



SAMSKRITAM AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SAFL)

NEWSLETTER

April 15, 2018

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From the Admin Desk

Namaste,

विलम्बि नाम संवत्सरस्य शुभाशयाः!

For the academic year 2018-2019, Samskritam As a Foreign Language (SAFL) registrations are in full swing. By combining the process of camp/waiver and the SAFL class registrations, the outcome is a streamlined process that can be completed with one registration. As a result, we have received more than 275 registrations in less than a month. As soon as the remaining continuing students register, we will close registration, much sooner than we had anticipated.

In July 2016, the SAFL program was accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) as a supplementary education program. We are in the process of completing our mid-cycle review with WASC, and anticipate class/site visits.

In the United States, several schools have either provided foreign language or elective credits to students pursuing the SAFL program. We are compiling this information, and plan to share this with everyone by the start of the next school year. To procure foreign language or elective credits, please present the school counselor with related documentation (course syllabi, FAQ, brochure, etc.) from the SAFL website. We recommend that students pursue foreign language credit first; if not granted, they should seek elective credits or independent study credits from the school. In the event that the school is unwilling to provide any kind of credit, the SAFL program still offers value, and will be worth mentioning in the university applications.

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Samskritam and Indian culture are inextricably linked. The SAFL program helps students learn Samskritam and also connect with the culture, meet like-minded peers from throughout the United States, and actively engage with educators/scholars during the summer residential camps. SAFL students benefit by studying Samskritam, and can also help spread the fragrance of what Samskritam has to offer!

For any questions, comments, suggestions, please write to us at safli@sbusa.org

जयतु संस्कृतम् !

IMPORTANT DATES

May 5/6, 2018 - SAMS200 direct entry exam

May 31, 2018 - Early registration discount ends for SAFL

June 1, 2018 - Regular registration fee applies

June 1, 2018 - Results of SAMS200 direct entry exam

June 17, 2018 - Registration deadline for prajnaa camp

June 24-30, 2018 - Prajnaa camp (Saratoga, CA)

June 24, 2018 - Registration deadline for Medhaa camp

June 24, 2018 - Registration deadline for shraddhaa camp

July 8-14, 2018 - Shraddhaa camp (Ewing, NJ)

July 15 - July 29, 2018 - Medhaa camp (Bengaluru, India. Open to only those who have passed

SAMS302 and fulfilled the

requirements)



June 24, 2018 - SAFL 2018-19 registration deadline (**May close earlier without notice if classes are full**)

Aug 25/26/27/28, 2018 – Mandatory online orientation during respective class time (SAMS101A/101B/101C/101D/101E/101F/101G/101H)

Sep 8, 2018 - SAFL 2018-19 online classes begin

REGISTRATION FOR 2018-19

Registration for SAFL 2018-19 closes June 24, 2018 (May close earlier without notice if classes are full)

SAFL Summer Residential Camps 2018

Prajnaa shibiram(Saratoga, CA): June 24 - 30 , 2018

Shraddhaa shibiram(Ewing, NJ): July 8 - 14, 2018

Medhaa shibiram(Bengaluru, India): July 15 - 29, 2018

चाणक्यनीतिः Lessons From Birds and Animals

प्रभूतम् अल्पकार्ये वा यो नरः कर्तुम् इच्छति ।
सर्वारम्भेण तत् कुर्यात् सिंहादेकम् प्रकीर्तितम् ॥

Even small work should be performed with full strength, just like a lion hunts with its full attention.

सर्वेन्द्रियाणि संयम्य बकवत् पतितो जनः ।
कालदेशोपपन्नानि सर्वकार्याणि साधयेत् ॥

From the crane we can learn to calmly consider all the circumstances before setting about any important task.

बह्वाशी स्वल्प-सन्तुष्टः सुनिद्रः शीघ्र-चेतनः ।
प्रभुभक्तश्च शूरश्च ज्ञातव्याः षट् शुनो गुणाः ॥

We can learn these six qualities from a dog - ability to digest, being happy with a little, sleeping light, alertness, loyalty and bravery.

