

Let's Build A Community  
Of Lifelong Learners



# THE LEARNERS HIVE



# Importance of Festivals in Our Lives

*The greatness of a culture can be found in its festivals*  
—Siddharth Kat-Ragadda

Festivals exhibit culture, emotions, and traditions. From decorations to fireworks and food, most feel a sense of happiness and contentment in every aspect of festivals. They play an important role to add structure to our social lives and connect us with our families and backgrounds. The opportunity to celebrate festivals in schools gives our learners a chance to learn several values and skills since they began to pass the knowledge, and traditions onto the next generation.

At Learners International School, the learners across all grades discovered that celebrations and festivals are exclusive and magnificent ways in which people can express themselves. They exhibit the beautiful reflections of their beliefs and values. Through these inquiries they also learn to appreciate the aesthetic value and creativity of festivals. India is a diverse country, and every festival is celebrated differently. Along with this, every culture has its own set of festivals that expresses different morals, meanings, and styles. Since every festival has its unique style of celebration, greeting each other, food, responsibilities are expressed in different styles. This demonstrates respecting every festival of any kind by making our learners adaptive with diversity.

Every festival has its own history and these stories are taught to children many times. Through this, they learn about history, reality, morals, and importance of each festival. Usually, all the stories have morals and something important to learn so we get reminded to be a responsible person. Furthermore, interacting with the environment around us is the most effective way to learn. Such celebrations impart skills such as being empathetic, caring, open-minded, taking responsibility, and having a balanced approach. Learners learn certain valuable skills during festivals henceforth celebrating them enthusiastically helps make them more joyful.



Montessori learners celebrating Halloween.



Learners of grade 5 making rangoli on Diwali.

Through different celebrations, learners are engaged in a range of learning experiences where they learn about various traditions. It helps them to develop as an internationally minded person who, recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet further helping to create a better and more peaceful world. This is what being open minded entails, 'They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view and are willing to grow from the experience.' (IBO, 2010)

**Pooja Chopla**  
Cambridge English and French Facilitator

References:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/parenting/learning/five-skills-children-learn-from-festivals>

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/fd82f70643ef4086b7d3f292cc214962/learner-profile-en.pdf>

# Nursery

Learners explored the art of making earthen lamps. They had a productive time celebrating the festival as they came dressed in vibrant coloured clothes. They were engaged in making rangoli and learnt to make earthen lamps using wet earthen clay. It was a great experience for all the learners as they learnt about the culture and tradition of the festival of light – Diwali.



Learners choosing their own earthen lamps to celebrate the festival.



# Rangoli Making

Our learners found Rangoli making activity of great interest. In collaboration with all the other grade learners it helped them to develop creativity, aesthetics, fine and gross motor skills, and hand-eye coordination. They are also able to connect that the motif used are connected to nature or shapes around them like - leaves, flower, circle, and triangle.



# Montessori

In Montessori, learners connected festivities with lots of art and music in class. They could connect festivities to new clothes, rangoli, decoration with days and lights. These activities helped them to decorate their class with things they have made such as they rolled paper to make candles and did sponge painting to make fire. They explored stories and songs such as 'Diwali aayi hai' and Binny's Diwali.

Early years had their first special assembly with Ms. Manjot and she chose "The Diwali Gift" for a read aloud session. They made fairy lights and made healthy sweets with rice puffs, peanut butter, and a little bit of chocolate. Learners also enjoyed preparing their class for festivals.

Learners culminated October festivities with Halloween Celebration in school, they went for trick or treating on campus. They enjoyed spooky read aloud story sessions such as 'Where's my Mummy?' and 'The Ghost who Lost her Boo'. Learners came dressed as spooky characters, made blow monsters, and matched ghosts with their shadows.



# Kindergarten

Our Early year learners enjoyed an interactive Diwali themed story-telling session. The book 'The Diwali Gift' was read followed by sweets and Diwali dance party.

Kindergarten learners enhanced their fine-motor skills while making Diwali decorations cards for the class. They were engaged in making rangoli and they also learnt the ways to make earthen lamps using wet earthen clay.

