

Herziday

NOVEMBER 2015

THE MAGAZINE OF ATMIYA VIDYA MANDIR

The heart of education is educating the heart.

awake and stop not till the goal
ed.
ens the most impossible gates.
motives should be pure and your
adomitable.





“સાચા શિક્ષણ માટે વિવેક અનિવાર્ય,
વિવેક માટે ધર્મ અનિવાર્ય અને
ધર્મ માટે સંત અનિવાર્ય.”

- પ્રગટ ગુરુહરિ પ.પૂ. હરિપ્રસાદસ્વામીજી મહારાજ
આત્મીય વિદ્યામંદિર પ્રાર્થના હોલ



Editorial

Don't forget your history;
Know your destiny:
In the abundance of water,
The fool is thirsty.
Rat race, rat race, rat race!
Rat race!
Oh, it's a disgrace
To see the human-race
In a rat race, rat race!
~ Bob Marley

Dear Reader,

Namaste.

Everybody in this world wants to be happy and successful. However, most of the people in the world are

blinded by the fact that one is happy and successful only, if he has bigger, better and powerful - cars, phones, houses, gadgets etc. To achieve this state, we engage ourselves in a rat race. We may get successful in this race of ours competing with others, but in the end we will never be happy.

Unconsciously, we also engage and motivate our children to take part in this rat race. We want them to be better than every Tom, Dick and Harry in our society. And start comparing their marks with them. We remind them by our thoughts, speech and actions. That they have to get better marks than the neighbour Sharmaji's son.

Isn't this mindless?

The true purpose of every human being is to achieve a sweet spot, which lies at the intersection of the Union of Body, Mind and Soul. To be successful and yet be at

peace, is possible. Steve Young (a former professional American football quarterback), once said,

“The principle is competing against yourself. It’s about self-improvement, about being better than you were the day before”.

Our children deserve to be the best. Yet, they should not compete with others but compete with themselves. Every year students of AVM show us by their lives that this seemingly impossible task seems to be very much possible.

Sachinbhai Verlekar, our 12th Science student of 2015 batch always competed with himself. He made constant and continuous efforts to make himself better every day. He never participated in a mind-numbing rat race. Please read the article ‘AVM Outlier’ to understand his journey.

A year back, our team of teachers went to visit our alumni at the renowned SRM University in Chennai. They are currently pursuing their Bachelor’s degree in Engineering. The University gives away an annual scholarship to the best student in the department. On repeatedly asking for marks of one of our past students, Sarthakbhai Jariwala, by our teachers, he respectfully kept ignoring their request to know how he was faring. After repeated prodding, he told the teachers that he was getting the scholarship from the University for the past two years. He also got selected for the Semester Abroad Program at one of the best engineering colleges in the world: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston–USA. He continues his journey towards excellence over there. Sarthakbhai is another glaring example of an AVM student who teaches us a lifelong lesson in humility and the philosophy of competition with self.

The phenomenon of mind numbing thoughtless rat race has unfortunately also affected many educational institutions, where 1:1 iPad programs and Bring Your

Own Device (BYOD) are the buzzwords in educational technology. Research does say children learn better with technology. However, a careful thought needs to be exercised about the purpose of education and its outcome, before putting tech in the hands of our children. This year at AVM, our students started getting better at MATH and ENGLISH with new tech introductions called IXL¹ and MobyMax². The kids love practicing on these platforms and keep asking for an extra IXL and Moby period. There also has been a significant development in the students’ logical and rea-

soning skills by working on these platforms. Thus, AVM also is silently competing with itself, making the learning process more effective every year for the benefit of our students.

This year also marks AVM joining the prestigious International Boys’ Schools

Coalition or the IBSC³. Founded in 1995, the IBSC is a not-for-profit organization of schools dedicated to the education and development of boys worldwide, the professional growth of those who work with them, and the advocacy and advancement of institutions - primarily schools for boys - that serve them. This partnership brings knowledge and practical wisdom of helping our boys grow into the leaders of tomorrow. About 300 reputed boys only schools around the world are members of this organization and collaborate together to make boys’ education better every day.

The first term at AVM has been very busy. Many activities were conducted in the school throughout the term. This edition also summarizes some recent activities that took place in this period. Please visit www.avm.edu.in/news for more information on these activities. Or visit the school’s YouTube channel on video.avm.edu.in for the videos of creative assemblies and other celebrations. Also please follow us on our Twitter handle @AVMupdates for up to date news about the school events.

Happy Reading!!

- PRAJVAL SIR



CONTENTS

6	AVM Outlier
8	Divinity at AVM
10	Creative Assemblies
24	Academics
28	Celebrations
38	Excursions
40	Workshops
44	Festivals
48	Sports
56	Achievements

Student Contributors

Taarak Trivedi	Nikunj Aggarwal
Megh Rathod	Dinal Patel
Anami Patel	Anand Bhagat
Devarth Patel	Pranesh Tanna
Shardul Patel	Arpit Trapasiya
Pramanik Soni	Manhil Borana
Pranesh Patel	Samir Patel
Rahul Patel	Kisan Patel
Yathansh Joshi	Shivam Patel
Diven Patel	Dhwanit Tamboli
Prashit Patel	Manan Dudhwala
Manav Patel	Abhishek Mandaviya
Kevin Patidar	Hrishhikesh Jariwala
Nihar Dudhatra	Sumit Choudhary
Abhishek A Patel	Siddharth Borderwala

Teacher Contributors

Prajval Sir	Prabhudarshan Sir
Paramrut Sir	Kshitij Sir
Pujeet Sir	Mrugesh Sir
Rakesh Sir	Tarun Sir
Purvesh Sir	Ritesh Sir
Ashish Sir	Pravartak Sir
Sarvajit Sir	Priyavadan Sir
Roshan Sir	Rashmi Ma'am
Ambrish Sir	Saumya Ma'am
Devang Sir	Seema Ma'am
Gautam Sir	Sharmil Ma'am
Hemant Sir	Srimona Ma'am
Kamlesh Sir	Swayam Ma'am

AVM OUTLIER



Some of the greatest institutions or endeavours of the world were founded with a very clear vision which was simultaneously outrageously ambitious. So audacious, that at the time, it almost bordered on the impossible! Take for example, the task undertaken by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in May 1947 to build a United India by August 1947, out of the 565 princely states that existed at that time. He successfully commanded the humongous task and we still continue to have the privilege of living freely in this majestic democratic republic of India. President John Kennedy announced before a special joint session of the US Congress on May 25, 1961, the dramatic national goal of landing a man on the Moon returning him safely to Earth, before the end of the decade. After some really serious commitment and efforts, the feat was achieved on July 21, 1969, when Neil Armstrong set foot on the Moon and three days later when the Apollo 11 crew returned safely to Earth. Even Bill Gates' vision, in 1977, of "a computer on every desk and in every home (running Microsoft software; a concluding phrase that they used to add in their internal Microsoft meetings)" was kind of ridiculed back then. It is not incidentally, rather, out of the new natural order of things, that this text was typed on a computer on a desk, running Microsoft software, in Kolibharthana - a somewhat remote and rural location in India, in 2015!

