

A young girl was taking an afternoon nap. After she woke up, she told her brother, "I just dreamed that you gave me a Barbie doll for Rakshabandhan. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight." he said. That evening, the boy came home with a small package and gave it to his sister. Delighted, she opened it--only to find a book entitled "The meaning of dreams".  
-Karun Sai Shankar, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### FESTIVALS + CELEBRATIONS = HAPPINESS

'Festival' - the very first thing that comes to many of our minds upon hearing this word is 'celebration'. There are different festivals in different religions and for different reasons.

People in North India celebrate Diwali for a very different reason from people of the south. However, not many people look at the contrast in beliefs, or the various stories behind the ways of celebrating. There is, on the whole, only one reason for celebrating festivals: The triumph of good over evil.

When somebody says 'festival', we think of 'celebration'. But when we think of 'celebration' our thoughts revolve around family, friends, dance, music, sweets, colours, fireworks, laughter and joyousness.

When I think of festivals, or celebrations, there are many aspects and elements swirling around in my head. I think of little children running around, and people laughing and talking, having fun and eating sweets.

Overall, there seems to be one simple but perfect word to describe everything: Happiness. Whether it is Christmas or Diwali or Eid or Navaratri, everybody is happy. There is dance and music and laughter involved, relatives meeting after a long time and delicious food to eat. Through all of this, is it possible to feel *unhappy*? Such is the time to dance and let go of all fear and sadness, just for the day, at the very least.

Festivals are like fireworks, because for those few joyous days, you can jump around and be generally loud, and everyone will enjoy it.

Celebration is like music where you can close your eyes, and more than just hear the lilting melodies, you can *feel* them.

Gathering to celebrate is like a feast; people from various backgrounds with various tastes. People with different likes and dislikes, hobbies and interests, mix to make a perfect outcome.

And after all this, nobody can argue when I say that festivals equal happiness.

Anjana Ashok, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### In the next issue >>>

Achievement  
Victory  
Learning  
Success

YOUNG ACHIEVERS



10 Shanthi Kutir  
36, Balakrishna Road  
Valmiki Nagar  
Thiruvanmiyur  
Chennai 600041

PH: 9940545969  
Email: [wow2transform@gmail.com](mailto:wow2transform@gmail.com)  
[www.wisdomofwords.in](http://www.wisdomofwords.in)  
[www.facebook.com/wow2transform](http://www.facebook.com/wow2transform)

### In this issue >>>

The WOW team has identified festivals as a source of happiness and positivity. Spreading joy is a super start for the first issue of our weekly newsletter that will inspire and bring a smile on your face.

# FIESTA

Issue  
ONE

6 October 2014

Weekly dose of positivity and inspiration

# I AM WOW!



Tejas, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Current issue - FIESTA >>>

Festivals give you a lot of joy,  
Eid is one of the festivals,  
So many of them for girls and boys,  
The festivals are all beautiful,  
I feel happy that it is celebrated around the world,  
Very colourful is Holi,  
After that we become jolly,  
Later we become jolly,  
Sometimes it is the best story!!!

Ambika.B, 6th grade

Jwala Crackers  
Safest crackers for children  
Good fun made great



## LAST DIWALI...

Diwali is the festival of lights. People around the world celebrate Diwali for different reasons. But all have the same meaning. Good over evil; Knowledge over ignorance and light over darkness. In Southern India many people celebrate Narakachaturdi the night before Diwali. Last year, my family and I went to our grandmother's house to celebrate Diwali. We wore new clothes, decorated the house with diyas and flowers and prepared peanut burfi. My grandmother made Diwali sweets like laddu, mysorepak, sweet pongal, badam sweet, kesari and payasam. Along with my cousins and brother, I ate sweets and burst fire crackers. In the evening, we prayed to Goddess Lakshmi. I had lots of fun on that day with my family members.

