

W e B K P A W e

C a n M a k e a D i f f e r e n c e

A r e O u r F u t u r e

April

2006



# e-Magazine

Issue No. 2

## Spring Edition

### Contest

The BKPA e-magazine is holding a contest to see who can make up a catchy name for the magazine. See page 8 for details.

[www.BKPA.org](http://www.BKPA.org)

## From the President's Desk:

Hello Everyone! I want to introduce to you our second successful publication of the BKPA e-Magazine. Each one of the BKPA Members has contributed something special to the magazine, so enjoy!

On another note, our Annual Saraswati Puja was a big success. On February 5, 2006, nearly 60 people attended the holy event. It was filled with traditional puja, cultural events, and scrumptious food.

The kids held a talent show, in which each one of the kids presented something unique as their talent. There was also an Arts and Crafts show, in which all the kids participated. Lastly, there was a special play, which the kids presented, of the importance of praying to Goddess Saraswati. The whole Saraswati puja was successful, and the BKPA organization gained a couple of new members, which is very exciting news.

Our next big event will be the Bengali New Year, or the Baisakhi Program. Reviews will be presented in the next issue.

Thanks to everyone, who contributed to this issue. You all have made it truly special.

Until next time,  
Nimita

### My Stuffed Animal

By Ankush

I have a stuffed animal named Baby Lion. He is ten years old. His birthday is on January 20. We bought him on January 20, 1996. He has brown fur for his body and a darker brown for his hair and tail. His eyes, nose, and mouth are black. His ears are in his fur. The head is light brown and white.

Baby Lion is older than one of us, but younger than the rest of us. I am younger than him. My mom, dad, and brother are older than him.

Baby Lion has been in our family for a long time. He is a big part of our family. We use to think his hair grew, so we cut it. Baby Lion is kind of dirty and my mom thinks he smells, but I don't think so. We all love him. He is the smallest in our family. Baby Lion is the best-stuffed animal I ever had (I still have him)! On April 7, 2006 we gave Baby Lion armor. He looks cool now.





**A Story**  
by Sonali

I am 5 and 3 quarters. My name is Misty. When I grow up I want to be a beautiful magical princess fairy. When Amruta and me always go in choice time for drawing and when she draws the stars on paper she doesn't draw them good and we always fight about it. I always say that's not how you draw it and Amruta says that is how you write it.

Khushi is a very good friend. She made me get 5 positive sticks in school and I got something out of the treasure chest. Aishwarya and the other girls and me the teacher always says not to say anything mean to her b/c she always teases us.

**THE TEST**  
By Isha

We are done with the test.  
And no one was a pest.  
If their handwriting was sloppy.  
They would have to write another  
copy.

**SHREK**  
By Isha

Shrek is very green.  
He is absolutely never clean.  
He can blend in with the trees.  
He has very hairy knees.

## BY THE FIRE

By Sneha

Sitting by the fire  
Enjoying its glow  
Its warmth  
Its loveliness.  
Watching its flames  
Leap onto the ceiling  
Casting shadows  
Of the dark.  
Its curled fingers  
Reaching for me  
Reaching for what's inside  
For every secret within.  
Crackling and sparkling  
The fire makes me feel  
Alive, warm.  
And comforted  
Sealed by its protective embers  
Encaged inside the heat  
As I sat alone  
Mesmerized by the fire  
I realized that we are all  
Protected and encaged by our parents  
at home  
Who provide us with food,  
Shelter and wise words  
For our adventurous lives ahead.

## Garden

by Aparna

I went to the garden  
and looked at the leaves  
They were so green that  
they looked like lima beans  
The flowers were blue like the sky,  
And when we went digging,  
we saw a big fly.



## Spring

By Subha

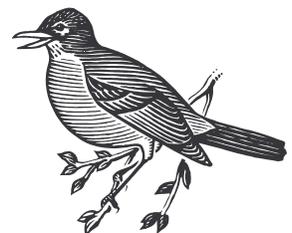


Spring is coming,  
Spring is here.  
Did you listen,  
Did you hear?

The weather's warm,  
The sun shines bright.

The birds are chirping,  
The kites take flight.

The flowers bloom,  
The rain pours down.  
The squirrels awake,  
Why should you frown?