Atmiya Vidya Mandir was founded in 2004 by His Divine Holiness Hariprasad Swamiji Maharaj with the supremely ambitious motto of "Union of Body, Mind and Soul". With this vision for the school, He intends to gift to the society such individuals who are living examples of this remarkable union. To a rational mind, it would be considerably ambitious to just have good and clever human beings. Swamishree has targeted an extraordinary step further: to help make good and clever human beings with spiritual wisdom infused in them! To make that happen, He has gone many extra miles over the past 11 years, since the inception of the school, by His regular visits to school and guidance to the staff and students. And although only four batches have graduated so far, the outcome of His vision is already witnessed by all associated with the school. Let's consider one such case of a student, out of the many that recently graduated from the Class of 2015: Sachinbhai Verlekar.

During his middle school years, Sachinbhai was a successful student athlete. With his hard work and tactical understanding of the game, he had achieved a permanent membership in the school's football team and was also a key player in the Satyam House team. This was besides also being a very good badminton player!

He was in a class full of some exceptionally driven

and sincere students. He was one of the ten students (out of 53) who scored a perfect 10.0 CGPA in his Std 10. He was elected as the School Head Boy for the year 2013-14. Going further, as part of the Science Class of 2015, he scored a magnificent 95.2% in his 12th CBSE exams (with Physics/Chemistry/Maths). He exemplified one of the *agnas* given by Swamishree: “Work while you work, play while you play”. Apart from being fiercely sincere in his studies, he also had a good sense of humour that helped create light moments in the class and in the hostel. Unintentionally, his actions gave a reason to others around him, to smile. For instance, he used to keep a self-reminding note on his hostel soft board: bring water bottle to school!

After his 10th, he had the opportunity to go back to Mumbai, his home, and study there while attending very famous coaching institutes to prepare for his entrance exams. And also have access to mobile, gadgets, Internet and far lesser restrictions. Yet, he chose to stay back at AVM. When asked for the reason, his response reflected his wisdom much beyond his age: he wanted to become someone who is at peace with himself, someone who would be comfortable to look at himself in the mirror in the future!

Perhaps, the most remarkable feature in him was the way he lived during these final two years at AVM. Despite the heavily demanding academic schedule, he made sure to read a spiritual scripture like Swami ni Vaato and to perform his daily prayers, before calling it a day (despite being a non-native Gujarati speaker). Once, while speaking to his juniors, he conveyed to them that the edge one had by studying at AVM was having the blessings of a saint like Swamishree. His clarity of purpose helped him absorb all that was offered to him by Swamishree and his teachers. Due to the same reason, despite being very intelligent (his extra reading included books written by the great physicist Richard Feynman), he was able to remain *saral* and accept and respect everyone with sincere humility.

The fact that he was assuredly on this journey of



Union of Body, Mind and Soul became all the more obvious to his teachers, during the last phase of his preparation for entrance exams. He got an offer from a leading private Science university of India, offering him full scholarship for the entire duration of his studies. This was while he was preparing for the IISER Aptitude Test in July 2015. This included studying the Std 11 and 12 NCERT syllabus for Physics, Chemistry, Maths AND Biology. He had NOT studied Biology for two years! And he had already run a very long marathon of extreme hard work till then. Yet, he took on the challenge in an unruffled manner, making every day count. All the while, making sure to read Swami ni

Vaato and perform prayers daily!

He eventually got an offer from IISER (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research) Pune, a premier place to study Science in India. This, he conveyed to his teachers in a magical one-line message: “Swamiji has planned IISER Pune”. He was able to take no ownership of the outcome of his untiring efforts and his sincere prayers! His message conveyed his utmost faith in God and in Swamishree’s blessings. Among many other aspects, it also reflected the essence of the verse 18/78 from the Bhagvad Gita:

यत्र योगेश्वरः कृष्णो यत्र पार्थो धनुर्धरः ।

तत्र श्रीर्विजयो भूतिर्धुवा नीतिर्मतिर्मम ॥



Basically, not only did he score well in 12th and get admission into such a wonderful place, more importantly for him, he achieved the purpose for which he stayed back at AVM and let go the option of studying in Mumbai for 11-12th!

Sachinbhai’s total reliance on prayers & faith in God and Swamishree even in times of a lot of uncertainty shows he has taken a huge leap in his journey towards Union of Body, Mind & Soul and he continues doing so!

Truly, a mark of a genius!

An Outlier indeed, in the society, for his age!

- PARAMRUT SIR

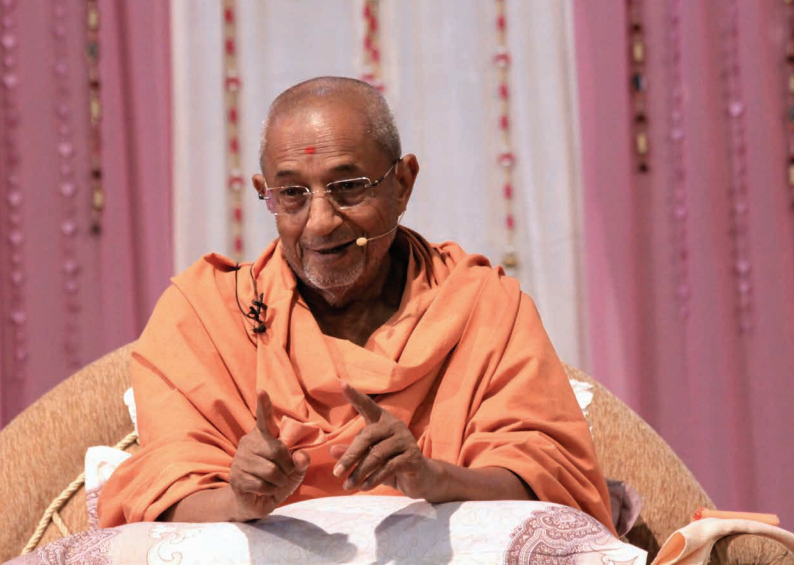


Divinity at AVM

As and when the wick of enthusiasm burns low, comes 'He' yet once again to rekindle our spirits. No matter how busy and hectic Swamiji's schedule is, He arrives time-to-time to bless the AVM family and reinvigorate our spirits. On the 7th day of April 2015, the most awaited moment arrived when Swamiji wished to hold a sabha and bless the students and teachers with His golden words. The senior students of class XII were called to receive Swamiji's blessings personally. Swamiji listened to the prayers of each and every one of them and counselled them by showering all His grace and blessings on them.

- What better be the euphonious voice for curious ears?
- What better be the blissful touch for weary frames?
- What better be the grand feast for craving souls?
- What better be the enthralling scent for withered spirits?

.... Param Pujya Swamishree arrives to bless us all.