Aditya J., 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## WORD SEARCH

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f	n	s	f	n	n	o	i	t	i	d	a	r	t	n
o	y	r	o	t	c	i	v	i	t	a	f	u	z	n
q	s	s	e	n	i	p	p	a	h	t	i	g	i	i
o	g	f	r	l	l	a	v	i	t	s	e	f	g	f
k	m	r	u	r	u	i	c	b	k	b	n	o	i	m
a	h	w	t	h	y	b	w	d	l	g	n	e	z	k
u	e	q	l	j	e	x	m	e	e	t	s	w	t	d
o	t	s	u	o	c	c	j	c	v	t	i	f	o	e
t	a	w	c	x	v	c	h	q	a	b	e	h	f	n
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h	o	n	h	n	i	s	c	z	t	y	o	j	z	n
j	c	g	n	o	i	t	a	r	b	e	l	e	c	r
p	e	y	l	i	m	a	f	e	x	c	n	j	t	r
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FESTIVAL  
FEAST  
FAMILY

CELEBRATION  
DECORATE  
VICTORY

JOY  
ADORN  
FIESTA

HAPPINESS  
TRAVEL  
TRADITION

Ananth Ashok, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Deep-ka-Avali

Once upon a time, there was a Prince named Rama he had a wife called Sita. Ravana the devil wanted to marry Sita. So, he kidnapped Sita. She was an intelligent girl. She dropped her jewelry all the way. Rama followed the lead and came to a forest. Upon reaching the forest he got confused and asked a monkey named Hanuman. Rama made friends with Hanuman and told Hanuman the problem. Hanuman summoned all the monkeys in the world and offered help. At last they found that Sita was trapped in an island. After building a bridge to get across the ocean, they reached the island and had a very big fight. Rama won the battle and rescued his wife. After the long journey Rama came home victorious. The people in his kingdom welcomed him by lighting candles. Deep-ka-avali, 'Deepavali' means rows of light, lit to denounce evil and show that good always wins over bad.

Madhumitha, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



Krish Sweets makes festivals tasty tastier



## CELEBRATIONS

Festivals give us joy,  
That is when you give away toys,  
Festivals give morals to your life,  
They are helpful and nice.

Diwali is when you burst crackers or light lamps,  
It is done to light the dark and damp,  
Don't you think Diwali is a lot of fun?  
Do you feel sad when it is done?

Onam is dedicated for a king,  
We eat, dance and sing,  
We make flower carpets for the king to come,  
It is only celebrated by some.

Christmas is from Santa Claus,  
He gives us gifts, if he doesn't it is a loss,  
You decorate the Christmas tree,  
Christmas is jolly good fun to me.

Eid is when they break their fast,  
They have been doing it like this through the past,  
The first meal that they eat is dates,  
They eat it very late.

These were some of the festivals;  
There are scores and scores of more,  
I have only told you about the major four,  
When one festival is over, I'm waiting for the next,  
There is more than this, there is the next!!!

Ambika.B, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

## HOLI RE HOLI!

Holi is a festival that brings colours into life. Holi is mainly celebrated in northern India as a harvest festival. The 'Puranic' story associated with Holi is that, the demon king Hirnakashyap wanted to be the only one worshipped in the kingdom. But Hirnakashyap's son Prahalad was a worshipper of Lord Vishnu. He therefore decided to kill his own son with the help of his sister Holika. Holika, wore a cloak that protected her from fire, she sat on a pyre with Prahalad on her lap. As the fire grew big, the cloak flew from Holika and covered Prahalad. Holika burned in to ashes while Prahalad survived. Thus Holi symbolises victory of good over evil. Holi celebrations start with 'Holika Dahan' bonfires the night before. The next morning people splash coloured water, smear gulal (coloured powder) and toss water balloons on each other. In the evening they visit friends and families who are served 'gujias'-a special Holi sweet. This is a time when even enemies turn friends and greet each other with joy.

Manya, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



Tejas, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade