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News letter for members of TATA

March 2010, Issue - 4.

## New Board Members (2010-11)

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## అధ్యక్షుల పలుకు

## President's Note

Hi All,

Greetings to everyone on the occasion of Vikruti, the Telugu new year. May the new year bring cheer and happiness to everyone. TATA's new board has just started operating and we are planning many things to make this new year fun and exciting. We have the following events planned for immediate future:

1. Taste of Asia: All Asia communities of Tucson are meeting at 'Tucson Chinese Cultural Center' on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> in an effort to introduce their culture and food to Tucson. There will be a variety of ethnic foods sold by all these communities and various crafts will be displayed. TATA is planning to participate in this event.
2. Indoor/Outdoor event: We are planning for a TATA sponsored event during June, where all members can meet and have some fun together. More updates about this event will follow.
3. We'll have more events for the rest of the year and all members will be notified as things get finalized.

I'm proud to announce that our members generously donated a total sum of \$1,775.00 for Haiti earth quake relief. This is a significant sum coming from a small association like TATA. I'm sure we'll continue to be active in the community for years to come.

Best Regards.

Subrahmanyam

# TATA Sankranthi 2010



The annual TATA Sankranthi event was hosted by Dr. Gautam and Lakshmi Panduranga on and was celebrated with unwavering enthusiasm by all members of TATA.

Adults and children were involved in a cultural program that made all the audience engrossed for nearly 2 hours in this once in a year tradition. The evening order with welcome notes from TATA president Sri Murthy Kudagal.



Children alike putting together a program that quickly got into welcome notes from TATA president Sri

The MC of the evening was Sri Satheesh Aradyula. His introduction to the various programs that included songs, dances, skits etc. was done in his unique style of narration that epitomizes his proximity to the culture we all love.



Special thanks to Sri Satheesh Aradyula for a job well done. After Vindhya 's Ganesh's invocation, 3 year old (now 4) Sahasrakshi

rendered the

Annamacharya Krithi, "Sriman Narayana". It was followed by a dance to the song "Mukunda Mukunda" and the performers were Neha, Nidhi, Nitish, Pooja, Nina, Priti, and Sahasrakshi. The older girls danced to the tune of "Appanna Thanna", an old telugu folk song. Those who performed included, Adya, Divya, Mira, Nitya,

Naina, Rudrakshi, Meena and Vindhya. We then had a solo dance performance from Smt. Sujana Kanakadandi based on a famous Annamayya Kriti, "Brahmamokkate". TATA has this unique tradition of springing a surprise with an extempore performance. This year it was an Astrologist (Sri Prasad Bhamidipati) that correctly predicted the characteristics of some of our important TATA members. His uniquely penned script threw the audience into peals of laughter. This was followed by a very well performed skit, an improvised version of Sri Krishnadeveraya's "Bhuvana Vijayam". In this very well rehearsed skit, all the kids spoke only in Telugu. The boys that participated are: Sudeep, Jeevaj, Pravarakhya, Teja, Sai, Krishna, Vikram, Sreekar, Sumhith, and Praneeth. The skit was followed by a hilarious drama called "Silver Jubilee" that was written by Sri Prasad Bhamidipati. Those who participated in this play included Sri Uday Kanakadandi, Smt. Sujana Kanakadandi, Smt. Swaroopa Bommireddy, Sri Venkat N, Sri Prasad Bhamidipati, and Kalyan Dasika. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the TATA muggula poti (previous newsletter has list of winners), and the first essay writing contest. The winning essays are printed in this newsletter. The prize distribution was followed by vote of thanks from our cultural secretary Smt. Ranga Aradyula. All of us at TATA commend her efforts in coordinating and putting together a very fine cultural program.

The evening was concluded by elections and a new board got elected. Congratulations to the new board.

It was another memorable day of Sankranthi celebrations as has been the tradition from previous years.

## The joys of choosing a new computer password

I have a computer problem every three month. It's because I'm forced to change my password, that collection of letters and symbols you're supposed to keep in your memory and not write down anywhere. If I don;t change the password at



the end of three month, my computer - my only companion for the better part of the day in my almost sepulchral office - will not communicate with me. The server down the hall keeps it quarantined and sends me the message, "You are not authorized to log on."