Swamishree's Ideal Student Life

Sundaram House members presented glimpses of Swamishree's inspiring student-life. A drama presentation titled: कढ़ी दुधपाक में न फँसाओ, अच्छा जीवन ध्येय बनाओ, explained the students about Swamiji's unflinching focus and His positive attitude towards others. This creative assembly was a source of insight for the students as they realised how Swamiji's student life is like a road-map showing a clear-cut route to success and happiness. As a matter of fact, by this week's presentations, students were highly inspired to maintain acceptance, forgiveness and harmony amongst themselves which further creates clarity of destination.





જેના મિત્રો સરસ, એની જિંદગી સફળ

Shivam House was very much privileged to celebrate this very important value as part of weekly assemblies. The house members recalled the definition of friend as given by Param Pujya Swamiji 'if someone is better than us in a certain aspect and we get to learn something good from him, he is our good friend'. Through this assembly students understood how to choose a right friend in their life. They learnt that, one who can help us achieve academic success and the one who helps us keep our senses positive is our true friend. The week concluded with a heart touching drama performance depicting the importance of true friends. In the drama, it was portrayed that true friendship is brimming with faith, acceptance and selfless sacrifice.



रोन चूकवी हेवुं

सारा भिन्नो संग रा'



Nilkanth Charitra:

Life and message from the journey of young Nilkanth Varni throughout India

With great enthusiasm, Satyam House celebrated the life and message of Nilkanth Varni. Regular daily assemblies were designed to give the essence of Nilkanth's spiritual journey. The reading and explanation was done in the form of 'parayan'. By the end of assembly, a video clip from the movie 'Mystic India' was shown to aid better understanding of Nilkanth's journey and its purpose. The week was concluded with a heart touching creative assembly on નીલકંઠ વર્ણની કલ્યાણયાત્રા. The play not only inspired the students to fight against the hardships of life but also sparked an insight for faith and belief in the purpose of Supreme.





Gunatitanand Swami ni Vaatu

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed & some like Swami ni Vaatu, Shikshapatri, Bhagvad Gita are to be chewed and digested. For a better understanding of a few Swami ni Vaatu, Suhradam House presented a drama from the life of Vijay Sir. During his college days in the US, he was making a microchip, in a one of its kind state of the art super-conducting lab. One day, he accidentally broke the chip. At that very same time, he was supposed to visit Haridham for a shibir. He found the solution for his problem from Swami ni Vaatu and decided to attend the shibir, in spite of this major loss. After coming back to US after attending the shibir, he found the chip in working condition! This experience strengthened his faith in God and in Vaatu.





Shreeji Charitra Vihaar

ભારતભૂમિ પર સંવત ૧૮૩૭ની ચૈત્ર સુદ નોમનો દિવસ એટલે પૃથ્વી પર એકાંતિક ધર્મની સ્થાપનાનો દિવસ. આ દિવસે ભગવાન સ્વામિનારાયણનો જન્મ થયો હતો. સંવત ૧૮૫૭ના કારતક સુદ અગિયારસના શુભ દિને પીપલાણામાં શ્રી રામાનંદ સ્વામી પાસેથી દીક્ષાગ્રહણ કરી સહજાનંદસ્વામી નામ ધારણ કર્યા પછીના સમયને શ્રીજી ચરિત્ર વિહાર તરીકે ઓળખવામાં આવે છે.

શ્રીજીમહારાજના દિવ્ય મહિમાને આત્મીય વિદ્યાર્મંદિરમાં અઠવાડિક પ્રાર્થનાસભામાં ગાવામાં આવ્યો. જેમાં ભૂલકાંઓને સુંદર બોધપાઠ મળે તે હેતુથી ઘણા પ્રસંગોને શિક્ષકગણ તથા વિદ્યાર્થીઓ દ્વારા વર્ણવવામાં આવ્યા.

મહારાજમાં અતૂટ વિશ્વાસ રાખવાથી સઘળી ચિંતાઓ અને સર્વે દુઃખોનું નિવારણ થાય છે. આ વાતને સમર્થન આપતા બે પ્રસંગો ભજવવામાં આવ્યા હતા. જેમાં શ્રીજીમહારાજ અને સુરતના અરદેશરજી કોટવાલ તથા શ્રીજીમહારાજ અને શુક્રમુનિજી વચ્ચે બનેલી ઘટનાઓમાં ભૂલકાંઓએ અતિ ઉમંગે ભાગ લઈને એક અનેરો સંદેશ પાઠવ્યો કે,

- “કોઈપણ પરિસ્થિતિમાં ભગવાન પરનો વિશ્વાસ ક્યારેય ડગમગ થવો બોઈએ નહિ. કારણ કે દાસના દુશ્મન હરિ કે’દી હોય નહિ, જેમ કરશે તેમ સુખ જ થાશે.”
- શ્રદ્ધાની શક્તિ ચમત્કાર સર્જે છે. માટે દરેક પરિસ્થિતિમાં ઈશ્વર સ્મરણ કરતાં રહીએ તો મહાકાળ પણ જીતી શકાય છે.

આમ, કોઈએ સાચું જ કહ્યું છે કે, “Have Faith in God, Miracles Happen.”





हमें बनना है गुणातीत जैसा...

समाज को आध्यात्मिकता की ओर ले जाने हेतु पवित्र भारत भूमि पर अक्षरब्रह्म गुणातीतानंद स्वामी अवतरित हुए। स्वामीजीने श्रीजी महाराज के “वचनामृत” में से आत्मा-परमात्मा एवं धर्म का ज्ञान, परम शांति की प्राप्ति, परमात्मा की अनुभूति का संदेश दिया। स्वामीजी की बातें मतलब ब्रह्म के सूत्र। सुंदरम सदन के छात्रों ने सृजनात्मक सभा में स्वामीजी के कुछ प्रेरणात्मक प्रसंग, ‘श्रीजी महाराज द्वारा स्वामीजी का दीक्षा समारोह’, ‘विविध संतों का महात्म्य’, ‘स्वामीजी के दासत्व की उच्च श्रेणी’ को उच्च अभिनय एवं नृत्य कला द्वारा प्रस्तुत किया था। इस सृजन-आत्मक सभा को सफल बनाने के लिए संस्था के सभी सदस्यों का सुंदरम सदन हृदय से कृतज्ञता ज्ञापन करता है।





Sages of India

Students of Atmiya Vidya Mandir were explained the power of God's grace and blessings through the daily morning assemblies based on the lives of different sages of India, like Chaitanya Mahaprabhu & Eknath in the third week of August '15. On Saturday, Suhradam House performed a drama titled બુદ્ધિ મોટી કે ભગવાન. An incident of Brahmanand Swami, a great saint in the court of Lord Swaminarayan was depicted. Through a live drama, students were explained that Almighty God gifts all human faculties and aptitudes and we all should resort to prayers to reach the pinnacles of human achievements. This assembly made the students think – when human brain is incredibly powerful then how mighty its creator is – the omnipotent God!





Spiritual Intelligence Competition

As humans, our drive to achieve the best, shapes all our thoughts and actions. This drive has also resulted in a lot of research to figure out the best way to quantify our abilities and success. For years, it was assumed that the higher the intelligence quotient (IQ) score, the greater the person's success in life.

