

The NorthSouth Star



Upcoming Events

Online Info Sessions

- ❖ 8/1 - [2020 Online Spelling Bee Information Session](#)
- ❖ 8/8 - [2020 Impromptu Speaking Information session](#)

Online Contests

- ❖ 8/15: [Brain bee, Math bee, Vocab bee](#)
- ❖ 8/16: [Geography bee, History bee, Science bee](#)
- ❖ 8/22: [Impromptu Speech](#)
- ❖ 8/29: [Spelling bee](#)

Free Webinars

- ❖ 8/1: [Ashoka's Legacy: Everyone A Changemaker](#)
- ❖ 9/13 - ["How Volunteering Changed My Life? It can Change Yours too!"](#)
- ❖ 9/27 - ["Raising Well-Rounded Children: Great Schools, Great Grades. What Else?"](#)



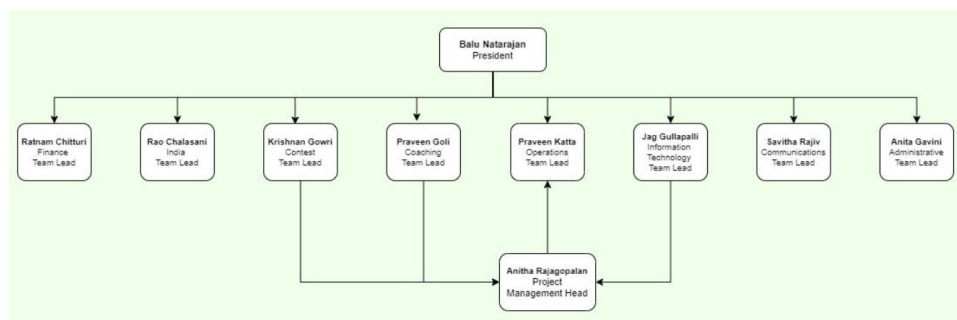
Dear NorthSouth Families:

What an amazing 2020 it's been for our Foundation! In March, we wondered if we'd be able to get much done at all. Fast forward to July, and we're trying to just keep up with all that's going on! It's an honor to share with you what I see from the President's office.

This year, we've held Strategy sessions among our leaders since the spring - and we've started to frame, in detail, what the next many years will look like. We're actively working on what the 2021 Organizational Chart will include. In the meantime, we're getting our work done through the hard work and direction of some amazing Team Leads.



Our Transitional Cabinet



As you will see in this newsletter, our volunteers have pulled together some amazing initiatives and activities, in record time. We have so much planned for the rest of 2020 and beyond. We want to do it all at once, but we've learned to be patient and tackle each project methodically :) In the coming weeks, I will share with you what each Team on the Transitional Cabinet is working on. I'll also explain in more detail what we're doing on the Strategy Team.

I want to thank you for your ongoing support of the NorthSouth Foundation. Rooted in empathy, we've been able to epitomize Educational Excellence for 30 years, and we're just getting started. Our leadership team can't wait to build the next 30 years with you!

Sincerely,
Balu Natarajan, M.D.
President
NorthSouth Foundation



How YOU can get involved

There's a lot of activity that goes on behind the scenes. Content development, coaching, web design, finance, marketing, and customer service are just a few of the projects our volunteers undertake. It's hard work, but, together, we make it happen. If you're interested in helping us out, check out our [current openings](#) and fill out the volunteer interest survey. We look forward to hearing from you!

Other ways to help

- ★ Donate
- ★ Fundraise
- ★ Be a social media ambassador



NorthSouth - AAPI Spelling Bee

NorthSouth partnered with AAPI to create its first ever online spelling bee. The event was conceptualized and executed by a group of about 25 NorthSouth alumni, many of whom are past Scripps spelling bee finalists and winners. These youth, currently in high school and college, recently created an elite 8-week spelling coaching program. About 144 students in grades 3 to 8 enrolled in this program were administered a qualifying test and the top 20 students in each division were invited to participate in an online spelling bee.



The event ran on June 20-21, 2020 and was live streamed on facebook live, garnering over 16,000 views from across the globe. The competition was fierce and the semifinalists battled multiple rounds to make the coveted top 5 finalists spots. The finals for all three groups were aired on June 21st and it was close to midnight by the time the winner was crowned! Anjali Chauhan won the 3rd Grade Division, Kavin Elangovan the 4th/5th Grade Division, and Sirjana Kaur the 6th-8th Grade Division. Thanks to AAPI for sponsoring the event and for their generous donation of \$2,000 to the foundation!

