. We believe that compassion, integrity, respect, and empathy are the building blocks of a harmonious society. Let us continue to nurture these values in our hearts and minds, for they will guide us in making wise choices and becoming responsible global citizens.

June brought with it two significant days that deserve our attention. World Environment Day reminded us of the fragile balance between humanity and nature. Yoga Day, on the other hand, celebrated the union of mind, body and soul.

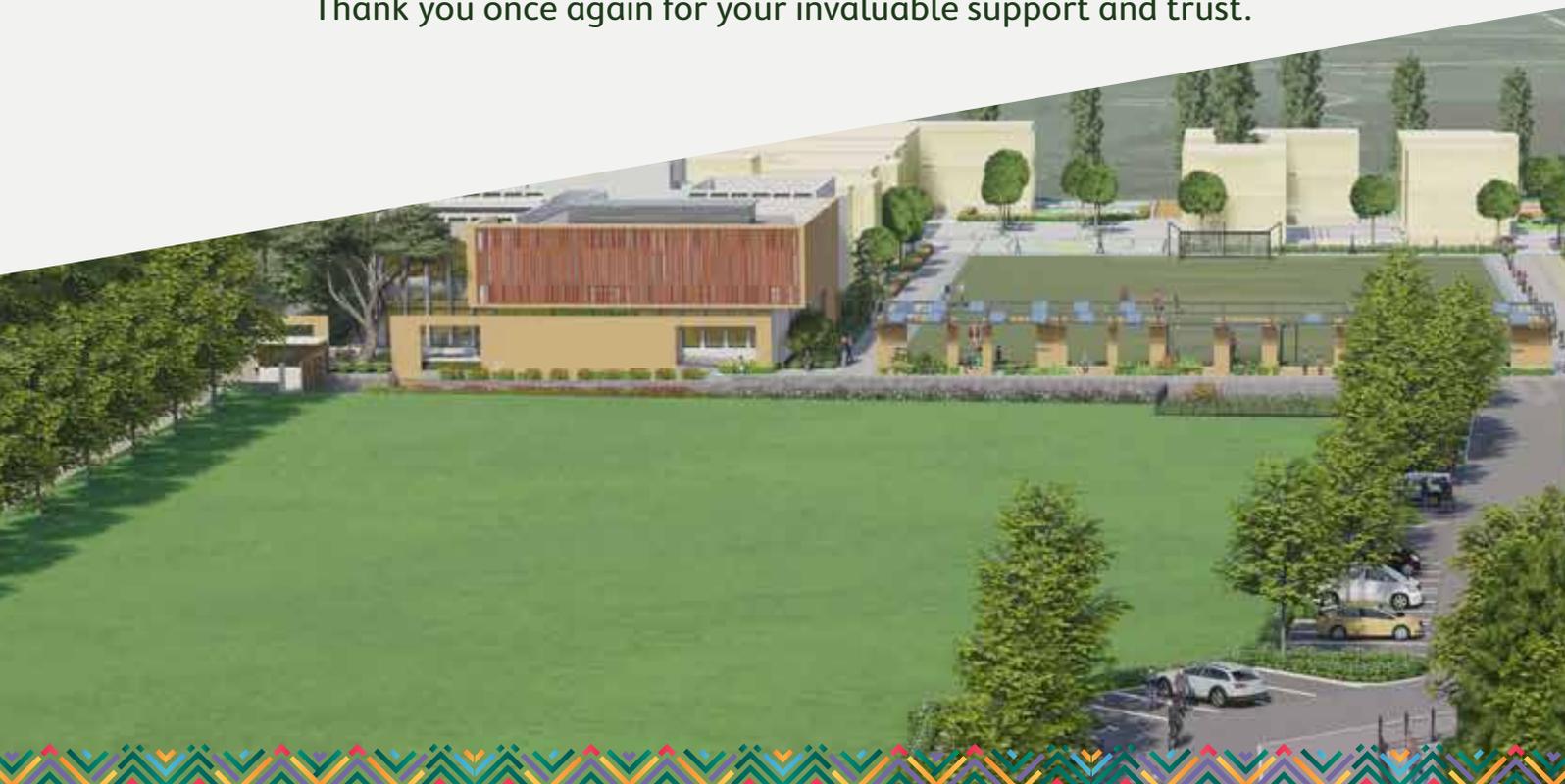
As we navigate through the second half of the year, let us remain committed to our collective vision of creating a nurturing and empowering learning environment for our children. Together, we can shape a brighter future for our students and equip them with the tools to make a positive impact on the world.

Thank you once again for your invaluable support and trust.