However, after many years of research, it was observed that even individuals with a high IQ could be miserable failures in life. This gave birth to emotional intelligence or EQ. But again, in recent past, experts realized that even EQ was inadequate to deal with some situations. As a result, a higher and a more comprehensive skill called SQ, i.e. the Spiritual Quotient came into being, something that the Indian sages knew long ago.

Spiritual Intelligence, now, is referred to as the various skills and abilities that empower us to live in harmony with our highest values and move unneringly towards our goals of life.

Keeping that in mind, spiritual intelligence competition was conducted in the school. Different tasks were given to four different age groups.

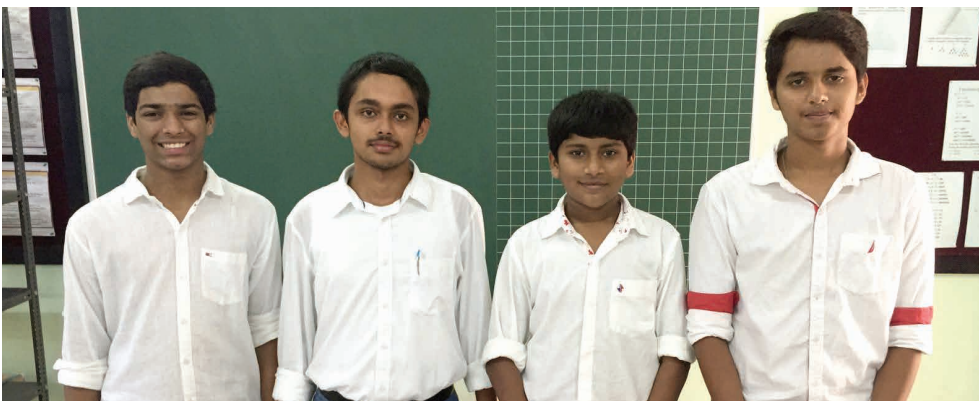
Students participated with great enthusiasm and turned out with amazing ideas and creativity, which reflected their innate spiritual depth.

This competition has not only inspired students but has also helped teachers to understand the different perspectives about spirituality possessed by the students. At AVM, we all feel truly blessed as here we get an environment, where we can enhance our spiritual intelligence naturally.



Interschool Debate Competition

Our school teams participated for the first time in an interschool debate competition instituted by Navrachana University, Vadodara. It was held on 6th August 2015 at P. P. Savani School. In the regional round, 12 teams from 6 schools participated from the south Gujarat region. The topic for the debate was “Lifestyle is a key determinant of health rather than environment”. Two teams represented our school. Both of them cleared the first round as well as the second round and were declared the regional level champions. Thanks to the immense efforts put in by our English teachers. We achieved this only because of the guidance and training given to us by our teachers.



Verbal Intelligence Competition

On 1st August 2015, the Interhouse Verbal Intelligence Competition was organized for the students of grade 1 to grade 10. There were different types of linguistic activities for various classes to provide them opportunities to develop an inclination towards language learning. Thus, this series of activities outside the classrooms were intended to emphasize on helping students to fulfil their potential and develop their consciousness towards this mandate of education, which is verbal and linguistic aptitude. As a part of holistic development at AVM, these activities are aimed at training the students to survive and succeed in a cut-throat environment out there in which effective communication skills is a significant part of one's personality.





UDAAN 2015:

A Hearty Farewell

Time goes so fast, it's hard to believe our dearest members of AVM family – students of class XII 2015 reached at the threshold of the school and were all set to bid their alma mater good-bye. Their farewell function was marked with much grandeur and magnificence as we hosted a grand party on 19th April 2015. Our students of class XI welcomed their seniors as they arrived along with their family members to attend this farewell function. In his speech, Vijay Sir requested the parents to keep faith in these young aspirants as they are blessed to excel in whichever field they go. At last, Pujya Fuvaji blessed the students by reaffirming that nurturing at AVM has made these students entitled to be spiritual, prudent and successful in their coming years.





"We Are One"

At Atmiya Vidya Mandir, the focus is to shape our children to be global citizens with Indian culture and values ingrained in them. In order to facilitate the development and practice of leadership qualities, our school witnessed its sixth Student Council Election of the academic year 2015-16.

All the student candidates showed great enthusiasm and willingness to be a part of the school's Student Council. Their campaign speeches focused mainly on the slogan given by Param Pujya Prabodh Swamiji- "WE ARE ONE". All the students of grades VI to XII, teachers, Vice-Principals, Principal and the entire non-teaching staff participated in voting for the council. The entire process was conducted very smoothly. Irrespective of their winning or losing the elections, one fact is sure that these candidates will definitely demonstrate the life-long message "WE ARE ONE".

New tasks now await the chosen students, to be performed both within and outside the classrooms to check and sharpen their various abilities and capacities and nurture a sense of duty and service within them.



International Day of Yoga

A new era in the history began with the celebration of 'International Day of Yoga' on 21st June 2015. Students of AVM assembled in the school prayer hall at 7.30 a.m. The program started with a speech by Ritesh Sir. Thereafter, our school yoga teacher, Hemant Sir along with student volunteers demonstrated various aasans and then all the students followed the suit.

It was the relentless effort of our PM Shri Narendra Modi, which made the UN proclaim June 21 as the 'International Day of Yoga'. It was celebrated in more than 150 countries.

The program concluded with students further realizing the importance of yoga and benefits such as:

- Yoga helps in curing and preventing diseases
- It helps reduce mental tension
- It provides relaxation to body and mind, and many other benefits.

Make Yoga a part of your daily life!



Sunday is Funday

પરમ પૂજ્ય હરિપ્રસાદસ્વામીજી કહે છે: “જિંદગી આનંદ માટે છે.”

Home is a place where everyone enjoys together. One of the ongoing important and fun filled duties for teachers and staff at Atmiya Vidya Mandir is to make students feel homely in the hostel as they are away from their parents. Different fun-learning activities and games like card-making, flower-vase making, aarti decorating, lemon-spoon race, musical chair and tug of war were conducted. After these activities, children were infused with new energy and zeal to welcome the coming week.



Leadership and Beyond: Investiture Ceremony

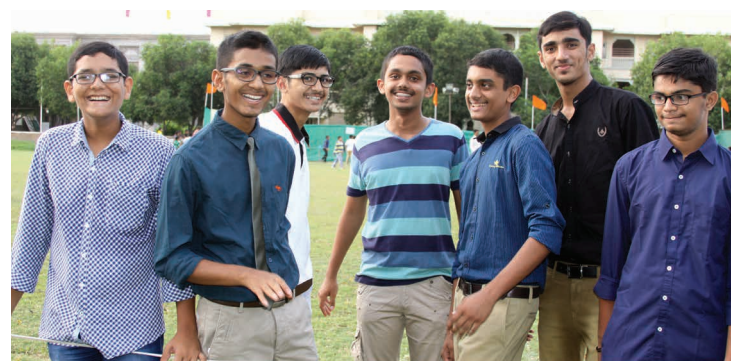
The crown of leadership and the books of wisdom have taught our leaders a passion for serving. Investiture Ceremony is one such occasion where a group of emerging leaders are officially proclaimed to strive and serve their peers. Pujya Harisharan Swamiji presided as the chief guest of the function and conveyed the duties to the office bearers. He also explained quite convincingly the dos and don'ts of an AVM student. Vijay Sir reminded the student council members of their responsibilities in the benefit of their own personal growth and in the best interests of the school.