Free Webinars

NorthSouth introduced the first in its series of **free** webinars, back in February. The webinars which usually run at noon EST on Sundays are presented by experts in the field on topics ranging from parenting, health & wellness & benefits of competitions among others.

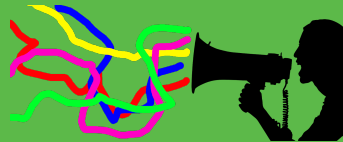
In case you missed the webinars, you can find the recordings [here](#).





Corner

Blatherskite (noun):
A person who talks incessantly without making sense



Etymology

Blatherskite is composed of two Old Norse roots, blathra and skate. Blathra means to talk nonsense and skate may originate from the word skeet, meaning to shoot.

Usage

The first recording of the word is in the 17th century poem "Maggie Lauder." Below is an English transcription.

*Who wouldn't
 want to be
 in love with
 beautiful
 Maggie Lauder?
 A piper met her
 going to Fife
 and asked what
 people called her.
 Right daughtingly
 she answered him,
 "Go away, you
 hallanshaker!
 Be on your way,
 you **blatherskite**,
 my name is
 Maggie Lauder!*

NorthSouth Foundation
 presents
ONLINE EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

Math Vocabulary Geography
 Online Spelling Impromptu speaking
 Science History Brainbee

Online Contests - Aug 15,16
 Impromptu Speaking - Aug 22
 Online Spelling - Aug 29

Hurry !!!

Registration Link - <https://www.northsouth.org/app9/login.aspx?entry=p>
 sponsors acceptw Register for a complimentary college admission information session at: <https://acceptw.co/NSF-Virtual>

Register For Upcoming Online Contests Now!

To keep you entertained while we're stuck at home, we've created new online contests! Register with the link above to join competitions for Spelling, Vocabulary, Geography, Math, Science, History, Brainbee, and Impromptu Speaking. Make sure to register by August 10th. For more information, click [here](#).

The recording for the Online Contests Information Session can be found [here](#)

Online Coaching

The aim of the recently established NorthSouth online coaching program is to enhance student learning. It has succeeded--its popularity among learners of all ages has demonstrated the appeal and effectiveness of the online classes offered. The NorthSouth Foundation's online program includes expertly-taught classes in Math, SAT/ACT, Science, Geography, Computer Programming, Vedic Math, Universal Values, and Life Skills. We hope to see you at one of our [classes](#)!

We are recruiting volunteer coaches for all subjects to teach starting October. For more information, contact recruiting@northsouth.org.





The Panacea Challenge



COVID-19 has taken our country by storm. To encourage students to learn about the global pandemic, the NorthSouth Foundation devised the Panacea Challenge. The Panacea Challenge was a competition in which students submitted artwork, essays, videos, or posters themed around the pandemic. Entries were divided into two age-based categories, Juniors (Kindergarten-3rd grade) and Seniors (4th-8th grade). The winner of each section was given \$2500 to donate to their charity of choice.

Junior Winner

[Grand Champion: Abhijay Potluri](#)

Abhijay, a 2nd grade student at Luther Conant Elementary School, taught himself animation and made a skit detailing the importance of hygiene and masks. He won the 1st place prize and chose to donate his \$2,500 to UNICEF to help children during COVID-19.



Senior Winner

[Grand Champion: Samhitha Koltur](#)

Samhitha wrote a creative essay from the perspective of the bacteria tuberculosis. It included information and statistics about the virus and talked about COVID-19 informatively with a captivating perspective twist. Check it out at the link above!



INDIA NEWS

Rambabu Kaipa is the new CEO of NorthSouth India

North South Foundation India Board on 24 July, 2020 appointed Mr Rambabu Kaipa as the CEO for the newly created autonomous vertical "NSF Creative Learning & Leadership Initiatives. NorthSouth has recently been adding significant intellectual resources supported by a suite of products on a potent technology platform to the full satisfaction of beneficiary organizations.

Mr. Rambabu Kaipa is the CEO who comes with 25 years of experience with Infosys India in various capacities, followed by nonprofit work at Akshaya Nidhi (a fundraising and higher capacity utilization arm of Akshaya Patra). A four-member Advisory Council coordinated by Dr. Vamsidhar Y, a former Deloitte consultant in India, and worked with Central Square Foundation in Delhi, dedicated to education), Dr. Mallikharjuna Rao C., President, NSF India, Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan (famously known in India as JP, General Secretary of FDR, a dedicated NGO for over two decades in democratic reforms,

education, health, farmer welfare, and urban development), and Rao Chalasani (Chairman, NorthSouth Foundation USA).