Some people are proficient at inventing passwords they can recall later without delay. I am not one of them. And the advice I got about choosing passwords did'nt help me. Besides, I wanted a password that would boost my spirits and prepare me to face the tasks ahead.

I'm not good at  
inventing passwords

In a moment of inspiration I chose lwa&g&g2lf for a password. It's an adaptation for the first line of William Butler Yeat's famous poem, "The Lake Isle of Inisfree": "I will rise and go [now], and go to Innesfree."

Although my choice may look odd, it has all the requirements my server demands: capital and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. But there was another advantage, I soon realized. I don't mechanically punch the keyboard when I use this password. Instead, the words behind the line dance in my head, and I silently recite the rest of

the poem as the computer screen says, "recovering your settings" or "logging on."

I often recite favorite poems to myself when I'm hiking or sitting on a rock and admiring the landscape. I find it both calming and invigorating. Now, in my office, too, I can evoke that mood as I start my day.

How can I not feel the urge to go on when I punch in the password ?wtaltlkRF and complete the recitation with: &m2gbflsRF, even if I have to add Robert Frost's initials to get the required 10 symbols?

Starting the day with a favorite poem, such as "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," certainly beats having another cup of coffee.

**G. K. Vemulapalli**

Note: This article was originally published in the Christian Science Monitor. To make it more legible we re-typed this article.

**Essay: K-2 (Special Mention award)****By: Sudeep Bommireddy, Kindergartener at Lineweaver Elementary**

Prompt: Why is it important for you to learn Telugu?

I want to learn telugu because it is important to learn telugu

I want to talk telugu with Madhavi aunty. I want to talk with Satheesh uncle. I want to talk to my ammamma and other relatives in telugu. If I know telugu i can practice my drama

**Winning Essay: K-2****By: Krishna Dasika, First grader at Canyon View Elementary**

Prompt: How do you explain Indian culture to your friends?

Our Indian culture is mostly about festivals. The religion is mostly Hindu. I like the gods in India. I like to sing songs and participate in plays in our festivals. We have big feasts during the festivals. We have a festival called Diwali. We celebrate Diwali because it was the day that Rama returned to Ayodhya after he killed the demon king Ravana. We celebrate a festival called Sankranti and we draw pictures called rangoli during this festival.

I like my festivals. I have dresses called kurtas and pyjamas which I wear on the day of festivals and on my birthday. My favorite god in India is Hanuman because he is like a superhero and he is very strong. We pray to the god every day. We sing songs to the gods. Some people in India go to temples every morning and they pray to the gods. All girls in India have a sticker called bindi and they put them on their foreheads. We have music instruments called the Sitar, Veena, Tabla, Mridangam, Murali (flute). We have a traditional dance called Bharatanatyam. The Tirumala Venkateswara Temple is a popular temple located in Andhra Pradesh. This temple is the most worshipped and the richest in the world. Taj Mahal is a famous building built by an emperor called Shah Jahan and it is located in Agra, India. The most popular sport in India is cricket. The most popular books in India are the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. There are many languages that are spoken in India. The language that I speak is called Telugu.

**Winning Essay: 3-5****By: Meena Venkatramanan, Fifth grader at Manzanita Elementary**

## The Meaning of Indian Culture

Indian culture is unique and diverse. Some things we do may be different from other cultures. That's why we need to explain our culture to people who are not familiar with it. I explain Indian culture to my friends in many ways. One way is to tell them about the holidays we celebrate. My teacher set up a Christmas tree and a menorah in our classroom recently. She told us that if any of us celebrate other holidays this time of year, we were more than welcome to place a symbol of that holiday in the classroom. I decided to bring one in about Diwali. I brought a picture of goddess Durga, a lamp, and turmeric powder. I explained to my class about Diwali and what it celebrates. Last year, I wrote an article about Diwali for the newspaper and it got published. I also got on television to talk about it. Now my friends know a lot more about Diwali.

Another way I can explain Indian culture to my friends is by speaking the language. Once our class played a scavenger hunt game. Our group members took turns going up with the items they thought were right. When it was my turn, I got the special question. It was to recite the numbers 1-10 in a different language. Most people didn't know a language other than English, so they were stuck. But I bravely recited 1-10 in Tamil. That's how my friends know about my language. I also teach them some words in Tamil.