Truly, this event marked the underlying fact that AVM is preparing 'Tomorrow's Leaders Today'.



Fun-Fair

On the pleasant evening of 11th July, 2015 the lush green football ground of the school came to life with laughter and cheers of the students. The staff of the school had set up various games on the ground and all the children seemed to be bubbling with energy participating in various games. The teachers were also found participating along side the students in team games. In the end the children enjoyed delicious four course meals and retired for the day in gala mood.



The 69th Independence Day

Independence Day was celebrated in AVM with great patriotism. The school was decorated with hues of tricolour.

The Chief Guest, respected Fuvaji along with respected Arjun Mama and our honourable Principal Dr. Vijay Patel unfurled our national flag. Ritesh Sir handled the command of the day and Gautam Sir held the anchoring portfolio. Sweets were distributed amongst the students on this auspicious occasion.

Certificates were awarded to the students who had excelled throughout the year in various fields. Inspiring speeches were delivered by the Chief Guest and our Principal Sir. A key feature of the program was the dance performance. On Independence Day everyone should pledge to imbibe the values of the sons of the nation to get rid of the grey areas in our nation's path towards development.

JAI HIND.

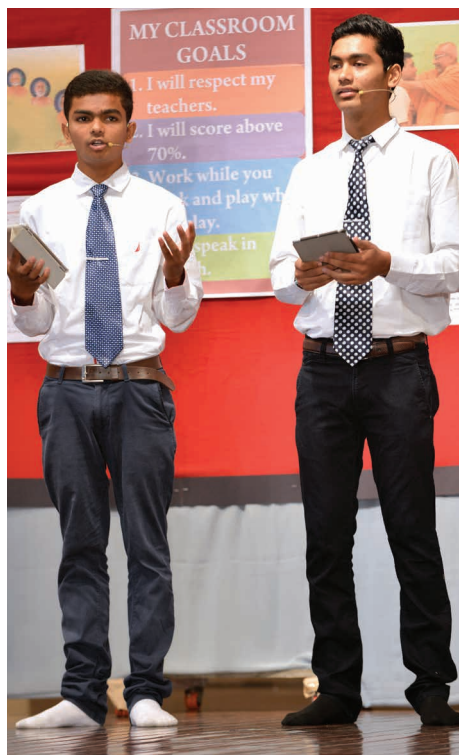


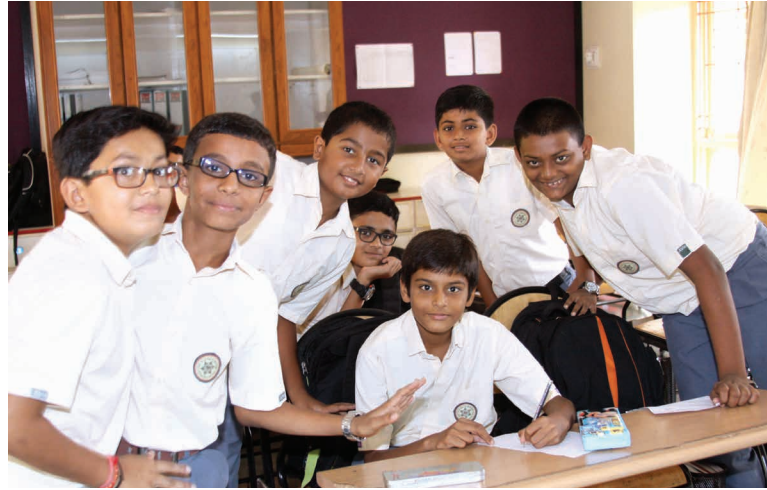
Samarpan

Teachers Day Celebration 2015

After a month of tireless efforts by students of class 11th with the guidance of coordinators, the Teachers' Day celebration on 5th September 2015 turned out to be a grand and successful event. Every year we celebrate this day with great enthusiasm to thank all those who inspire us to succeed and shape our future. The entire journey right from the preparation to the final celebration has given us some memorable and inspiring moments to cherish for a long time to come.

Happy Teachers' Day to all our teachers. Thank you for being who you are.





Std 1-6 Trip to Surat

On 17th June 2015 and 18th June 2015 the students of grades 1 to 3 and 4 to 6 were taken out for a trip to Surat. They were very happy and as soon as they came to know they were going out to have fun, all their reservations and feelings vanished and they carried their effortless smiles!

In the morning, they were taken to a renowned complex in the city where they watched the animated movie: Home. After the movie they enjoyed their favourite games in the Game Zone within the complex premises. During the transition, they also had their favourite Happy Meal at McDonald's restaurant.

Children made new friends, learnt to share things and got the love and care like they get at their homes from their teachers, didi's and mentors. They completely forgot that they were missing their parents and they were very happy and found their home away from home.



12 Commerce Field Trip

An industrial visit was organised for the students of class 12 Commerce as part of their Business Studies project work, on August 19, 2015. The site was a solar modules manufacturing plant of an Indian company “Navitas Solar” located in Sachin area near Surat. The purpose of the trip was to understand the manufacturing process of the solar modules and the business principles in use. This visit further uncovered various business related aspects like branding, location, financial structure, marketing and distribution channels, HR welfare and also about the future plans of the company. The founders candidly shared everything with students as if they were pouring out their entire experience of establishing a company into the minds of budding entrepreneurs, without any hesitation.



12 Commerce Book Reviews

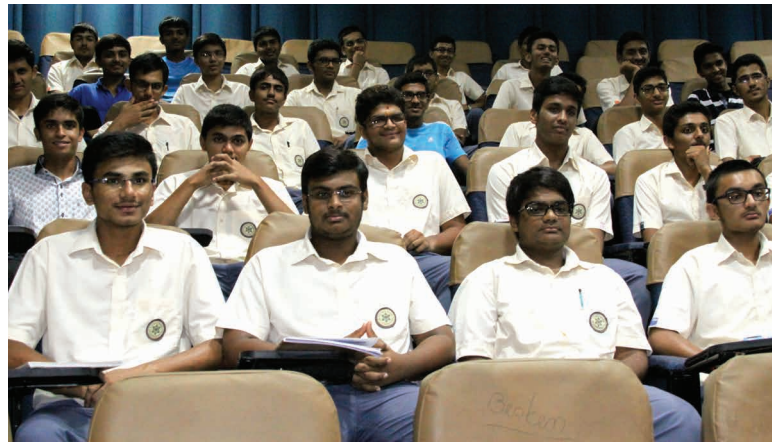
This year, the students of class 12 Commerce read four 'New York Times' best-selling books. The One Thing by Gary Keller and Jay Papasan; The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg; Drive by Daniel Pink and The 3rd Alternative by Stephen R. Covey.

