shrikrupa.org
12302 Saratoga
Sunnyvale Road,
Saratoga, CA – 95070

shri krupa
DANCE FOUNDATION

EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT SHRI KRUPA

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NOV 2023 ISSUE 8

Shri Krupa Performing Hall
Studio space available for rent for students to practice
Click here for reservations
For more details:
skdcdance@gmail.com

November Events

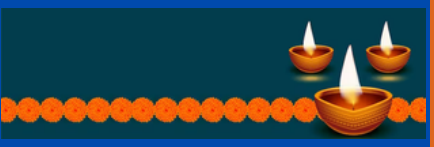
Deepavali get-together

Date: Nov 12
Time: Garba at 11 am
Lunch at 12 pm

Venue: Shri Krupa Studio

Attn Registered participants: Garba sticks will be provided but if you have some, bring them

NOTE: ALL WEEKEND CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY TO ACCOMMODATE THIS EVENT
All classes will have reduced duration and the schedule will be sent out shortly.



Upcoming Events

Kartigai Deepam
Special Festival Performances at the studio in December

InFocus

New Tala Classes starting in November

New Tala classes will be offered by Guru Vishal Ji starting Nov 5 on Sundays 1-2pm. All students are invited to participate in this program (This class is not recommended for the very young students of Latika or Ragini 1).

Classes will focus on simple utterance of mnemonics (Chorkattus), for Tala by hand to keep to speed and clarity, as well as for using the Thattukazhi. Students are encouraged to bring Thattukazhi and Manai. But this is not compulsory and they may follow with their hands.

The classes will help students with enhancement and clarity in Laya/Tala, and enable perfect finishes in both the Korvais and the Arudhis. They will be able to utter the syllables and see the magic of synchronization of foot work to syllables.

Students will be taught - 2 - 3 Adi TALA Jathis and 2 - 3 Rupaka TALA Jathis. Students will be able to begin the dance and finish till the end with the entire TALA format by hands (gain perfect understanding of both Khanda and Misra Chapu TALAS). They will be able to follow with footwork to culminate and also keep to the speed or KAla pramANam of the song.

The classes can prove to be a great tool for success in executing JATHIS as well as NADAIS and in following the TALA in PADAMS and JAAVALIS.

10 classes of one hour duration each will be given and advanced level classes may be planned and offered in the future.

Signup sheet with fee and payment details here.

SHRI KRUPA WISHES ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS A VERY HAPPY DIWALI!

MAY YOUR LIVES BE FILLED WITH HEALTH AND PROSPERITY!

To enroll a new student, visit shrikrupa.org/registration

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Zelle

From the Artistic Director's Desk

Are we Disconnected? *True learning is always more effective in person - not long distance from a computer screen - but face to face with a teacher, and with other students. "Evam ParamparA PrAptam Imam" says the GITA - all knowledge was passed on from one generation to another with the loving warmth and guidance of a GURU. Thus the importance of a guiding light in our lives, the presence of fellow students in a Gurukulam and the residence of the teacher giving support and security to the student community was the bedrock of the ancient times. Even Rama and His brothers as well as Krishna and Balarama studied thus even though they were princes and of royal blood.*

Today anyone becomes a teacher - a guru - and anyone else can become a student without direct involvement. Lessons can be taught online and comparisons are possible between one type of learning and another because of the heavy influx of information into visual viewing and audio listening. There is no dearth of a teacher but there is dearth of a warm touch of reassurance, a loving hug without inhibition, a closeness in face to face interaction.

Classrooms must maintain the strictness of a guru, who passes on the essentials, and the decorum of silence and sincerity from students. Learning long distance and without physical presence of a guru, has a negative impact on the essence of true learning of ARTS. Learning itself deteriorates in substance and originality. There is no adherence to rules of grammar, or step by step methodical learning of classical art forms - dance and music have become more about exhibition of 'which stage, what venue and which competition'. Focusing on Arts for Arts' sake enables the students to become well grounded in the intrinsic values of the discipline, and the systemized ways of presentation.

It is important to use the new tools to enhance oneself but it is equally important to maintain the old system of learning and adherence to the framework. This should be a perseverance all our life as then learning becomes a true endeavor, a one-pointed skill to further hone your skills. Stage presentations are not essential but can be used to become sharper and have more stage presence.

