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### Sunderkand Path at Sanskar Centre







On July 14th, as the sacred month of Shravan Maas began, a beautiful sankalp of 40 Sunderkand Path was taken up at Sanskar. Each evening at 7:00 pm, devotees came together in devotion, their small circle growing steadily with time. These evenings were filled with faith, joy, and the power of collective prayer. What began as a humble effort has now blossomed into the uplifting tradition of daily Aarti at the temple, uniting hearts in devotion every day.

## Senior Engagement – August Update Senior Engagement – August Update

The Seniors Club is now known as Sanskriti Setu, meaning "a bridge that connects culture and heritage." On August 6th, over 60 seniors came together for their monthly gathering, which was a joyful and engaging event. Delicious food catered by Rajdhani Burlington was enjoyed by all, while over 30 participants traveled conveniently with Hamilton Cab. The day was filled with enriching activities including yoga, singing, bingo, and plenty of social time, making it a memorable occasion for everyone.

#### **Special Visit by Dan Muys**

On August 27th, 2025, Dan Muys, Conservative Member of Parliament for Flamborough–Glanbrook–Brant North, visited Sanskar Seniors at Sealey Hall. He joined the seniors for a lively round of Bingo, engaged in warm and meaningful conversations, and shared in the joy of the gathering. The visit was marked by laughter, connection, and a strong sense of community spirit.







## Summer Camp week: August 11-15, 18-22

#### Sanskar Canada Summer Camp: A Summer of Learning, Culture, and Fun

Sanskar Canada is a vibrant organization that helps children connect with Indian culture, values, and traditions in a fun, engaging, and meaningful way. One of its most loved programs is the Sanskar Canada Summer Camp, this camp is held every year during the school holidays. The camp welcomes children of all ages and backgrounds and offers the perfect mix of learning, creativity, friendship and fun!

#### **What Happens During The Camp?**

Each day at the Sanskar Summer is thoughtfully planned to combine physical activity, cultural learning and fun. A typical day starts with exercise or yoga, followed by a healthy breakfast. Then we move into sessions that include chanting, studying shlokas, storytelling and more! After lunch, the afternoon is packed with exciting activities, including dance, games, arts & crafts, and weekly themes. The camp also focuses on teaching important Hindu values like respect, kindness, and honesty. We learn bhajans (devotional songs), basic prayers, and stories from Indian scriptures that impart valuable life lessons. With a new theme each week—like dance, cooking and baking, or arts and crafts—every week feels unique. This allows campers to explore different interests and discover what they enjoy most!

#### More Than Just a Camp

What makes Sanskar Canada Summer Camp special is that it's not just about having fun, it actually helps us in real life! Learning about values like respect and kindness helps us at home, at school, and with friends. Yoga and meditation help us stay calm and focused, which is super helpful during tests or stressful times. Most importantly, learning about our roots makes us feel proud of who we are! At the end of every week, we host a presentation for parents where campers proudly showcase what they have learned, whether it's a skit, a dance, or a bhajan. It's a proud moment for both the kids and their families!

#### **Growing With Sanskar**

I've been with Sanskar since the very beginning, from the days when we met in a small basement to now, in a big community space. I still remember when I first joined. I didn't know much about Indian culture or values. But through stories of Ram Ji, Sita Ji, Hanuman Ji, and Lakshman Ji, I found inspiration. I became curious, I asked questions, and I was learning so much. Today, I'm proud to say that I'm not just a camper anymore, I'm a part-time volunteer and I'm helping other kids feel the same joy and curiosity I once felt when. That feeling—that spark—is what Sanskar is all about. It's not just about the activities—it's about the joy, the values, the connection to your roots, and the friendships that last a lifetime.

#### Why You Should Join

The Sanskar Canada Summer Camp is so much more than just a summer activity. It teaches us values, builds confidence, and connects us with our heritage in a way that is both fun and meaningful. You don't just attend the camp—you carry everything you learn with you into your daily life. If you ever get the chance to join the Sanskar Canada Summer Camp, you definitely should. You'll make amazing memories, build lifelong friendships, and walk away a little wiser, prouder, and happier.

- Ira Sharma, Grade 7

















### Janmashtami celebration at Sanskar







Janmashtami was celebrated at Sanskar Temple on August 16th with great devotion and enthusiasm. Devotees came together to chant bhajans, recite mantras, dance, and perform aarti, filling the temple with spiritual energy and divine vibrations. At midnight, a heartfelt offering of bhog was made, and the atmosphere remained lively and filled with a deep sense of devotion and positivity.