**Shailaja Appanaboyina**

Head of School, BWIS



# Beauty of BWIS

BWIS felt different when I walked into the classes for the first time. Seeing BWIS fully operational with all the students made me realize what a good and unique school it is. Students at this school experience learning in a culturally rich environment, celebrating the amazing experiences each brings to the classroom.

BWIS stands out from other schools because it values its students' experiences and encourages them to share their perspectives. Culture Connect classes, language classes, and events such as the Panihati Dahi-Chida competition and Rath-Yatra are helping accomplish this. I thoroughly enjoyed praying, dancing, and chanting the holy name of God as we participated in these events.



An advantage of culturally based schools is that they encourage empathetic and understanding behavior in students. By learning about different cultures, students acquire a greater appreciation for the world's diversity, and they can learn to see things from different perspectives. Our cultural heritage gives the students a stronger sense of pride in who they are and where they come from. A school environment that fosters inclusion can be particularly beneficial for students who may feel marginalized or excluded in other school environments.

In conclusion, this school places a high priority on culture and students while providing a meaningful educational experience.

~ Tahnee Nagaich , Grade 9A

# World Environment Day



"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children." At Basil Woods we celebrated June 5th, The World Environment Day to encourage environmental awareness and promote action among our children. The week-long celebration saw discussions in the class about what the environment means to us, how it is important and how the students would like to bring about a change in mindsets and habits to preserve our environment.



Children sowed seeds outdoors, as they took a pledge to plant more trees and take care of the natural world. They captured the memory through photos with their classmates as a step to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.



# Rath Yatra



Excitement and energy filled the air as Rath yatra, the festival of chariots was celebrated at Basil Woods. Children and teachers rejoiced at the festivities which began with the Arti and Chehra Pohra. Children were overjoyed to pull the Ratha and joined in the procession whole heartedly. The school echoed with cries of "Jai Jagannath!"

As children across grades rejoiced together on the school grounds, All the children danced in bliss for lord Jagannath and the celebrations culminated with an offering of the traditional Khaja sweet to the lordships, followed by a specially curated lunch.



# *Panihati Festival*

Panihati Chida Dahi Mahotsav, a festival celebrated to remember a heart warming event that happened in Panihati on the banks of River Ganges. This festival commemorates the most unusual and delightful meeting between Srila Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami and Nityananda Prabhu.

The story goes that Raghunatha Dasa was hesitant to approach the Lord and paid obeisances from a distance. When Nityananda Prabhu came to know this, He gave a unique punishment to Raghunatha Dasa, of preparing and serving Chida Dahi to all the assembled devotees. It was a delicious combination of curd or milk with chipped rice, mixed with a variety of fruits and dry fruits.



Here are a few glimpses of our students putting their culinary skills to test and thoroughly enjoying the Chida-Dahi competition!



# *A Change we need*

Imagine waking up every morning scared to go to school, knowing that you will be bullied. It can be frightening, ruining the purpose of a school where we are supposed to learn in a happy, safe, and interactive manner.

Bullying can make us feel bad about ourselves, causing low self-esteem. Being bullied can have a huge impact on our physical and mental health. It can make us worried and anxious, and even make it hard to sleep at night. By stopping bullying, we can promote a healthier and happier lifestyle for everyone.

It's important to remember that each one of us is unique in our own way. We have different appearances, personalities, interests, talents, and dreams. Bullying makes us feel hurt about our differences. Imagine the world being a place where people are only software engineers. Do you think that will be in balance? Our differences make the world a beautiful and exciting place.

Being kind to others is a superpower. Do you know we can be heroes? Being kind to someone can make their day better and help them feel loved. By doing so, we inspire others to be kind too.

So let's follow these simple rules to prevent bullying:

Rules, Recognize, Report, Respond, Refuse, and Replace

These are the six golden steps that one should follow, either as a victim of bullying or as a witness to bullying.

If you were once a bully, remember how it would feel if someone treated you that way. We should treat everyone the way we would want to be treated.

So, keeping these things in mind together, we will create a powerful force of kindness that can change the world. Let us join hands to prevent bullying at BWIS and show compassion for each other.

~ Ruchira Goniguntla and Disha Kumar

Grade 8



# *Jokes and Riddles*

What can you put in a bucket to make it weigh less?

*Answer: A hole.*

What is at the end of a rainbow?

*Answer: The letter W*

What is the longest word in the dictionary?

*Answer: Smiles, because there is a mile between each 's'.*

Which month of the year has 28 days in it?

*Answer: All of them.*

Which tree can you carry in your hand?

*Answer: A palm!*

What starts with T, ends with T, and has T in it?