अविश्रामं वहेत् भारं शीतोष्णं च न विन्दति ।
ससन्तोषस्तथा नित्यं त्रीणि शिक्षेत गर्दभात् ॥

We can learn these three qualities from a donkey - hard work, not minding difficulties, and cheerfulness during work.

गूढ-मैथुन-धाष्ट्ये च काले चालय-सङ्ग्रहम् ।
अप्रमादम् अनालस्यं पञ्च शिक्षेत वायसात् ॥

We can learn these five qualities from a crow - privacy, boldness, gathering needed objects, awareness about surroundings and promptness.

युद्धं च प्रातरुत्थानं भोजनं सह बन्धुभिः ।
स्त्रियम् आपद्गतां रक्षेच्चतुः शिक्षेत कुक्कुटात् ॥

These qualities can be learnt from a cock - aggression, waking up early, spirit of community and protection of the weak.

Students Corner

श्रद्धा शिबिरम् (JULY 9-15, 2017)

श्रद्धाशिबिरे भागं वोढुम् अवसरः जातः ।
श्रद्धाशिबिरं The College of New Jersey मध्ये
अभवत् । प्रप्रथमवारं कोष्ठे, जनद्वयस्य कृते व्यवस्था
कल्पिता आसीत् । सौकर्यार्थं प्रतिप्रकोष्ठे द्वौ मञ्चौ, द्वे
उत्पीठिके, एका निधानिका च आसन् ।

प्रथमदिने किं किं पठामः इति मम कुतूहलम् आसीत् ।
प्रतिदिनं प्रातःकाले योग वर्गः आसीत् । तत्र वयं
प्राणायामम् अपि च भिन्नानि योगासनानि कृतवन्तः ।
अनन्तरम् अल्पाहारम् अखादाम । अल्पाहारानन्तरं
प्रथमकक्षां गतवन्तः । तत्र वयं विभक्तीनां विषये
पठितवन्तः । प्रतिदिनं पञ्च कक्षाः आसन् । भोजन समये,
अहं मम मित्रैः सह खादितवती । श्रद्धाशिबिरे, नूतन
मित्राणां परिचयः अभवत् । तैः सह बहिः क्रीडाः
क्रीडितवती । कतिचन क्रीडाः संस्कृते आसन् ।
क्रीडानन्तरम् वयं भजनानि सत्सङ्ग-कार्यक्रमं च कृतवन्तः
। अनन्तरं रात्रि-भोजनं । रात्रौ मनोरञ्जन कार्यक्रमः च
अभवत् । छात्राः गणशः भिन्नेषु रूपकेषु भागम् अवहन् ।
गीतानि अपि अगायन् । अन्तिमदिने सर्वे छात्राः संस्कृतेन
गीतानि गीतवन्तः ।

शिबिरे वयं सर्वे आनन्दम् अनुभूतवन्तः । यत् किमपि
वयं कृतवन्तः, सर्वत्र संस्कृताभ्यासः एव आसीत् । मह्यं
शिबिरं बहु रोचते स्म । पुनः अहं श्रद्धा शिबिरं गन्तुम्
इच्छामि ।

Hamsini Kanakagiri
SAFL 200 level student
8th grade
Holliston, MA

श्रद्धा शिबिरम् (July 9-15, 2017)

When I think about SAFL, the first thing that comes to
mind is Shradha camp. Despite camp having taken place nine
months ago, I can still remember every bit of it.