Author Helen Exley has commented that, "Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labelled: This could change your life." This quote came to life in the bodies, minds and souls of the students who presented these books in the auditorium filled with enthusiastic fellow students and teachers.



Alumni Conversations: 1

On 20th June 2015, three AVM Alumni gave us a surprise visit and shared with us how they were faring in college. Yashbhai Roongta (NMIMS, Mumbai – B.Sc. Finance) started the session advising us that one should never give up even upon failing continuously. Then Amanbhai Gadia (BITS-Pilani, Goa – B.E. Hons. Electrical & Electronics Engineering) expressed how the two things he learnt at AVM is helping him succeed in college and life. He had learnt self-control and hard work at AVM and they have become his two guiding values in life. In the end, Shubhambhai Patel (JGLS, Sonipat – B.B.A. LL.B Hons.) explained to us why choosing Law as a career is a good option. He then explained that how keeping good company has helped him in college. We learnt a lot from their experiences.



Alumni Conversations: 2

AVM Alumni of Class of 2013 gave us a pleasant surprise by their visit to school on July 18, 2015. Nikhilbhai (JGLS, B.A. LL.B. Hons.) started the session by sharing his experiences at Jindal. He shared with us the importance of internships & the different kind of internships he pursued. He clarified our thinking about Law as a viable career option after our 12th. After he concluded, one by one, our other alumni friends: Anandbhai, Agambhai, Manavbhai, Utsavbhai, Abhishekbhai, Saurabhbhai, Samyakhbhai and Harshbhai shared their experiences with us. The session was indeed an inspiring one.



Road Safety: An Interactive Session

A session on Road Safety was arranged on July 30, 2015 for the students of grades 8, 9 and 10. The PSI of Surat Rural Traffic Police, Mr. Luvkumar Dabhi presided over the session. Mr. Dabhi as a diligent orator, focused on driving skills and shared his experiences. His speech brought to light a whole new aspect of efficient and safe driving. He explained about the essence of safe driving coupled with animated humorous videos to keep the session interesting. The programme concluded with a question-answer round wherein Mr. Dabhi satisfied the curiosity of the students. Upon bidding good-bye, he appealed to us “India is a young country and its youth are India’s future, so, ‘Drive safely today, Be alive tomorrow”.



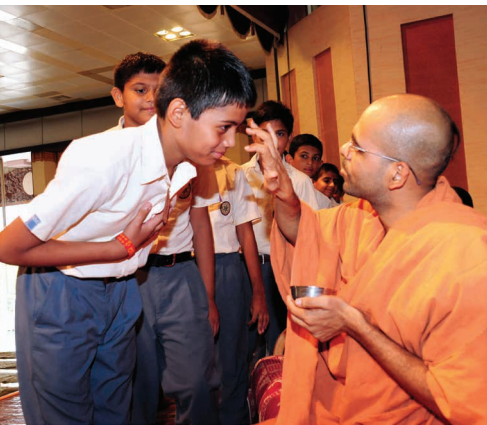
Guru Purnima

1st August 2015, a yet another inspiring day in the AVM Calendar, a day of immense significance for any seeker of knowledge and wisdom: “Guru Purnima”. Pujya Anandsagar Swamiji and Pujya Aksharjivan Swamiji visited us to give their blessings.

Anandsagar Swamiji shared with us the secret of being happy and successful through a few incidents of his life. He told us that when an individual is in a difficult situation, he loses direction and sometimes cannot take the right decisions. In this situation, the true importance of a ‘Guru’ in life is realized. ‘Guru’ takes us from darkness to light and gives direction to our soul. Using the quote, “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for his life”, he narrated how Param Pujya Swamishree gave him direction in his difficult times.

ચકલી ડાળ પર બેઠી હોય તો એને ડાળ તૂટવાની બીક ન હોય કારણ કે એને એની પાંખ ઉપર ભરોસો હોય કે તે એને પડવા નહિ દે, એમ જ આપણા જીવનમાં સંતો પાંખ સ્વરૂપ હોય જેના ફળ સ્વરૂપે આપણી જીન્દગી પણ એ સાચવવાના છે પણ આપણે એમના ઉપર ભરોસો રાખવો પડે, તો આપણાથી નિશ્ચિત રહેવાય.

Using the above quote, he conveyed to us that having a saint in life gives a person a different kind of peace & stability from within. We learnt from his speech that with a Guru on our side we would be able to fight any battle in our life and still remain happy and peaceful from within.



Janmashtami Celebration

At AVM, celebration is a tradition and our school calendar is full of festivals and celebrations. To celebrate the glory of birth of Lord Krishna, everyone gathered in the prayer hall, late in the evening on the 5th of September. Different groups of students, well trained by Himanshu Sir and Jaimin Sir sang beautiful bhajans, accompanied by another team of students playing different instruments. The event concluded with *maha aarti* of Thakorji and distribution of *prasad*.

On the following morning, *matki-phod* was celebrated with equal enthusiasm. Group wise, in turns, students worked together to build a human pyramid and made successful attempts at breaking the *matki*. The united spirits of all the students added 5 stars to the program.



Oh My Friend Ganesha...

In our multi-cultural society, we need to instil and enforce the universal values of brotherhood, service, peace, etc. In order to do so, Lokmanya Tilak one of our freedom fighters popularised the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi during the freedom movement to bring people together and made it a community celebration. Ganesh Chaturthi is now celebrated as a spectacular festival, honouring the birth of Lord Ganesha.

It was celebrated at Atmiya Vidya Mandir on September 17, 2015. It began with Ganesh Sthapana and Ganeshji's poojan in presence of the whole school. On this auspicious day, Lord Ganesh's favourite sweet laddu was served in the whole school. Children also made small idols of Lord Ganesh with the help of Mr. Vipul Sondagar, our Arts teacher.

The idol was worshipped for 5 days. On the fifth day, i.e. September 21, 2015 the day of Ganeshji's immersion, the occasion made the campus very lively, vibrating with the devotional songs, dances and drum beats. The whole Atmiya Parivar gathered together to say good-bye to Ganeshji.



Jal Jhilani Ekadashi

In the months of monsoon when all water bodies are filled with fresh water through rain showers, sanctity pervades all around to reassure God's boundless grace on all living beings on Earth. AVM students acknowledged this important aspect of Hindu culture, where the onset of every season is marked with devotional offerings and prayers to Almighty God. One such occasion, Jal Jhilani Ekadashi was celebrated with much fervour on 24th September 2015. All members of Atmiya family gathered at the school swimming pool site to commemorate the 'Nauka Vihar Darshan' of deities. Students took turns to ferry the well-decorated boat of Thakorji through the water.



APL: Atmiya Premier League

A lush green outfield, specially made pitch, properly marked ground, the sound of bat hitting the ball and loud cheers of spectators are some of the things which make this annual event very unique. Students from class 4 to 11 took part in this cricket carnival. Although 'Chintan eleven' across three categories were the winners, it would be very difficult to argue that not everyone was the winner in that jubilant and festive atmosphere.