*Answer: A teapot.*

Which is the only place where today comes before yesterday?

*Answer: The dictionary.*

What goes all around the world but stays in a corner?

*Answer: A stamp.*

If you throw a blue stone into the Red Sea, what will it become?

*Answer: Wet.*

Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?

*Answer: Incorrectly.*

I am easy to lift, but hard to throw. What am I?

*Answer: A feather.*

What has a neck but no head?

*Answer: A bottle.*



# Special Assembly-Discipline



The students of grade 9A conducted the first assembly of the academic year 2023–24. It was incredibly spectacular and educational. Discipline creates habits, habits make routines, and routines become who you are. Discipline helps us do what needs to be done. Not only does discipline allow one to establish a positive action. It helps us train our minds and body and enables us to focus on our goals and to regulate our emotions.



The students did a fantastic job of portraying the value of discipline in life by executing a brief skit - of a teacher engaging with the students in the classroom and outlining the importance of discipline as the topic for the assembly. A truly great way to start the school year!

Our esteemed director, Mr. Alok Bhimesh, and Principal, Ms. Shailaja Appanaboyina witnessed the assembly. The event was well conducted and students from grades 1-8 were all present.



# Investiture Ceremony



It was a moment of pride for the school community as the new student council members took an oath to be the torch bearers in a formal investiture ceremony. As the saying goes, "A leader knows the way, shows the way and goes the way", our young leaders will take on new challenges and their determination, dedication and sense of service to their fellow students was evident in their speeches.



As rightly pointed out by our Director, student elections give students the chance to exercise their choice in a democratic setting and understand the value of each vote, in shaping their surroundings. We congratulate our student representatives and wish them all the best as they set out to make a positive impact.



# Mont Desk: Red Day!

Red, a strong color, isn't it? It symbolizes love, passion and desire. Wearing red makes one appear bold and confident. It is truly fascinating how colors can trigger emotions in the human mind and body. Recently, the Montessori children participated in Red Day, where the young ones all wore red and engaged in various activities to learn about the color. Through this activity, they got an opportunity to explore the color and dive into the world of red with the aid of activities like origami and "show and tell".



The young ones appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed this educational programme. We also got to observe their artistic and creative abilities through this activity. As a little extra information, check out what different colors symbolize:

*Yellow: Happiness, Hope*

*Orange: Energy*

*Blue: Calmness, responsibility*

*Green: New beginnings, Nature*

*Purple: Creativity, wealth*

*Black: Elegance, mystery*

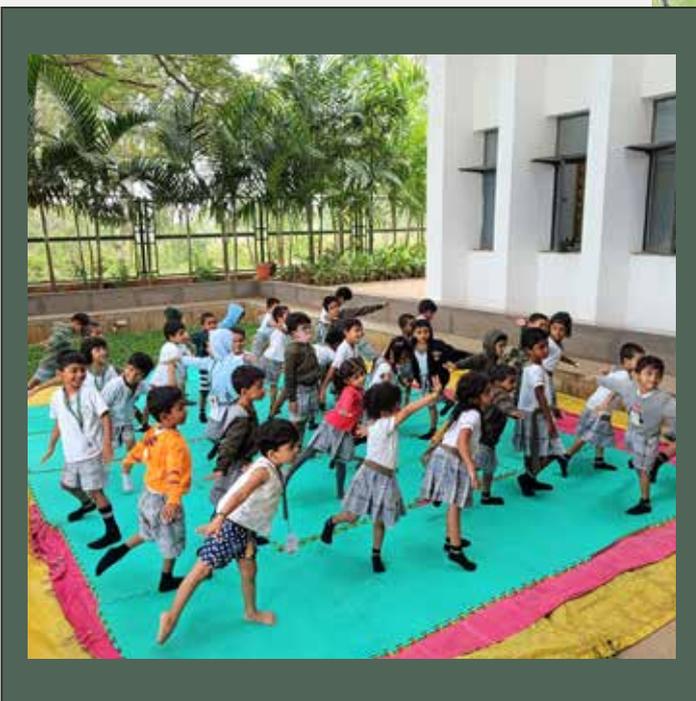
*White: Virtue, purity*



# *International Yoga Day*



Yoga is the journey of the self, through the self, to the self" - The Bhagavad Gita on International Yoga Day. Pleased to share with you about how our students celebrated this important day. United and connected with other under the early morning sun, not a single student was left behind. Our youngest Yogis, the Mont 2 and 3 children also participated, enjoying the experience of stretching and strengthening in the outdoors. Here are some glimpses.