The one thing I loved about Shradha camp was the
general ambience of Sanskrit. From the time I checked into my
room to the closing ceremony, we were surrounded by the
Sanskrit language as well as Indian culture. We started out our
days with yoga, chanting the mantras as we went through the
poses of the sun salutation. As the day progressed, we would
sit with our friends in our classes, listening to lessons ranging
from the vibhaktis to vocabulary. The teachers would joke with
us, while at the same time helping us become better speakers
and writers. By the last day of camp, we could once again
understand the speeches and the songs, the stories and the
stotrams. Through games and plays, we were able to put our
Sanskrit knowledge to practical use, while having so much fun
with it. Simply the memories of Shradha camp are enough to
bring a smile to my face and brighten my mood.

During Shradha camp, every year, we are reunited
with old friends from different states or even different regions of
the United States. As an amalgamation of SAFL students from
the entire East Coast and the Midwest, Shradha camp brings
together a wide variety of people and perspectives, which are
invaluable to the camp experience. However, in my opinion, the
large land difference does not make a difference; our shared
Indian heritage unites us for one week at the College of New
Jersey. My roommates for the last two years, and the amazing
people I've met have transformed my weeks at Shradha, and I
would not have it any other way.

I would like to thank all the teachers and counselors
that come together to make Shradha and Prajna, as well as
our year-long SAFL classes such invaluable experiences for us
students. We learn so much every year, and I as well as many
others can attest to the fact that our teachers are a main driving
force for this. They are always there to assist us at camp, and
never fail to answer our questions during the year.

If I had to create a list of my favorite memories from
high school, attending Shradha camp would be at the top. I
will definitely be sad when I complete the SAFL program, but I
will also be grateful for all the wisdom I have received, the
culture I have been able to revel in, and the people that I have
been able to meet.

Aditi Shridhar
SAFL 200 Level Student
Grade 10
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Through the Eyes of a High-School Student

Many people, students and parents alike, doubt the potential of Sanskrit in greatly impacting the life of a high school student. Believe me, I've heard my fellow share of SAFL students asking the head-scratching question, "Why am I doing this?". But for me, I can truly say that the impacts of learning Samskritam have not only been evident in my general notions of language, but have also helped me in school. In particular, studying Samskritam has challenged me to approach my foreign language (which happens to be Latin) and English studies uniquely, by allowing me to adapt a new perspective on the evolution of language as a whole.

Languages are like one massive web, with a net of thin fibers stretching amongst them. However, we often do not associate them as such, and do not celebrate the common etymologies that tie the words we use today to those of the ancient rishis. But my study of Samskritam has brought these connections into the light. Learning a foreign language in school has now become a time for light bulbs to go off in my head when I spot connections. For instance, when I see the word "mater" (meaning mother, in Latin) and think, *wow! This looks like a word in Samskritam that I know!* Language will become more about making connections, regardless of the foreign language a student studies. Those connections may be evident in word forms, verb conjugations, sentence structure, and in various other aspects. These connections even lead us into the realm of modern-day English. We begin to notice bits and pieces of Samskritam showing through not only in other languages, but in English as well. When we take the time to pay attention to the words we use every day, we notice the little things about them that make language meaningful. Language is an ever-growing tradition, and Samskritam is deeply rooted in that tradition of language— this is what learning Samskritam has allowed me to see.

The focus with which we study grammar is also particularly important. English has its own set of unique grammar rules, as does Samskritam, and any other language. However, when such emphasis is placed on the particularity of noun and verb forms, (which we tend to lose in English because of the lack of form-based grammar) our brains tend to develop a more compartmentalized approach of language, in which a sentence becomes a set of individually meaningful parts that come together in emphatic union. This mindset oriented around each word in a sentence having a specific function in creating a meaningful sentence applies to other languages as well, whether they be English or foreign. The student begins to recognize syntactical patterns everywhere, whether they be in everyday English phrases, in classical Shakespeare, or in a foreign language class. Thus, studying Samskritam not only allows us to learn something new, but also improves a student's mindset in comprehending language. There is truly a lot of value in learning Samskritam; all we need to do is acknowledge the benefits it confers upon us, appreciate them, and wholly dedicate ourselves to learning.

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Newsletter

SAFL

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