Once we light the lamp of learning, we must not let it dim or get extinguished. We must also learn the peripheral skills to make our understanding of the arts sharper and more embellished with knowledge. Concentrating on one's own ability and clarity of the subject makes it a worthwhile effort. Compete with yourself and not with others and do not indulge in comparisons of any sort. Hone your listening skills with silence. But do not hesitate to ask questions if you have any doubt. Direct communication with respect for the other person is the key to success in life and to a healthy, peaceful and happy environment. Shraddha and Saburi; meaning Faith and Patience speak loudly that we must love and respect ourselves, but also learn to love and respect all those around us. Above all, DO NOT HURT ANYONE. Neither yourself nor others.

Someone said 'I do not know my son. It has been five years since I have seen my his face - he is perpetually deep in conversations with his phone friends on chat lines and even gulps down his food rushing to be out into the world. When I enter his room, he asks me to leave him alone, albeit politely. I am lost, and engaged in my kitchen and other chores with a knitted forehead. He is leaving for college now - perhaps I stand a chance to be one of his phone friends.' How sad is that! Do we realize that while these Smart gadgets are great to connect to the world, we stand DISCONNECTED within!

-Guru Vishal Ramani

The School At A Glance

Shri Krupa student Saumya Kundu lights up Bay Area Cultural performances





Shri Krupa's Saumya Kundu gave a captivating performance at the cultural programme organized by Pashchimi. In the event at Newark Pavilion, that aimed at promoting Indian culture and heritage in the West, Saumya performed Amba Sambhavi, a beautiful piece featuring Raja Rajeshwari Ashtakam, choreographed by Guru Smt. Vishal Ramani.

Saumya also performed Aigiri Nandini at Newark Junior High School on the occasion of Dussehra.

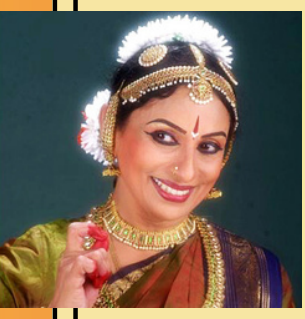
To watch video snippets of the performances, click on the pictures above OR here and here.

MOBILE APP FOR OUR DANCE SCHOOL COMING SOON!!!

Coming soon: Mobile App for our Dance school (via Mindbody) - for IOS and Android

Details to follow: the QR code will be posted at the studio for reference- All parents/ students should download the app to regularly check into classes each week, receive updates and timely notifications about school activities, events and announcements.

My appreciation and gratitude to students who participate in multiple classes as volunteers or learners, without reservation of level consciousness. This improves their own stamina and ability while displaying an approach of discipline and an unwavering interest in the work at hand. This also gives them an edge over other students in their own classrooms, as they watch, and learn along with other classes. I truly salute those students who despite their heavy work of college applications and such, participate whole heartedly in classes, without missing a beat. Thank you all!



I would like to encourage students to participate in the KARTIGAI DEEPAM festival by arranging a recital in class as well as running it from beginning to end. Is there a volunteer willing to fold her sleeves and work? Please talk to Vidhya about this.

-Guru Vishal Ramani

Key Links

- Monthly Performance Series Signup Sheet
- Student/Parent Volunteer Signup
- Studio Rental for Students
- Dance School Policy Handbook
- Music School Policy Handbook
- Festival performance signup sheet
- Tala classes signup sheet (NEW)

The School At A Glance







Shri Krupa studio sported a beautiful Golu this Navarathri. Thank you to all families that contributed to this, and the volunteers that helped put this together.

Students gathered at Shri Krupa studio on Vijayadasami day seeking Vishal Aunty's blessings.

In pics (above): Aunty helping the students learn a Saraswathi stothra lesson on the auspicious day.

Adavu Practice Classes!!!

There will be free additional dance practice classes every Friday from 5.30 to 6.30pm at the studio led by student volunteer Sukanya Sudugu. All students at all levels are welcome. The practice sessions aim to help students practice adavus and beginner dances with focus on araimandi, hand gestures and body alignment needed for each adavu while also working on aspects like basic talas, and panchanadais.

Students shall dress appropriately for the practice classes; also, when students drop by they will need to sign in at the sheet at reception with emergency contact numbers. In person attendance is recommended but a zoom session will also be available for students who can not make it in person.

While classes are free, you can drop in donations in the donation box which will go towards studio rental.