#### Featured articles in this issue

## Sanskrit Din: World Sanskrit Day

World Sanskrit Day, also known as Vishva-Samskrita-Dinam, is celebrated on Shravan Purnima. This day acknowledges one of the world's oldest languages: Sanskrit. We will explore its importance, its relevance today, and why we must work to preserve it.

The Importance of Sanskrit: Sanskrit is an incredibly important and beautiful language. It has been the language of all ancient Indian scriptures since the Vedic period, making it the very foundation of Indian civilization. It is also the language of countless shlokas, mantras, and ancient philosophies. Famous Sanskrit quotes include "Atithi Devo Bhava" (The guest is God) and "Udyamena hi Sidhyanti Karyani Na Manorathaih" (Work, not mere wishes, accomplishes tasks).

The Relevance of Sanskrit: Sanskrit remains highly relevant today. Many languages, particularly South Asian languages like Hindi, Gujarati, Nepali, and Marathi, borrow heavily from its vocabulary and grammatical structure.

Why It Is Important to Preserve Sanskrit: Despite its rich heritage, the number of fluent Sanskrit speakers is declining rapidly. The survival of Sanskrit is largely due to efforts by the Indian government and various organizations, with the inauguration of World Sanskrit Day being a prime example. This day serves as a crucial reminder that we must continue to use and preserve Sanskrit. This is essential not only because it is a significant part of our culture, but because it was the very foundation of India, the land where our ancestors lived for generations.

- Avish Sareen, Grade 7

## **Independence day**



On August 15th every year, India celebrates its independence from British rule, and this year, 2025 marks 79 years of freedom from British rule. This day remembers the long and difficult, but peaceful, fight that led to the country becoming a free nation in 1947. India's journey to independence was a story of huge sacrifices. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, along with many other freedom fighters, led a movement that focused on peaceful protest and refusing to follow unjust laws.

Every year, the Prime Minister of India hoists the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi and gives a speech. Across India, people celebrate with parades, songs, dances, and by wearing the colors of the Indian flag.

Here in Canada, my family has been celebrating it for the last few years with our Sanskar Canada group, led by Rachna auntie.

My personal experiences of India's Independence Day celebrations this year at Sanskar Canada was a great experience for me, where we were 3 generations (us, parents and grandparents) celebrating it together. We sang and danced to patriotic songs. It felt like a powerful history lesson and a way to connect with our culture.

For young people like us, Independence Day is a chance to learn about history and feel proud of our roots. It teaches us to value freedom, respect others, and work hard to build a better future.

Jai Hind!





### Ganesh chaturthi





Have you ever faced a period in your life with very few obstacles? Well, that is because of Lord Ganesha, who is the remover of obstacles, and his birthday is celebrated by the festival Ganesh Chaturthi. This festival is celebrated in late August to early September, during the Hindu month of Bhadrapada, and the festival marks cultural pride. Historically, this festival is believed to have started during the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the 17th century as a way to promote culture and unity in Maharashtra. Later, in the late 19th century, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak transformed it into a public festival. This festival begins with bringing Ganesha idols at home. All of the beliefs combined, bring families together to pray, and also foster a sense of community. On the other hand, the idols are created with toxic paints, which pollute the lakes and rivers and lead to environmental problems. That is why many families, including mine, now choose eco-friendly Ganesha idols made from clay, paper, or natural colors. Celebrating in this way not only honors Lord Ganesha but also shows respect for nature, which is an important part of our culture. All in all, Ganesh Chaturthi acts as a blessing to many, where they are able to spend time with their family.

\*\*\* Ganpati Bappa's arrival was joyfully celebrated at Sanskar Temple on August 26th. Each day, devotees gather to chant bhajans, recite mantras, and perform aarti, filling the temple with devotion and divine vibrations. Daily bhog was lovingly offered, and the atmosphere remained vibrant, radiating positive energy and a strong sense of community togetherness. \*\*\*

- Sunisca Khanna, Grade 12

## **Upcoming Events**

Sanskar Classes begin on September 13th, 2025

# Register now!

#### Saturday

- Sanskar Ankur- A two hour program to connect kids with their culture and heritage. Breakfast included.9:00-11:00 am
- Sanskritam- Sanskrit Bhasha for youth and adults.9:45-10:45
- Kathaamritam-Storytelling for kids 11:00-12:00
- Kala Bodhini- Art workshop for youth and adults 2:00-5:00 pm

#### Sunday

- Sanskar Pallav- A day immersed in our cultural values, yoga, devotion and art Breakfast and Lunch included 9:00 am-1:15
- Yuva Shakti- 3 courses from September 14th, 1:15-2:15 pm
- Hindi Bhasha- 5:00-6:30
- Mantra Sudha- Every Wednesday, 5:00- 5:45 pm
- Sanatan Samvad on Thursday at 7:15-8:15 pm