Sometimes when we're bored I tell them some myths about Hinduism. I told them the story about how Ganesha came to be. I also told them about how he won the mango. They were fascinated, and found some myths unbelievable. I am proud of my Indian heritage and keep it up by taking classical dance classes like Bharathanatyam, and also Indian folk dances. I also take classes to learn to read, write, and speak Tamil. I am proud to tell the world that I am Indian.

**Winning Essay: 6-8****By: Sumhith Aradyula, Sixth grader at Esperero Canyon Middle School**

Prompt: Why is it important for you to learn Telugu?

Did you know that Telugu is over 2000 years old? Our ancestors have been speaking this Dravidian language for two millennia, loving it so much as to even produce a script. It is important to learn and preserve this language of our forefathers so that we can communicate with our living relatives, and learn about our own rich history. Besides, if the current language is working perfectly well, what right do we have to change it?

My grandparents have come to visit us from Andhra, and I must communicate with them in Telugu, as Tatagaaru, though he knows English, cannot understand fast American speech, and Amamma does not speak any English at all. Without Telugu, I couldn't have a meaningful relationship with my grandparents. There is a lot I can learn from my grandparents which I cannot if I can't speak with them. If I cannot understand them, they cannot tell me to eat dinner, put the Food Network™ on T.V., or play their favorite Sai Baba Bhajans on the cassette player.

We are ruining our language. If one were to listen to the typical Hyderabad language now, it would sound something like this: "Sir, nEnu oka new computer buy cEsAnu, sir. adi break ayipOyindi, sir. nuvvu computer vAdu kAbaTTi oka sAri nuvvu dAniki look este problem EmiTo find out cEste nEnu tension padakunDa cAla happy gA feel avutAnu, sir." There are fifteen English words in that sentence of thirty-six, a percentage more than 41%! And, to think Hyderabad is the capital of us Telugus. Right now, this is Telugu with English words. In the future, to ensure that this does not become English with a few Telugu words, and to ensure that our language does not die, we must learn the correct way to speak our mother tongue. Finally, Telugu has a rich history. The great Tamil poet, Subramania Bharati, called this language Sundara Telugu, or beautiful Telugu. A Dravidian language by classification, Telugu is the second most spoken language in India after Hindi. Its leaders are numerous; from the valiant Krishna Deva Raya, to the earnest Annamayya. They wrote in a script fairly

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new script of then, one from the 13th century C.E. Until then, Kannada and Telugu had used the same script, a version of the Bramhi. When singing Carnatic music, to show the correct expression in the voice, one must know the meaning of the song. You can achieve this by learning Telugu. Another advantage of learning about the meaning of a song is one would connect with their culture more.

Telugu is spoken mainly in Andhra and Telangana, but it is also spoken a little in surrounding states such as Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh. All native Telugu words end in vowel sounds, but under Sanskrit and Prakrit influence from the Aryans, and Urdu influence, other words such as sAmAn and navAb have been added. It is important to preserve such historical knowledge because it gives us information on our ancestors and how they gradually became more and more unique from other groups. This information can be preserved by learning to speak Telugu.

In conclusion Telugu is a language which must not be lost. We must fix our folly in destroying our language and start protecting our heritage. We should learn our ancestors' language and speak it, to show our love for our culture. As the great Sri Krishna Deva Raya himself said, "dEsa bAshalandu, telugu lessa." Among all of the country's languages, Telugu is the best.

**LITTLE SISTER AND ME**

KIDS' SECTION

**By Nitya Kari, 2nd Grade, Canyon View Elementary**

MY LITTLE SISTER IS A WONDERFUL GIFT TO ME  
SHE MEANS MANY THINGS TO ME  
SHE LOOKS LIKE ME AND ACTS LIKE ME  
AND WE LOVE EACH OTHER DEARLY.

I AM THERE WHEN SHE IS LONELY AND SAD  
BUT WE ARGUE WHEN WE ARE MAD  
AND WHEN WE ARE IN TROUBLE  
SHE NEVER FIRST GETS CAUGHT.

WE HAVE DIFFERENT LIKES AND DISLIKES  
BUT WE TRUST TO WORK TOGETHER  
AS OUR BEAUTIFUL CHILDHOOD IS WITH JOY AND LAUGHTER  
AND SUCH A PRIDE TO BE DAUGHTERS AND SISTERS.