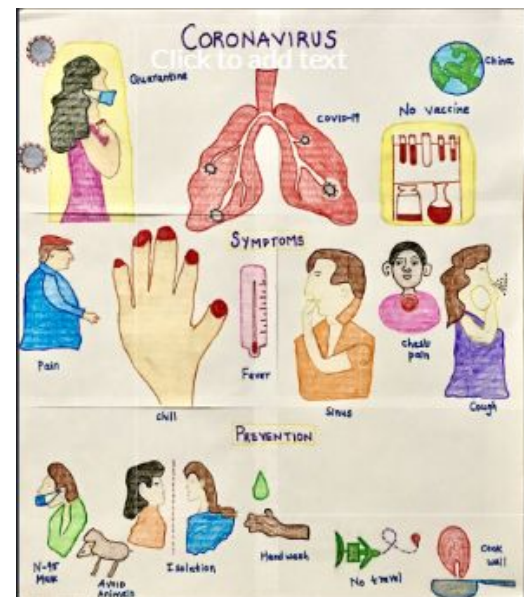
Mr. Ram Babu is supported by Operations Manager, Mohan Kancheti and Govind Venkat (the brains behind the development of an integrated technology platform). The technology platform supports US Contests online in India, HUMstudy developed for India to promote creative learning through a timed evaluations tool and servicing the student individually while fully engaging the teacher, a Creative and Critical Thinking initiative with content developed by JNV deployed throughout the year, and automated Spelling Bee initiative with content provided by the NorthSouth Foundation (USA) and pronounced by Scripps champions who are part NorthSouth (USA).

NSF India has come a long way since 2014 in developing and deploying these initiatives with limited resources. Rambabu's goal is to serve two million children by 2023 and take the cost of servicing each student down to Rs.10 per year (\$0.013).

Rao Chalasani

Chairman, NorthSouth Foundation (USA)

PANACEA CHALLENGE FAN FAVORITE ARTWORKS



Sonal Sarda
(Atlanta)



Murugan Vadivel
(Parsippany)

WELCOME NEW CHAPTER DIRECTORS



Perplexing Puzzles

The first reader to email the correct answers to newsletter@northsouth.org will get a shout-out in the next newsletter!

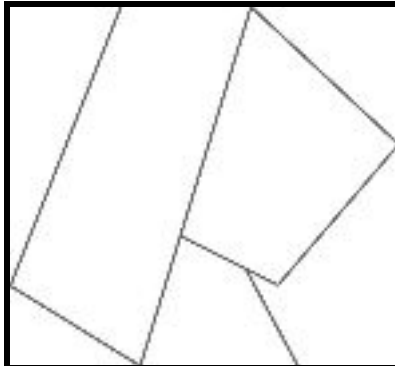
Three logicians walk into a bar. "You all want a drink?" The bartender asks.

"I'm not sure," responds the first logician, to the surprise of the bartender.

"I don't know, either," admits the second logician.

After a short pause, the third logician declares, "Yes. We would all like a drink." Why did the first two logicians say they didn't know?

How many colors are needed to color each piece such that no two adjacent* pieces have the same hue?



*For two pieces to be adjacent, they must share (partially or wholly) an edge.

Which idiom does the image below represent?



SPOTLIGHT: Dr Murali Gavini - The Brain Behind Spelling & Vocab Bees @ NorthSouth



Savitha: When and how were you first associated with Dr. Chitturi and North South Foundation?

Dr. Gavini: I was volunteering at the Balaji mandir in Bridgewater, NJ. But wanted to do something more meaningful than religious. Around 1991, Dr. Chitturi was running NSF from his basement. He was giving a few scholarships to poor kids in his village in India and asked me if I could help. I agreed but said we should make it a national thing and not limit it just to his village. The big question was how?

We should give something to society if we want something from them. Our philanthropy should be recognized. That's how I got involved with NSF.

Savitha: Spelling and Vocabulary bees are your brain child. What was the idea behind starting the bees?

Dr Gavini: I come from a small town in Andhra Pradesh called Gunturu. Considering that I am terrible at spelling, I wanted to do something about it. Our english proficiency is horrible, but we have to address it to get ahead in life and we have to confront our weaknesses. I was young and stupid. We introduced

Spelling first, and went full speed. I approached AT&T for funding and started the National finals program in 1993 with just 12 chapters. Families from outside of Chicago attended the event. We put them up with host families and the event became very successful.