# A DANGEROUS JOURNEY

By Nikhilesh

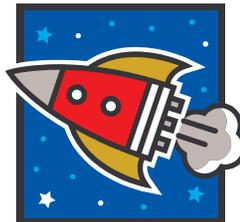
10...9...8...as ground control counted down the crew of the space - shuttle waited for liftoff, their captain, Jack, was prepared for every situation they might have. Booster jets, backup engines, extra air canisters, extra fuel tanks, and everything else they'd need. 4...3...2...1...LIFTOFF! The big ship lifted off as everyone cheered. The trip to the moon was finally happening, after months of hard work, planning, and construction. Days of tightening screws and forming an airtight design had finally paid off.

Once in space, the crew sat down for a meal. After that, they planned their route for the trip. Suddenly an alarm bell rang! They were told to head back to Earth due to some power fluctuations. A gas pipe was starting to leak and there was no way to get to the leak.

As they headed back, they had to refuel the great ship twice. Finally they reached the atmosphere. But there was no more fuel! To make matters worse the fuel tanks were now empty. As the heavy craft hurtled into Earth, everyone hoped that this journey wasn't a mistake.

**TO BE CONTINUED. . .**

To find out what happens, read the next issue.



## *Riddles and Jokes* By Shounak

What is the end of a swimming contest called?

The aqua final

Why is a spider very good at baseball?

It catches a lot of flies.

How do you phone the Man in the Moon?

You use E. T. & T.

Why can't people play cards on a cruise?  
Because they sit on all the decks.

Knock, Knock

"Who's there?"

"Kenya."

"Kenya who?"

"Can ya open the door I have been knocking for hours?"

# Half of my Spring Break

By Arnob

My cousin came to my home on Thursday. My family had dinner with her. My cousin and my sister and me played in our backyard. Friday, my family and my cousin went to Washington D.C.

I brought my game boy, DS, two chapter books, blanket, and my suitcase. We stayed at a hotel called Embassy Suites in Virginia. On Friday night, we had dinner at California Pizza Kitchen.

On Saturday, we went to George Washington's home in Mount Vernon. I saw his tomb also. It was also my dad's birthday! We drove around in Washington D.C. and saw the lights in some of the important buildings like the Capitol, White House, and Jefferson Memorial. Next morning, I saw the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, White House, and Jefferson Memorial again.

On Sunday, we went to the Smithsonian Institution and saw a short movie about James Smithson and the museums at their Castle. We also saw three museums; Air and Space Museum, Natural History Museum, and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Another thing was the merry-go-round. We went on it three times.

At the Air and Space Museum, we saw a show called *Infinity Express* at the Einstein Planetarium. Then we went to the Union Station and had a great lunch. After that we started driving back to our home in New Jersey.



## *How The Monkey Got Its Strong Tail*

By Aditya

Long before smart people walked the earth, there were only animals that lived in forests. One of those species of animals were monkeys. Monkeys had lots of bananas so all the other animals such as the lions and tigers wanted them. They would try and steal the bananas from the monkeys. Lots of monkeys were dying because when Osama the lion and Ungi the tiger were chasing them they started to swing on the trees. Then when they were about to fall they tried to hang on with their tails weren't strong enough so they fell down and died. When Osama and Ungi would chase the monkeys, they would say that if the monkey did not give them their bananas they would eat the monkey. The same thing kept happening for two whole years. Sometimes the baby monkeys would cry because they barely had anything to eat.

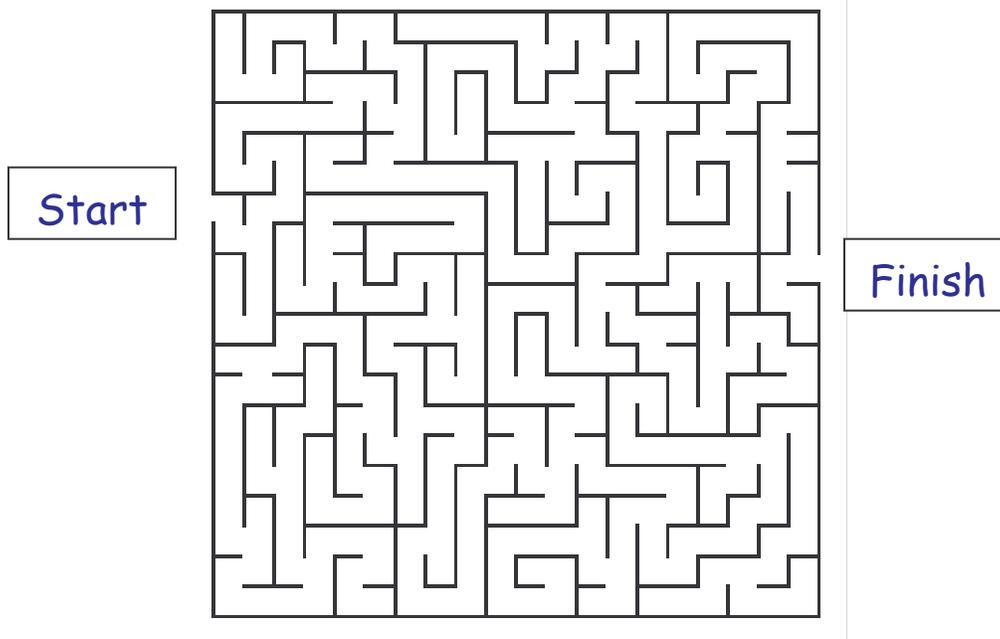
There was a monkey in the forest named Josiah. He was a very lucky monkey because he had not yet come across Osama or Ungi. So far, he had led a normal life. Josiah still played outside without being scared, he took morning walks all around the jungle without being scared, he even used to talk to strangers without thinking it was Osama or Ungi in a disguise. He had led a perfect life until one day...

Josiah was walking around the jungle when he met a monkey named Jojo. Jojo and Josiah talked for a while and then Jojo invited Josiah to his house for lunch. While Josiah was walking to Jojo's house, his tail accidentally touched some honey but Josiah didn't notice it. All went well until Jojo took off a mask and Jojo turned out to be Osama and out of nowhere Ungi jumped into view. Suddenly Ungi and Osama chased Josiah out of the house screaming, "Give us your bananas." Josiah jumped to the treetops because he could swing on the trees faster than he could run on the ground.

Then suddenly Josiah was about to fall from the trees but when he grabbed on with his tail he didn't fall. A monkey wandering nearby saw him and ran to the village to spread the news. Josiah just hung there until Ungi and Osama got tired of waiting and went away. When they went away Josiah let go of the branch and touched his tail. He felt something sticky on his tail and he tasted it. He figured out it was honey. When he walked back to the village everybody started asking him how his tail hung on to the branch. He told them that there was honey on his tail. Suddenly, everybody got some honey and put it on their tail. From that day on every monkey that was born, was born with a tail that could hang on trees.



## Get to the Other Side!



### BKPA's Committee Members

- Nimita - President
- Aditya and Anita - Vice Presidents
- Archan and Arnob - Treasurers
- Romi - Secretary
  - We are looking to fill the 2nd secretarial position
- Shounak - Game Planner
- 2 other positions open
  - In charge of quarterly magazine
  - In charge of cultural events

### **e-Magazine Name Contest**

We are still looking for a catchy name for the magazine.  
If you have one, let us know via [comments@BKPA.org](mailto:comments@BKPA.org)  
Winner will be announced in the Summer Issue.

# A Discussion about Geeta

By Utsarga

I would like to share my understanding of what youngsters can learn from “BHAGAWAD GETTA” as a Gospel given by Lord Krishna. If youngsters acquire this knowledge they will become enlightened and live happily.

Most of the people think that they are the doer. Those people are ignorant and do not know that they are really the “Atma”. The Atma is all-pervading which is also known as God. The Atma just watches the action of body, mind and intellect. Therefore, we as Atma or whole as called Paramatma do not do any work.

Why can't people realize that they are really the Atma? The reason is that our Lord influenced the universe with His power known as yogmaya. Yogmaya is a creative nature of Lord and is a special force that is an obstacle to us being enlightened. Lord Krishna induced this force to let people keep roaming in the cycle of his creation. If yogmaya didn't exist everyone would become enlightened and there would be no one left on Earth. That means everybody would attain Moksha and merge back to God.

Even though we are Atma that does not mean we don't have to take care of our body and go around hurting others. After all, the body is our own possession. We must use our mind and intellect to help us become enlightened. By using our intellect we can control our mind and body to take proper action.