MY DREAM SISTER HAS BEEN A JOY AS WELL  
A TRUE AND REAL LIFE ANGEL  
MY FEELINGS FOR HER GO BEYOND  
NEITHER TIME NOR SPACE CAN LESSEN OUR BOND.

**Time for Change**

KIDS' SECTION

**By Meena Venkataramanan, Grade Five, Manzanita Elementary**

“April, I’m busy right now! Go fly a kite!” hollered my mom from inside the kitchen. “We don’t even have a kite!” I yelled back, even though I knew it was an expression. I decided to check on my baby sister, Gretel. Gretel was only a few months old and had an accident every five minutes. But I was used to that. I was the one who changed her diaper when Mom was busy in the kitchen. I trotted inside Gretel’s alphabet-themed room. I sat on the rocking chair and was about to pick her up when she did the most surprising thing.

Gretel rolled over! “Mom! Come quick!” I screamed.

“What is it? What happened?!” she shouted. She ran over to Gretel’s room and narrowed her eyes. “I don’t see anything!” I motioned for her to come over to her crib. Gretel rolled again. Mom stood there, wide-eyed. “Go get the video camera!” she exclaimed. I ran to get it as she kept watching Gretel roll over and smile and the roll again. When I came back Mom had put Gretel on the floor so she had more room to roll. We video-taped her continuously roll over until the tape was full.

That night, when I was getting ready for bed, I thought about how Gretel had just achieved her first milestone in this house. Next would be crawling, then walking, then talking. I thought about how I had lived here all my life, and my first steps were on these floors and my first words echoed through these walls. This house was full of memories. Good ones and bad ones. I wouldn’t trade this house for a mansion. Nothing can replace the times we’ve had here.

I was having a wonderful dream that I was a gymnast and could do back flips all over the gym when I felt a hard tap on my shoulder. I forced open my dopey eyes to see a face that looked like my mother’s. The face was blurry so I rubbed my eyes to see my mom with a terrified expression on her face. “April! Wake up! We have to leave!”

I yawned. “Oh, mom! You’re mistaken! It’s Saturday! We don’t have to go anywhere!” I said, still half asleep.

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KIDS' SECTION

She dragged me off the bed. “The house caught on fire a few minutes ago! It’s ruined! We have to move! Dad’s trying to find a place to stay until we find a new house! Grab some of your stuff! We can buy new stuff when we find a new house! Quickly!” I snapped into reality. My heart started beating faster by the second. Tears started to trickle down my face. “Mom! We can’t just leave! What about all my friends and all our memories! How can we just leave our house?”

My mom gave me a kiss on the cheek. “I know it’s hard. But we’ll talk later. We have to move before it gets worse!” She hurried out of my room. I grabbed Honey, my little stuffed bear I had since I was one, and my favorite book. I snatched a handful of clothes, a hairbrush, and a headband and scurried out of the room. I ran into Gretel’s room and scooped her up. She started crying because I woke her up. This time, I didn’t stop her. I cried with her. I couldn’t just leave the place I was born. Just yesterday the world was perfect and today it turned upside down. Just then I noticed a hole that had blasted through the letter ‘Z’ on Gretel’s wall. I checked the clock. It was 1:00 a.m. Gretel had dozed off to sleep in my lap. Mom ran into the room just then. “Girls! Get in the car! There’s no time to sit around!” I grabbed a handful of diapers for Gretel as we dashed out of the room. It was time to say goodbye to #1245 Leigh St, the place we grew up.

My mom woke me up when we reached our new house. Gretel and I had fallen back asleep for the car ride. I peered out of the window. The houses looked the same. They both were creamy-colored and had two stories. They looked nothing like our old house. Just thinking of our old house made me want to cry. When we went inside, everything was different from our old house. It smelled of lavender scent, which made me sneeze. I’d known that I’d hate this place from the moment I set foot inside. “I know what you’re thinking,” said my mom. “This condo is only temporary. We’ll find somewhere better to live. But I promise you’ll like it here soon. There’s a park just a few blocks away, and the school’s supposed to be great.

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KIDS' SECTION

I snorted. In my experience, no school was great. "Which is my room?" I asked. My mom and dad exchanged glances.