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers willing to commit for two months for the following roles :

Social Media Manager (Facebook) - Parent/Adult Student/Teen
Social Media Manager (Youtube) - Parent/Adult Student/Teen
Mobile App Manager - Parent/Adult Student/Teen
Newsletter Editorial Team Member - Parent/Adult Student/Teen
Gandharva Vidhya Center Liaison - Parent/Adult Student
Content Manager (to work closely with Aunty and generate content for social media and newsletter) - Parent/Adult Student
Performance Opportunities Scout - Parent/Adult student
Monthly Performances Coordinator - Class Parent

For more details, contact skdcdance@gmail.com

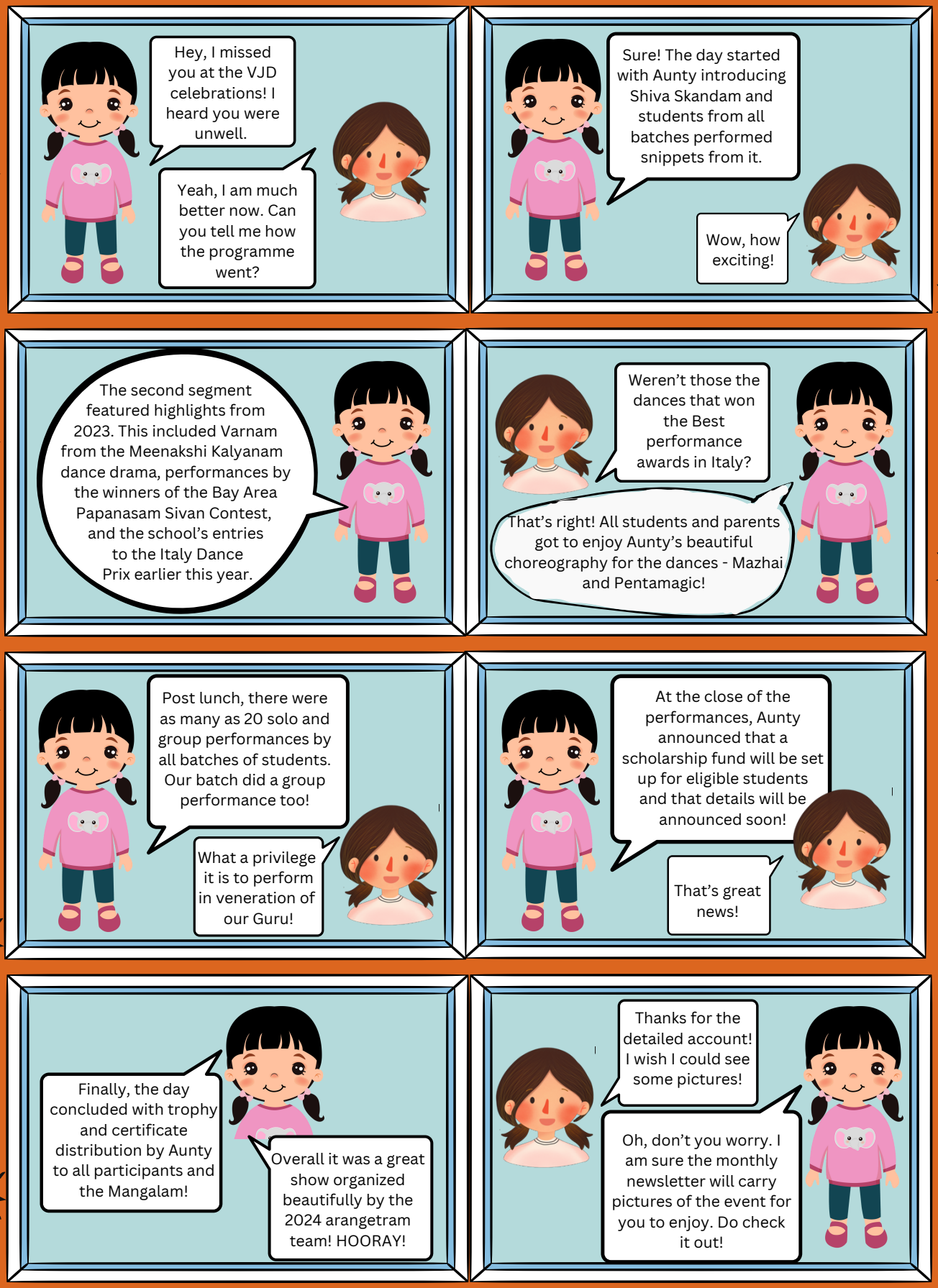
Students earn volunteer hours for their time!

Star Student Volunteers can win the Student Of The Month title!

SKDF is also certified to award the Presidential Volunteer Service Award to eligible volunteers!