They were also engaged in play to enhance their gross motor and thinking skills. They rode bicycles in the school foyer and learnt an old school game 'Oranges and lemons.'

Kindergarten had a spooky Halloween as they dressed in their favourite scary characters. They had a monster dance party and created their ghost puppets which served as their trick or treat bags too.





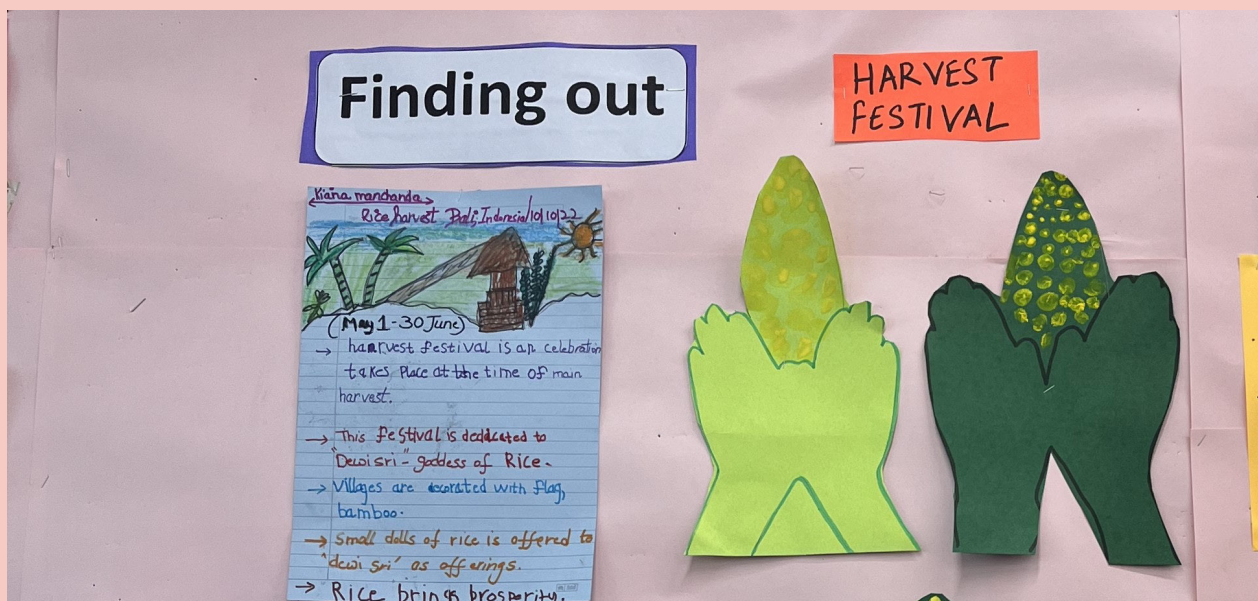
# Grade 1



Learners inquired and learned that it is during celebrations that we imbibe skills like being empathetic, taking responsibility and having compassion for each other. They also learnt how to greet each other, welcome guests, make friends with people belonging to different age groups and how to appreciate each other.



Learners researched and explored about the festivals celebrated all around the world. The learners discovered that there are many similarities among the festivals celebrated around the globe. We compared and found similarity between 'Thanksgiving' and the harvest festivals like 'Makar Sankranti', and 'Lohri'.

