

Dear Parents and Fellow Schoolmates

We, as the Junior School Student Council, want to wish you all a very Happy Diwali and festival season. It is the time of the year when all of us spend time with family, light up our houses, enjoy sumptuous food and offer prayers for good health and happiness. May this Diwali bring all the happiness and prosperity to you and your family.

At this joyous time, we would like to appeal to all of you to please do your part in keeping our city and our planet clean. Please do not worsen the polluted air that we are already breathing, by bursting firecrackers. There is irrefutable evidence that crackers make our air unlivable for days and cause a lot of harm to vulnerable populations. To add to the harmful effects of firecrackers, they are also illegal in Delhi!

Given that we are already dealing with a respiratory illness in shape of on-going Covid pandemic and it is well understood that pollutants in air make the effects of Covid significantly worse – it would be irresponsible on our part to add to the polluted air.

As one big family we request you to contribute and participate in the school's journey to be pollution free. This Diwali let's find ways to decrease the pollution. We have thought of some amazing and easy solutions to this massive problem.

- Parents should teach the true significance of the festival of lights, so that children stop buying and bursting crackers. Nowhere in our ancient scriptures are firecrackers mentioned, rather stress has been given to handmade decorations. Spend time in decorating the house with paper art, rangoli, flower rangoli, diyas, lanterns, candles and fairy lights.
- We must do conscious gifting for an eco-friendly Diwali. We can gift low maintenance house plants that can help improve indoor air quality. Greener gifting choices with no plastic packaging are suggested.
- A great advice is to buy earthen pots, candles, diyas and other decorative items from local artisans and potters instead of buying polluting crackers
- Help the needy: This year, due to this pandemic, apart from spending time with our immediate family, we should also do something special for those in need. We children can gift a token of thoughtfulness this festive season to utterly needy children around us which make them feel happy this diwali
- We can plant a tree or at least a potted plant and celebrate a green Diwali, instead of bursting crackers.
- Preparing feasts: Festivals in India are marked by special dishes prepared as part of the celebrations. We can help our family members by cooking a grand feast or surprise them with a grand brunch on the day of the festival.

We can promise you that the joy of spending time with family at home will be equal to, if not more than bursting firecrackers. Wouldn't it be nice to wake up to clean blue skies

the day after Diwali instead of smog covered greyness that we have gotten used to over the years?

Years of neglecting our environment has already brought us to a precipice from where it would be hard for our planet to heal. Every small act that adds to the pollution only makes it worse for our generation for time to come. We as young citizens of this planet would like to enjoy the wonders of this world and leave the planet in a healthier state than what you have given us. Please help us in our endeavor to heal our planet – say no to pollution, say no to firecrackers this Diwali and forever.

Yours sincerely

Junior School Student Council