

**"EVERY CHILD IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF FLOWER, AND ALTOGETHER  
THEY MAKE THIS WORLD A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN."**



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

We are looking forward to seeing all the students again and hearing about their holiday vacations. It seems like we have been out of school for so long. It has been wonderful time to relax & recharge. So now let's look forward to start new year. I hope everyone has had a Fantastic Break!

Our daily preschool schedule will change a little bit as our students will begin to work with smaller groups for circle time and project time. We will break up into smaller groups to work on more complex projects as well as kindergarten readiness and individual learning.

### HOLIDAYS

1/01/20 - HAPPY NEW YEAR  
14/01/20 - MAKAR SANKRANTI  
26/01/20 - REPUBLIC DAY  
29/01/20 - VASANT PANCHAMI

### CELEBRATIONS

14/01/20 - MAKAR SANKRANTI  
26/01/20 - REPUBLIC DAY  
29/01/20 - VASANT PANCHAMI

## MAKAR SANKRANTI

Makar Sankranti is a popular harvest festival which is celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> January in Hindu communities. It is celebrated in many parts of the country with great zeal and enthusiasm. The festival marks the day when the sun begins its northward journey and enters the sign of Makar (Capricorn). It is like the movement of sun from Dakshiyana (south) to Uttarayana (North) hemisphere. On this day, items made from sesame seeds and jaggeries are savored in all parts of India.

This day is celebrated in different ways all over India. Joyous festivities mark the celebration in every home. It is called Pongal in Tamil Nadu. The day begins with Surya Pongal. The newly harvested corn is cooked for the first time. Makar Sankranti is also known as Khichdi Sankranti. Khichdi is the name of an Indian dish made from rice and lentils. In the west, especially in Gujarat and Rajasthan, the festival is named as Uttarayan. People fly the kites whole day on the terrace, feast on items made from sesame and jaggery and enjoy themselves.

## REPUBLIC DAY

This year embarks the celebration of 71<sup>st</sup> republic day. It evokes the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of all Indians. The spirit behind the celebration of this day is not only to celebrate India's secularism and democracy but it also makes us proud of our culture, languages, social norms, traditions, customs, religions and the uniqueness that makes up India as a multi cultural country. On this day, India became a republican unit. To mark this day's importance, every year a grand parade is held in the capital. The parade is followed by the spectacular display of the facets of different states of our country. The patriotic fervor of the people on this day brings the whole country together even in her diversity. **Republic Day Celebration is scheduled on 24<sup>th</sup> January.**



## BASANT PANCHAMI



Basant Panchami is meant to welcome the season of spring as also maa Saraswati. Known as Shri Panchami and Saraswati Panchami, it marks the beginning of spring. The long, gray winter comes to a close and as the spring season sets in, the earth looks lovely and charming. And there is nothing better than seeing trees flaunt fragrant flowers and green, glorious leaves.

It is one of the most colourful and wonderful festivals of India and is celebrated in myriad forms across the country on the fifth day of the month of Maagh (a month in the Hindu calendar). The colour yellow holds a special meaning for this celebration as it signifies the brilliance of nature and the vibrancy of life. The whole place bursts with yellow during the festival. Basant Panchami and Saraswati Puja are being celebrated across India with devotees worshipping the goddess of wisdom and learning Goddess Saraswati.

As yellow is considered an auspicious colour for the occasion, hence students of JUNIOR DPS will don yellow clothes, offer yellow flowers and yellow sweets among each other at school premise. **Basant Panchami Celebration is scheduled on 29<sup>th</sup> January.**

## LOHRI

**Lohri inspired fortitude among the children at JDPS.**

Punjabi Folk festival, Primarily celebrated by Sikhs & Hindus. It is celebrated to mark the end of the sowing season of winter crop and remembrance of the sun god, surya, who is offered prayers and gratitude for blessing devotees with his presence. A Holy bonfire is lighted which signifies passing of the winter solstice. The Lohri feast is mainly prepared using ingredients from winter crops like groundnuts, sugarcane along with many others. The Bonfire festival is all about togetherness symbolizes the attachment of the people with mother nature, symbol of life and as several hopes of farmers are associated with this festival of lohri. So to pass the warmth of courage and bravery and to instil eternal flow of energy within the students of JDPS, they will celebrate LOHRI.

**ACTIVITY -** The Celebration will start with a special assembly highlighting the importance of the festival of Lohri. The principle will lit the sacred bonfire to initiate the celebration. The students and Teachers will wear Punjabi Attire and Folk songs, poems and Dances will be performed. **Lohri Celebration is scheduled on 13th January 2019.**



## PSYCHOLOGICAL TIP!!

**Why activities are important for pre-school children?**

- 1.) Activities help in fine motor development--- To develop hand skills, strengthens fingers, wrist and arms. As a child develops increasingly better control of the arms and legs, they begin to develop fine motor skills such as grasping, touching and feeding herself.
- 2.) Gross motor development [Ability to maintain balance [Improves body awareness ie. improved posture and control.[Laterality- awareness of left and right sides of the body.[Major muscle co-ordination.[Spatial orientation awareness of the body position in space and in relation to other objects or people.[Improves hand writing.
- 3.) Intellectual Development Children ask a lot of questions. They are indeed very talkative. They learn through some basic concepts such as number, size, weight, color, distance. Their classification skills and reasoning ability are developing through activities. Activities also increase their patience level, concentration/attention span. Activities can be : [ Matching[Sorting[Measuring[Observing
- 4.)Social Development [A child will learn to share.[A child will also learn how to interact with others.[He/She will also learn to resolve conflicts with others.
- 5.)Emotional Development A child's self esteem will grow as he/she is encouraged to do things for himself/herself.