We wanted our children to get good scores on the standardized tests like SAT & GRE. That is when I introduced Vocabulary contests.

We become the champions of the cause. Today it is the only ethnic run nation-wide program in the country. We were able to impact many families.

People asked me: "What did you do special? Did you coach the kids? What is the secret to your success?"

The only thing we did is we tried to tell the community that this is important. We celebrated excellence by bringing people together, applaud, and encourage the kids. In other words, we became a national-wide organization of cheerleaders in education!

Savitha: How did you come up with the word lists?

Dr Gavini: We went on a personal campaign, a manual campaign and tried to contact people. We were lucky to have met people who came and volunteered as coordinators. Many of these volunteers were professors who helped put the word lists together for us. I was working for 8 hours and then worked 8 more hours for NSF each day for 11 years. I was in touch with every volunteer and every parent.

Savitha: How do you measure success with Spelling and Vocab bees & why did you retire from NSF?

Dr. Gavini: The fruits of our labor was when Sai Gunturi became the Scripps Spelling Bee champion in 2003, a month after I retired from NSF. The seed was sown and had become a huge tree like a Banyan tree. It was the right idea at the right time and it really clicked as it was the need at the time in our society. The foundation was well established at this point, our revenue increased and so did the number of centers as well as the volunteers.

My work was getting quite hectic and I could not do justice to both. I had to pick one and so retired from NSF.

Savitha: Tell me a little bit about your involvement with the International Brain bee.

Dr. Gavini: In 2000 I was associated with the International Brain bee. I knew the founder of the IBB and it aligned with my interest. Almost 20 years later I am still involved in the program. For a few years we were able to send NSF kids who qualified through our Brain bee program to participate in the IBB till their rules changed.

In 2005 I brought the contest to India and established a virtual organization called Indian National Brain Bee (INBB). There is no President and there are no fees. The kids participate through sponsorships and I donate my own money.

Savitha: Tell me a little bit about your mentorship program.

Dr Gavini: I have my own mentorship program. At any given time, I take on a few kids who are exceptionally bright and exceptionally poor and take them all the way. The kids I have adopted do no less than a PhD and are very successful in their careers.

I pay for their college and hostels and I stay in touch with them constantly. We talk on the weekends. Why do I do this? When I make my final one way journey, I want to leave with a smile on my face and no

money in the bank. It is important that as humans we break out of our selfishness and instead of living a self-centered life, do something for the greater good.

Selfishness is like balancing the pyramid on its tip. Selflessness is balancing the pyramid on its base. Mother Teresa's base was very very wide. She loved what she did and when she adopted those kids, she made their dreams her dreams!

Savitha: What advice would you give NSF parents?

Dr. Gavini: Motivate your kids. Be happy for other kids' successes and not just your own. Let your kids do what they want to do, put their heart and soul into it and they will see success.

Savitha: Any words of wisdom for the organization?

Dr Gavini: I have one suggestion. For the older kids who will soon be going into careers, what our society is lacking right now is for the kids to come in contact with professionals of different fields.

At the National Finals, arrange for seminars by experts in various fields so kids can attend the ones they are interested in and listen to the presenters share their real life experiences. These professionals can also offer internship opportunities for the kids.

For example of the 16,000 kids that participate, at least 8000 parents of various professional backgrounds can volunteer, who can provide at least 1000 internship opportunities!

Savitha: Tell me a little bit about your family.

Dr. Gavini: My wife and I moved to Las Vegas about 5 years ago. We have three daughters: Anita, Deepa and Rekha. Anita is on the NSF board and also works for an NGO. Deepa works for the FDA and Rekha works for a broadcasting company that interestingly enough is the organization that works with Scripps bee.

I worked for the FDA as an auditor first and then as an investigation & compliance officer for 17 years. I headed the Mumbai office for 5 years before I retired.



*The Newsletter is Written by Atman Balakrishnan, Shivum Banerjee, and Naysa Modi
Directed by Savitha Rajiv*

Sponsored by: OnTrack Technologies LLC

Keeping track of your children on the internet is extremely difficult, especially during this pandemic. OnTrack is a chrome extension that provides customizable blocking, sends personalized reports, and updates you about how your children use the internet. It's been proven to increase internet productivity and safety, ensuring that your children stay focused. If you'd like to learn more or download the extension, visit <https://www.joinontrack.com/>