Interhouse Carrom Competition

Carrom competition was the first interhouse sports competition of the year, held in the third weekend of July. The competition was held in three age groups viz. Sub Junior, Junior and Senior. After the preliminary rounds, four teams, one from each house, in each age group qualified for the main draw. After some really close and nail biting finishes, the competition concluded with Sundaram House team scoring the maximum points and claiming victory.



Interhouse Chess Competition

Chess is widely considered to be a sport which can help young minds develop analytical & strategic thinking and problem solving skills. To encourage students take up this game at a young age, AVM hosted its first ever interhouse chess competition this year. Students from class 4 to 11 participated in this new initiative with enthusiasm and determination to help their house win it. Under the able guidance of Hemant Sir and Pravartak Sir, the competition was a huge success. Young chess grandmasters from Sundaram House won the competition with Satyam House finishing second.



Interhouse Table Tennis Competition

The Interhouse Table Tennis competition was held in three categories: Sub Junior, Junior and Senior. It was a neck to neck competition in all the three categories. Players were cheered constantly at every point they scored. In individual event, the winners were Nirmaanbhai Patel, Rushaybhai Modi and Smithbhai K Patel of the three categories respectively. Scores from individual events and team events were combined and Satyam House was entitled as champion followed by a tie between Shivam and Sundaram Houses, and Suhradam House acquired the third place.

We heartily thank Devang Sir and the sports team to organize this wonderful event.



District level Basketball Competition

Two AVM teams of U-14 and U-17 visited Vasishtha School, Bardoli for the district level basketball competition from 29th July to 31st July. The team was trained and coached by Bankim Sir. The U-17 team had their first match with the Fountainhead team. The match was close and turned out to be a tie. In the extra time, the Fountainhead team won. However Nimitbhai was selected for the state level.

The U-14 team won the first match against P. P. Savani 14-0. In the quarter final match, AVM won again 14-0 against Euro School. In the semi-final match AVM team lost against Essar in a tight match. More importantly, Parambhai Dubey (Std 8), Manavbhai (Std 8) and Jaybhai (Std 6) were selected for the state level competition.



U-14 District level Handball Competition

Our U-14 handball team participated in an interschool competition at the district level on 7th August 2015. The young players did not show any nervousness or anxiety on their first ever such outing. They played the tournament with great resolve and determination. On their way to finals, our team beat other teams comprehensively and in the process scored a lot of goals. We narrowly missed out as Vasishtha Vidhyalaya won the tournament and became champions. But the team left their mark on the tournament by finishing second.



District level Skating Competition

AVM's performances at district level sports competitions have been a revelation this year. That trend continued when our skating team made use of their skills and abilities to good effect in the interschool skating competition. The skaters from AVM dominated all the four age categories of U-11, U-14, U17 and U-19. Each category saw AVM students finishing in the podium places with a selection in the state level competition.

Here are the students who got selected:

- Krishiv Davariya (U-11)
- Dev Patel (U-11)
- Krish Patel (U-14)
- Aditya Oza (U-14) stand by
- Ronak Poddar (U-17) stand by
- Shreemad Patel (U-17)
- Pranesh Patel (U-17)



U-17 District level Handball Competition

After a good showing from the U-14 team in the same competition, the senior boys had their work cut out. The U-17 team started brightly as they beat P. P. Savani team with 7-2. They continued their good work in the quarters by beating the host team of Madhi School with a score of 11-2. The semi-final match saw us compete against the reigning champions in Satrawala Uma Vidyapith. In a closely contested match, the champions narrowly escaped with a score of 11-8. But the good showing from AVM team meant three of our players Rahulbhai Patel, Rajvirbhai Parmar and Mantvyabhai Ambalia got selected for state level competition.



Std 12 Results: Setting A New Benchmark

Param Pujya Swamishree visited AVM on 12th December 2014 to meet with all and invited all to the Atmiya Yuva Mahotsav 2015. During that visit, He had blessed the students and staff and told the senior class “તમે મહેનત કરતાં રહેજો, હું તમારી સાથે જ છું.” That helped gain momentum in the already intense preparations undertaken by the students of class 12.

The new year then brought them some amazing blessings, again from Swamishree and also from revered saints from all over India! The Atmiya Yuva Mahotsav was quite literally and essentially a unique start of the year, in the midst of their preparation. The entire 3 days experience of the event further fuelled their faith and motivation and helped them cross their physical and mental limitations even further.

The first part of their journey ended with the end of their CBSE board exams at the end of March/early April. Their journey of course continued thereafter in terms of their preparation for the various entrance exams. The CBSE published Std 12 results on 25th May 2015. And it quite blatantly revealed the fact that these students had taken Swamishree's words to heart! It is with great pride in our students and gratitude towards Swamishree that we announce the results of these wonderful individuals.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students for setting an unprecedented benchmark (which seems to have become a trend over the past 4 years!). Our congratulations also to the parents and all those individuals involved in this arduous and yet, a memorable journey undertaken with a lot of faith in God!

*Congratulations & All the best
To Class of 2015*



Total no. of students appeared	39
Total % of students passed	100%
Students scoring 95% & above	6
Students scoring between 90 and 95%	10
Students scoring between 80 and 90%	18
Students scoring between 75 and 80%	4

Atmiya Vidya Mandir, together with our proud associates, Vision IIT and Swastik Education, congratulate all our students and their parents for this outstanding achievement!

87.1% - Class Average

96.6% - Maximum Score

68.8% - Minimum Score

COMMERCE TOPPERS

RANK 1



Akash Singhal
96.6%

RANK 2



Tanmay Patel
96.4%

RANK 3



Love Patel
95.8%

RANK 4



Harshit Aggarwal
95%

Rank	Name	%
5	Pratik Modi	94.8
6	Yash Taratia	92.6
7	Swapnil Vaghasia	92.2
8	Raj Panpaliya	92
9	Divyang Golwala	90.4

SCIENCE TOPPERS

RANK 1



Vishesh Mistry
95.6%

RANK 2



Sachin Verlekar
95.2%

RANK 3



Lalit Desai
94.4%

RANK 4



Manan Moradiya
93.6%

Rank	Name	%
5	Parth Amipara	91.8
6	Himanshu Patel	90.6
7	Mayank Watwani	90.4



Achievements at the National Level

C
B
S
E

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) awards National Merit Certificates to students whose performance in the board exam is in the top 0.1% at national level. It is a matter of pride for Atmiya Vidya Mandir that three of our students were merit holders in the 2014-15 board exams:

- Tanmay Patel for scoring 99/100 in Accountancy
- Love Patel for scoring 99/100 in Physical Education
- Yash Taratia for scoring 99/100 in Physical Education

Furthermore, the HRD Minister, Govt. of India, has also awarded letters of appreciation to 10 of our students for their outstanding performances in their Std 10 and 12 CBSE exams.