"Well, there are only two rooms...so you and Gretel have to share a room." I threw back my head and laughed.

"You guys are kidding, right? You would never make me share a room with Gretel!" But they just stood there, nodding. A terrified look spread across my face. How could I sleep when Gretel would cry in the middle of the night? How could I live with Gretel when she had an accident on our carpet every five minutes? It was impossible! My mom folded her arms and sighed.

"April, I know how mad you are. But just cooperate for now, please?" I picked up Gretel and we made our way to my, or our, new room. I sat on the windowsill and gazed out the window. I saw a couple of girls jump roping on the lawn. I didn't feel like joining them. Suddenly, I felt myself crying. For no reason, that was. I just missed living in our house. I wanted to go back. I wanted to see my friends. I just wished I could go back in time and stop the fire from happening. But I just couldn't.

Then I heard a voice behind me. "Why so sad?" It was my dad. He sat down on the floor. "April, you're thinking about the past. Don't moan and groan about previous times. Think about the future. About all the great times you'll have. And remember, the memories will always lie in your heart. They won't go anywhere." He put his arm around me. I smiled. It was the first time I had smiled today. Then I realized change wasn't so bad after all. I decided to go and join those girls. Things were getting better already.

**Cultural activities of TATA**

KIDS' SECTION

**By: Sreekar Bommireddy, Fourth grader at Lineweaver Elementary**

In Tucson, the Telugu kids participate in many cultural programs and they help teach about our culture to other children. Children present their dances, skits, drama or something else at parties such as Sankranti, Deepavali, and Ugadi. Kids learn Telugu language at Ranga & Satheesh Aradhyula's house. They help kids read, write, and tell stories in Telugu. The classes start at 10 AM sharp and end at 11 AM every Sunday. Our TATA Sankranti is a big success. We had a delicious snack, great dances and skits and delicious dinner. We also raised money for the victims of Haiti earthquake.

We had dance with all the small kids of TATA. We also had a dance featuring most of the girls aged 5-11. We had a skit about Sri Krishna Devarayalu with boys' ages from 5-13. Then we had a skit featuring adults. The results of essay contest were announced before the conclusion of the party. The winners are: Krishna Dasika in the K-2 section, Meena Venkataraman in K-5 section, and Sumhith Aradhyula in K-8 section. Sudeep Bommireddy was the youngest participant. Kids also participated in muggula poti (Rangoli contest) held at Aradhyula's house before Sankranti. Mira Raju won the first place while Nitya Kari and Meena Venkataramanan won 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

**Languages of India**

KIDS' SECTION

**By: Praneeth Gogineni, Eighth grader at Doolen Middle School**

The official language of India is Hindi, the second official language is English. There are 422 million Hindi speakers, 83 million Bengali speakers, 74 million Telugu speakers, 72 million Marathi speakers, 61 million Tamil speakers, 52 million Urdu speakers, 46 million Gujarati speakers, 38 million Kannada speakers, 33 million Malayalam speakers, 33 million Oriya speakers, 29 million Punjabi speakers, 13 million Assamese speakers, 12 million Maithili speakers, 6.5 million Santali speakers, 2.5 million Nepali speakers, 2.5 million Sindhi speakers, 1.2 million Bodo speakers, there are 100,000 Dogri speakers, and lastly 50,000 speakers of Sanskrit.

Out of all of those official languages in India, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu all have Dravidian roots or origins. Assamese, Bengali, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Konkani, Maithili, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, and Urdu have Indo-Aryan origins. The rest are Kashmiri, which has Dardic origins; Manipuri, which has Tibetan origins; and Santali, which has Austro-Asia static origins.

The government of India in 2004 said that some of the languages could be consider classical if they met certain requirements. Those languages are Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, and Telugu. Choosing Hindi as the official language has presented problems to many, whose mother tongue is not Hindi. Children are going to have to learn Hindi just to advance into the next level of education.

**Puzzles**

KIDS' SECTION

**By: Meena Venkataramanan, Fifth grader at Manzanita Elementary****Hink Pinks**

Make the phrases rhyme!