One way to start is to learn about the two paths. They are known as ‘Karma-yog’ and ‘Jyan-yog’. The meaning of Karma-yog is that the Karma (Action) which is performed and dedicated to the Lord. The path is for the Karma-Yogi. Jyan-yog is not as simple. This path is often mistaken as remaining inactive. Jyanyogi sees the presence of Atma as all-pervading yet he does remain bodily inert. Because nobody can remain inactive. The innate properties of nature drive everybody doing some kind of action. The true meaning of Jyan-yogi is that they do perform action based on wisdom and are not under the influence of the ignorant mind. This path is for the saintly people. If we perform action following the path of Jyan-yog, we will soon be enlightened!

When you finally realize the Supreme Lord Krishna by remembering him all the time with total devotion, he will give us what we don't have and will protect what we already have. Then even the ordinary folk attaining enlightenment will be respected. This is why it is a great thing to be enlightened through the words of Bhagawad Geeta. Once we are enlightened, we leave the body we will not acquire another one. We will merge into Lord Krishna.

When we clearly understand this wisdom, nobody will disrespect anybody as everybody is Atma only. Bodily we look different but we are all the same.

*Depression Friendship*  
By Anita

*I am depressed, sad  
How ever you put it,  
I can't stand to be mad  
About a person or it,  
She used to be my friend  
And she still thinks she is,  
But our friendship has come to an end  
And yet she does not realize this.  
She used to hang out with me  
And I thought she was my best friend,  
Now I am alone sipping tea  
And I feel like my life is at an end,  
And yet I try to be happy  
And cheerful and bright,  
But when I see her I am snappy  
Depressed and tight.*

**Crack the Code!**

<u>K</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>							
14	15	7	11	13	4	21	20	16	20	23	19	4	11	20	26	20	19	13	20	2	6	20		
<u>U</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>E</u>										
3	4	2	4	13	20	19	8	7	26	20	23	19	8	22	19	14	20	19	23	6	19	8	17	20

A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	U	W
19	16	23	7	20	17	6	15	14	21	22	8	12	13	11	2	4	26

Answers to the Games

Answers to the games of this issue will be on the Summer Issue, which will be coming out in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of July.

Keep writing for your e-Magazine and send them in.  
If you submit number of items, we will hold onto some for the future issues.

## Announcements/Questions/Answers

### Question of the Season

**Name one item you enjoy about the Bengali culture?**

Your answer does not need to be more than a sentence. Please send your answer to [comments@bkpa.org](mailto:comments@bkpa.org). All the answers will be published in the Summer issue.

### Did you know?

Aditya participated in a math-a-thon and solved 255 math problems as part of a fund raising event to benefit the St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Archan performed at the Intermediate String Orchestra Concert for the Central Jersey Music Educators Association, held at Edison High School on April 1.

### Why is it important to be a Bengali?

*Because you get to be different - Arnob*

*Because we have special traditions - Romi*

*Because you get to be bilingual - Aditya*

*Because you can read, write in a different language.*

*Also, you learn from your grandparents - Anita*

*Because you have a special heritage - Atin*

*Because it represents our heritage and culture - Nimita*

## Answers to Last Issue's Games

### Math Square Solution Page 5

1	+	3	-	5	-1
+		+		-	
4	/	2	X	9	18
+		+		+	
6	+	7	X	8	62
11		12		4	

### Criss-Cross Puzzle Page 6

#### Across

2. kids-children
3. Nimita-first name of president of BKPA
7. Saraswati-goddess of music and learning
9. Arnob-first name of the other treasurer
10. Anita-first name of the girl vice president of BKPA
12. Ganesh-god of business
13. puja-religious ceremonies

#### Down

1. BKPA-club name
4. Mouse-animal of god of business
5. Romi-first name of the secretary of BKPA
6. Swan-animal of goddess of learning
8. Aditya-first name of the boy vice president of BKPA
9. Archan-first name of one the two treasurers of BKPA
11. Bengali-popular language in West Bengal

*Bengali New Year 1413 started on April 15*

*Shubho Nabobarsho*

*Happy New Year*

*See you at the BAISAKHI Celebration*

*Saturday, May 6, 4:30 – 9:00 pm*