स्मृति जुबिन इरानी
Smriti Zubin Irani

मंत्री
मानव संसाधन
विकास
भारत सरकार
MINISTER
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Dated: 11th July, 2015

Dear Mr. Akash Singhal,

On going through this year's CBSE results, I am happy to learn that you have performed exceptionally well in the examination. The success in your academic career is commendable. Your resolve and efforts have made your family and teachers proud.

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on your creditable success. I hope your future will be as bright as your present. I am sure that with your determination and fortitude you will excel in your chosen career and will contribute positively towards the development of a healthy and progressive society.

Please convey my regards to your proud parents.

With Love,

Yours sincerely,


(Smriti Zubin Irani)

Mr. Akash Singhal,
Atmiya Vidya Mandir
At & Post Koli Bharchana Taluko-Kamrej,
Dist Surat,
Gujarat - 394180.

A/13049/00718



स्मृति जुबिन इरानी
Smriti Zubin Irani

मंत्री
मानव संसाधन
विकास
भारत सरकार
MINISTER
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Dated: 11th July, 2015

Dear Dr Vijay Patel,

It is indeed a gratifying moment for me to congratulate you for the commendable academic performance by the students of your school in Board's examination 2015.

It is your leadership and managerial skill which have taken your school to great heights and ensured your students stellar performance. I am sure that your exceptional guidance will continue to ensure similar performance of your school in the years to come.

With Regards,

Yours sincerely,

(SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

Dr Vijay Patel,
Atmiya Vidya Mandir
At & Post Koli Bharchana Taluko-Kamrej
Dist Surat
Gujarat-394180

A/13049/00541

Placements - Class of 2015

This year witnessed our graduating students getting placed at some of the best higher education institutes across India, in a variety of courses. It is remarkable that within this single batch, a student each, got admitted into the following national level institutions:

- Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), for Law
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM), for Management
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), for Engineering and
- Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER), for Pure Science.

Engineering & Technology

Vishesh Mistry

Indian Institute of Technology
IIT, Jodhpur
B.Tech. Computer Science &
Engineering



Vishwajeet Solanki

SRM University
Chennai
B.Tech. Mechatronics



Niramay Trangadiya

Birla Vishvakarma
Mahavidyalaya, BVM
Vallabh Vidyanagar
B.E. Production Engineering



Ronak Mistry

Symbiosis Institute of
Technology, SIT
Pune
B.Tech. Mechanical
Engineering



Dhruv Patel

NMIMS
Mumbai
B.Tech. Mechatronics



Siddhant Chaudhari

Symbiosis Institute of
Technology, SIT
Pune
B.Tech. Civil Engineering



Lalit Desai

UPES
Centre for Information
Technology, Dehradun
B.Tech. Computer Science &
Engineering



Parth Amipara

Curtin University
Perth (Australia)
BEng Mining Engineering



Pure & Applied Sciences

Sachin Verlekar

Indian Institute of Science
Education and Research
IISER, Pune
5 year BS-MS
program in Physics



Het Adhvaryu

University of Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas (USA)
B.S. Biology



Mayank Watwani

Shree M & N Virani Science
College, Yogidham campus
Rajkot
B.Sc. Biotechnology



Parth Patel

Shree Ramkrishna Institute of
Computer Education &
Applied Sciences
Surat
B.Sc. Biotechnology



Parikshit Patel

Manipal University
Jaipur
B.Sc. (Hons.) Biotechnology



Medical Sciences

Himanshu Patel

University of Perpetual Help
Philippines
MBBS



Jeet Maradia

Sumandeep Vidyapeeth
Vadodara
MBBS



Manan Moradiya

Angeles University
Foundation, Philippines
MBBS



Design & Architecture

Param Patel

Dr. B. H. College of
Architecture
Mumbai
B.Arch.



Pratipal Jadeja

DSK International Campus
Pune
5 Year International
Master in Animation



Manan Ladani

Unitedworld Institute of
Design, UID
Ahmedabad
B.Des. – 4 Year degree
course in Design



Law

Akash Singhal

Gujarat National Law
University, Gandhinagar
BBA LL.B. (Hons.)
5 Year Integrated Programme



Love Patel

Jindal Global Law School
Sonipat
BBA LL.B. (Hons.)
5 Year Integrated Programme



Management

Tanmay Patel

Indian Institute of
Management, IIM, Indore
IPM – 5 Year Integrated
Program in Management



Raj Panpaliya

PDPU - School of Liberal
Studies, Gandhinagar
BBA (Hons.)
4 Year degree course
with Diploma in Liberal Arts



Harshill Soni

UPES - College of Manage-
ment & Economics Studies
Dehradun
BBA – Aviation Operations



Swapnil Vaghasia

PDPU - School of Liberal
Studies, Gandhinagar
BBA (Hons.)
4 Year degree course
with Diploma in Liberal Arts



Divyang Golwala

UPES - College of Manage-
ment & Economics Studies
Dehradun
BBA - Logistics Management



Ravi Patel

SEMCOM
Vallabh Vidyanagar
BBA – Information
Technology Management



Aditya Killa

Amity University
Jaipur
BBA – General



Akshay Golwala

Auro University
Surat
BBA – General



Pradeep Choudhary

MIT-SOM College
Pune
BBA – General



Raj Patel

DRB College
Surat
BBA – General



Accounting & Finance

Harshit Aggarwal

NMIMS
Mumbai
B.Sc. – Finance



Yash Taratia

NM College
Mumbai
BFM - Bachelor of
Commerce
(Financial Markets)



Pratik Modi

NM College
Mumbai
BFM - Bachelor of
Commerce
(Financial Markets)



Sonak Ramani

PDPU - School of Liberal
Studies, Gandhinagar
BCom (Hons.)
4 Year degree course
with Diploma in Liberal Arts



Daudayal Jhunjhunwala

Khalsa College
New Delhi
BCom



IT & Computer Applications

Siddharth Jain

Shree M & N Virani Science
College, Yogidham Campus
Rajkot
BCA



Samay Jain

Shree M & N Virani Science
College, Yogidham Campus
Rajkot
BCA



Mitul Mehta

Shree M & N Virani Science
College, Yogidham Campus
Rajkot
BCA



Education World India School Ranking 2015

RANK

1

Residential School for
Boys in Gujarat

2

for 12th Board CBSE
Exam Average of 87%

5

for Academic Reputation

5

for Individual Attention
to Students

7

for Life Skills Education
& Conflict Management

7

for Safety & Hygiene

8

for Infrastructure
Provision

9

for Co-curricular
Education

10

for Internationalism

14

for Best Boys Boarding
School in India



At & Po. Kolibharthana, Kamrej - Shampura Road,
Ta.- Kamrej, Dist.- Surat, Pin. 394180, Gujarat, India.
Ph.No: 02621-305900, 9825321226, Fax.No: 02621-305999.
Email: info@avm.edu.in. Follow us on Twitter: @AVMupdates

ATMIYA VIDYA MANDIR
INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS
Inspired & Blessed by:
H.D.H. Hariprasad Swamiji Maharaj

