



Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc., WA Chapter

Bal Utsav- 1st of April, 2018

Our second Bal Utsav- children's cultural camp, was held on the 1st of April in Mindarie Primary School. The day started at 8:30am with registrations and welcome to parents and children in the undercover area.

Kalyani ji did shloka chanting with children to kick off the day. She also explained to them the relevance of mantras, why we recite them and also the importance of chanting in our busy lives. Next session was yoga and meditation led by Neha. Some big kids confidently did more complex poses whereas the little ones put every effort in doing the basic poses right. Both the younger and older ones enjoyed stretching their bodies.

Mina served them morning tea with chopped fruit at 10:00am which was followed by traditional Indian games like kho-kho and langdi taang. We divided the children in separate groups. Once the kids understood the games and their rules, they thoroughly enjoyed playing them and wanted to play some more.

We made tea light holders and Ganesha's with air drying clay. The little ones enjoyed getting their fingers dirty and poured their creativity in the clay. The older kids made a few masterpieces. They had lunch afterwards served by Manvi and Kaveeta. Post lunch we had another art workshop, Rangoli arranged for them. Of all the activities, this was the most popular where the children made colourful patterns on the floor. Soni and Kalyani kept them going with coloured sand for the whole session.

We brought the kids indoors for Ramayana story and asked a short quiz afterwards to generate more interest and reinforce the main characters and the plot of the story. While Neha conducted the story session and quiz, Mina and Kaveeta set up the art work on display.

At 2:00pm, we served them milk and biscuits. Mayor Tracy Roberts, from the City of



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Wanneroo arrived shortly afterwards. The children shared their experience with her and recited the shlokas, finishing with the chanting of "Om".

The Mayor gave her speech in which she acknowledged the hard work put in by volunteers in bringing the camp together and the learning experience the children were going to take home along with their artwork. She handed them signed certificates individually on stage. A token of appreciation in the form of clay Ganesha and a tea-light holder, made by one of the older kids, was presented to the mayor as well. Mayor Roberts loved it and it was an amazing experience for the children at the camp.

Some parents wanted to know more about our upcoming children's camp too. This positive feedback gave us all huge satisfaction and motivation to do more events like these. This event was supported by the City of Wanneroo, Saanvra Indian Groceries, Cabot Square, Avenews Magazine and Edinburgh Family Medical Centre.