*Example- An obese rodent: A fat rat*

A noisy group of people: \_\_\_\_\_

A rude empress: \_\_\_\_\_

A donkey mother: \_\_\_\_\_

A cool vacation: \_\_\_\_\_

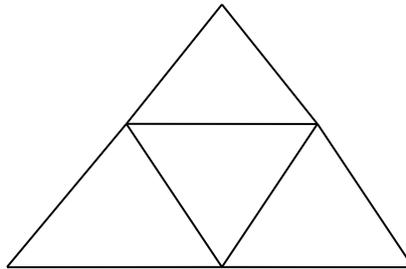
A small mole: \_\_\_\_\_

Stupid leftovers: \_\_\_\_\_

A fast twig: \_\_\_\_\_

**Brain Teaser**

How many triangles are in this picture? - \_\_\_\_\_



## News

## KIDS' SECTION

Congratulations to Vindhya Pasupaleti for her first place finish at the Taekwondo ATA Regional Tournament held in Mesa in the weapons competition on Feb 6th 2010.

Congratulations to Nitya Kari for winning overall 2nd place in Science Fair at Canyon View Elementary School and SciEnTek-12 Foundation 3rd place at SARSEF 2010. Her project was titled "YOGURT MYSTERY".

Congratulations to Mira Raju for winning the SciEnTek-12 Foundation 1st place award in the Life Sciences Team category for Grade 2 at SARSEF 2010. Her project was titled "Will the Caterpillars Expand in Light or Night?"

Congratulations to Rudrakshi Dasika for winning 2 awards at SARSEF 2010 . She got a first place, Young Solar Innovator award from AZRISE (Arizona Research In Solar Engery) and an award from the Arizona Hydrological Society. Her project was titled "Solar Desalination."

Congratulations to Meena Venkataramanan for winning an award on Mar 13th 2010 for the story Time for change (published in this newsletter) at the Tucson Festival of books in the category of grades 3-5 Young writers flash fiction story writing contest.

Congratulations to Sreekar Bommireddy for being the regional champion in the elementary (K-6) section at the regional chess championship held at St. Cyrils school on Mar 13th 2010.

## Upcoming Events:

1. టేస్ట్ ఆఫ్ ఆసియా ఏప్రిల్ 30th మరియు మే 1st
2. సంగీత సమీక్ష.... వివరాలు త్వరలో

1. Taste of Asia on April 30th and May 1st.
2. Sangeetha Sameeksha.. to be announced.



In Loving Memory  
**Gopala Krishna**  
**Vemulapalli PhD**

September 16, 1935 - February 14, 2010

### GOODBYE

Friends, too soon I will be going away  
 And I must say goodbye to company  
 For I will not see yet another birthday

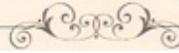
Life is but a brief scene in nature's play  
 A blip, a fleeting moment in eternity  
 Friends, too soon I will be going away

I lived with joy for many a day  
 With writing and reading for tranquility  
 And I will not see yet another birthday

I could only live and do my own way  
 But always family first, next yours truly  
 Friends, too soon I will be going away

There is this and much more I wish to say  
 But have to say it with utmost brevity  
 For I will not see yet another birthday

Remember our love and many a good day  
 Death is natural, so is living happily  
 Friends, too soon I will be going away  
 And I will not see yet another birthday



### Editor's Note:

Dear TATA members,

As you all know Sri. GKV is not with us anymore. But we will have his memories and the time each one of us interacted with him. We are greatly appreciative of his wife Carolyn for agreeing to let us publish some of his works in our news letter. We will be featuring more of his works in future editions of TATA kaburlu.

I would like to thank all of you that actively participated in making this news letter wealthy. I hope the rest of the members will enjoy reading, as much as I did, the featured essays, stories, and various accomplishments our kids have achieved in their interests. I strongly encourage you and your kids to share in similar fashion in future editions of TATA kaburlu if you have not done so. As you might have noticed, though its a Telugu newsletter it's all in English. So, if you wrote a story or a poem in Telugu or planning to write one please don't hesitate to share with us, we will publish it Telugu.

If you need a copy of the Sankranthi program DVD write an email to [kdasika@gmail.com](mailto:kdasika@gmail.com).

Thank you.

- Kalyan Dasika

**Answers for puzzles**

Hink Pinks:

- A loud crowd
- A mean queen
- A llama mama
- A hip trip
- A short wart
- Dumb crumbs
- A quick stick

Brain Teaser:

Number of Triangles= 5