# *Compassion and charity go hand in hand!*

“The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.” - **Albert Schweitzer**

A lot has been said about compassion and charity. From Buddha to Gandhi, many great men and women alike have been strong advocates for the same.

**Compassion** is a feeling of deep sympathy for another living being stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering. **Charity** is the voluntary giving of help, typically in the form of money or service, to those in need.

Compassion is an emotion and charity is an act done because of compassion. When people practise charity, they are in control of the situation, can pick and choose when to help, who to help, how much to help, how much it will cost them. When people are compassionate, they do not consciously decide to act. They are involved on an emotional and unconditional level. There is no limit imposed on how much help is given, and they do not count the cost.

A research by a group of scientists at the Max Planck Institute Germany, found that infants and chimpanzees spontaneously engage in helpful and supportive behavior and will even overcome obstacles to do so. They apparently do so from an intrinsic motivation without the expectation of any reward. A recent study they ran indicated that infants' pupil diameters, which are a measure of attention, decrease, both when they help and when they see someone else helping, suggesting that the alleviation of others' suffering feels rewarding — whether or not they engage in the helping behaviour themselves.

Compassion is a natural tendency and is essential for human endurance. Being compassionate and charitable brings joy to our body, heart and soul.

Have you ever been moved to tears, seeing someone's loving and compassionate gesture? If you recall a time when you were feeling blue and suddenly a close friend or relative calls you for urgent help with a problem, you may have noticed that as your attention shifted to their issue, your mood lifted and you may have felt energized. Before you knew it, you may even have felt better and gained some perspective on your own situation as well.

A life of meaning and purpose is one focused less on satisfying oneself and more on others. It is a life with a greater meaning, rich in compassion, altruism, charity and humility. The time has come when we need to step back and reflect on what is important for humanity.





In Bhagavad-gita, Lord Krishna says,

*“He who has let go of hatred, who treats all beings with kindness and compassion, who is always serene, free of the ‘I’ and ‘mine’, firm and patient, his whole mind focused on me --- that is the man I love best.”*

With the ever increasing need for compassion and charity in today’s world, it is time to start a ripple effect which will hopefully impact the whole community at large.

A very compelling example is the Akshaya Patra Foundation, that feeds lakhs of school children across India every day, leading to an upward surge in school enrolment and attendance.

## *Cleanliness*

As we celebrate World Environment Day this month, the term “cleanliness” with respect to our surroundings, takes great significance. Cleanliness is broadly related to good health and it is time for us to understand that a clean and green environment leads to a healthy world and is the key to the existence and survival of life on planet earth. Therefore, it is the duty of each one of us to do our bit to save and protect our environment.

Let us pledge to use reusable containers and bags, lessen the usage of plastic, dispose garbage in the right manner, convert waste into compost, use electricity and water wisely, cycle and walk more and use more of public transport.



# News Corner



## International News:

Japan's tallest skyscraper, a part of the ambitious 'urban village,' completed in Tokyo  
Titanic sub destroyed in 'catastrophic implosion,' all five aboard dead.

## National News:

Four domestic flights diverted from Delhi airport due to 'bad weather'.  
Several educational institutions shut due to heavy rainfall in Karnataka.



# Model United Nations (MUN)

## Introduction:

We have introduced MUN as a compulsory activity of Global Perspective. Students will participate in the upcoming MUN to be conducted by DPS South Bangalore, on the 26th, 27th and 28th of July

## Professional development:

MUN team teachers have undergone professional development training conducted by "Learn with the leaders" under the aegis of Harvard. Math, Science and English facilitators of BWIS attended a workshop by Cambridge in Grandeur International School.



# *Creative corner drawings*



**Narayani Pathak**  
**Grade 9**



**Narayani Pathak**  
**Grade 9**



**Narayani Pathak**  
**Grade 9**



**Jaitra J Jain**  
**Grade 9**



# Credits

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## SUPPORT & GUIDANCE

Ms Shailaja Appanaboyina (Head of School)

## FACULTY EDITORIAL TEAM

Ms Pratibha Thampi | Ms Sricheta | Ms Swati Ranjan | Ms Reema Bakshi

## STUDENT EDITORIAL TEAM

Ruchira Goniguntla | Editorial Board Head | Grade 8

Sunishka Pandit | Deputy Editorial Board | Grade 7

Jaitra J Jain | School Captain | Grade 9

Tahnee Nagaich | School Vice Captain | Grade 9

Disha Kumar | House Captain | Grade 8

Narayani Pathak | Grade 9

Jyotsna Badami | Grade 9

Hasini Reddy | Grade 9

Shanaya Bajaj | Grade 8

## COVER & DESIGN

Ms Sheethal J (Graphic designer)