The School At A Glance

2023 Vijayadasami Celebrations - an offering to the Guru by Shri Krupa students



The School At A Glance

2023 Vijayadasami Celebrations - an offering to the Guru by Shri Krupa students













Students who have not collected their VJD certificates and trophies may please collect them from the studio.



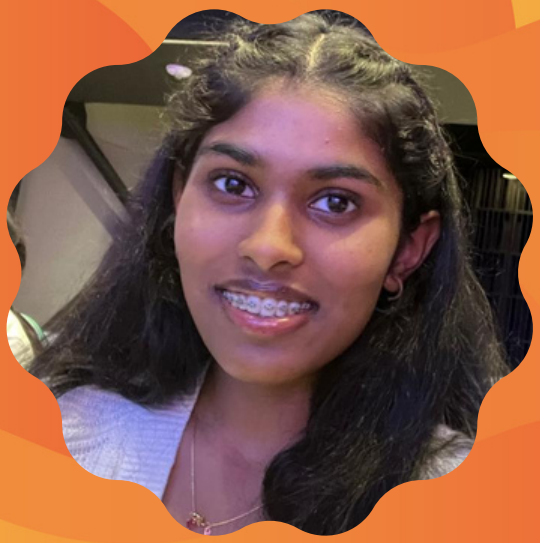








Students Of The Month



Kirthi is a sophomore in high school and has been learning dance since she was 5. She is inspired by Aunty to improve her dance and become the person she is today. Kirti is doing her Arangetram in 2024. She loves to read and can almost always be found with a book in her hand.



Adithi Swaminathan is an 8th grader at Ellen Fletcher Middle School, Palo Alto. She started learning Bharatanatyam under Guru Vishal Ramani at the age of 4. In her spare time she enjoys art, reading, and listening to music.

Student Corner

To feature a student's art/literary work in Student Corner, email skdcdance@gmail.com



Keerthana Rajaraman (Vedika)



Kavya Singh (Mantra)

? Quiz

Which Indian dance form doesn't involve anklets as a part of the dancer's attire?

Kathak
Manipuri
Bhartanatyam
Kathakali

See next month's issue for answer

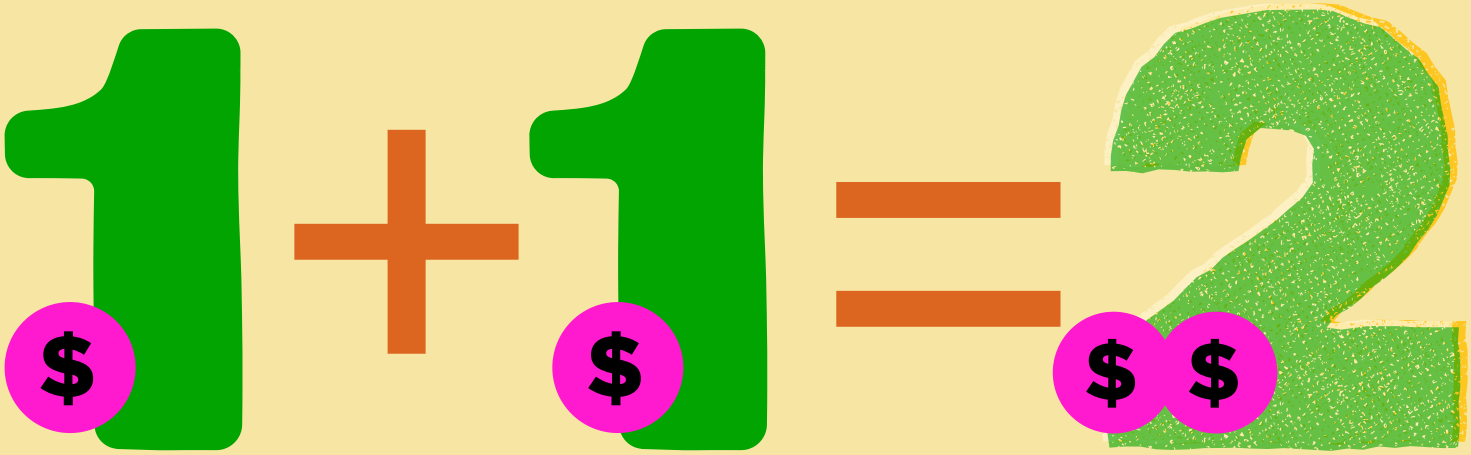
Answer to last month's quiz:
Thanjavur Quartet (Tanjore Quartet)

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