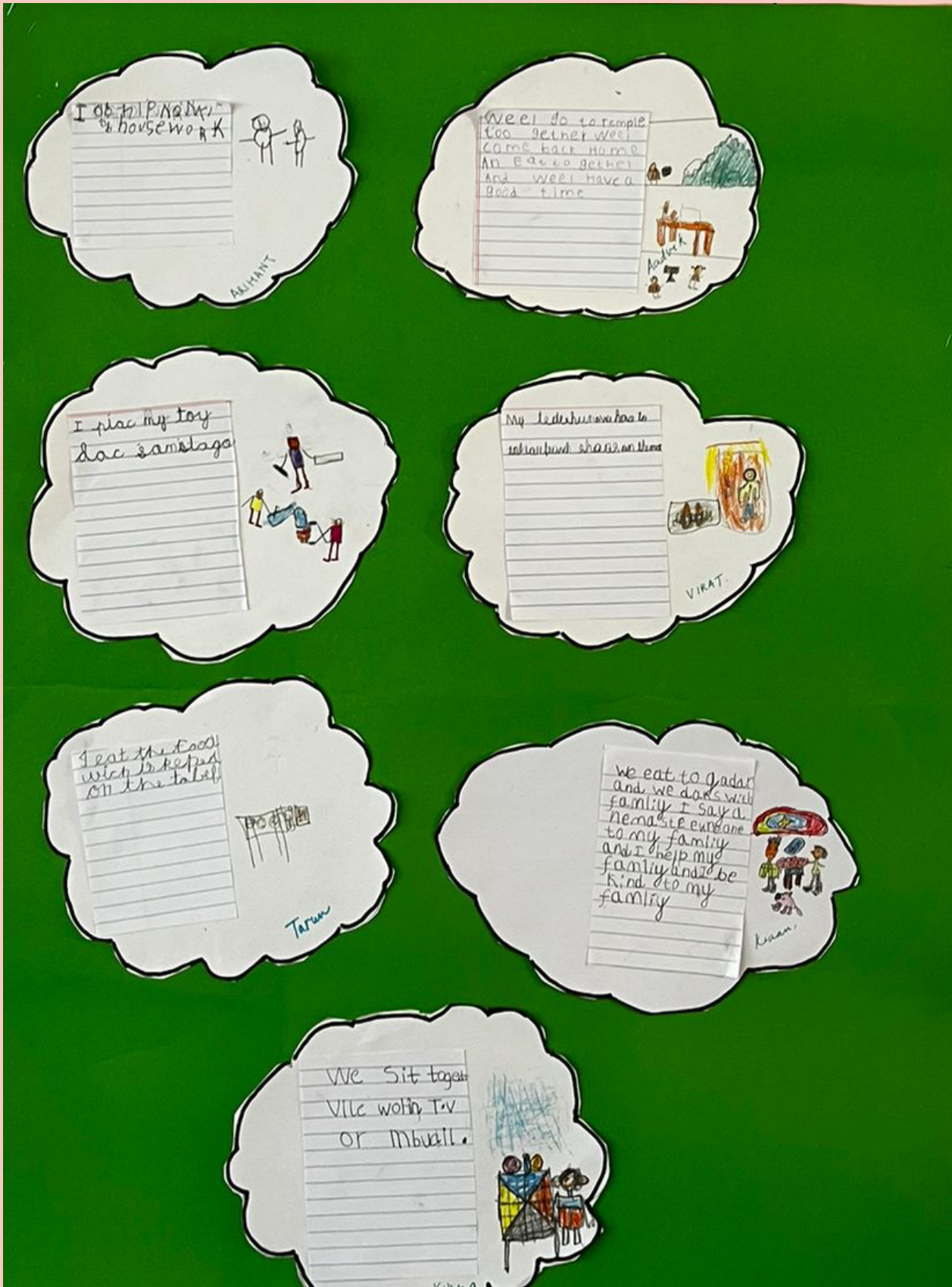


A hands-on activity, where learners made corns to show the significance of Harvest festival was also done. The activity was carried out after inquiring about the Harvest festival of Korea-Chuseok, referred to as “Korean Thanksgiving”. It is a celebration of the mid-autumn full moon during which people gather before the harvest to enjoy food, play games, and pray for a bountiful year. A variety of food is prepared during Chuseok to celebrate the bountiful harvest of the year.



Learners learnt the folk dance and performed on a regional song to celebrate Diwali.





Reflection chart displaying how we value and respect the other cultures and traditions.



# Grade 2

Learners decorated their class with their artistic sensibilities and enjoyed a fun filled Diwali celebration in class. Under the theme, 'How we Express Ourselves', learners created comic strips of their original stories based on Diwali.



## Grade 3

Learners enjoyed making traditional earthen lamps on the potter's wheel. They also made rangoli with flowers as part of Diwali celebration in school. The learners were all dressed in vibrant, traditional clothes and shared their thoughts about the festival.

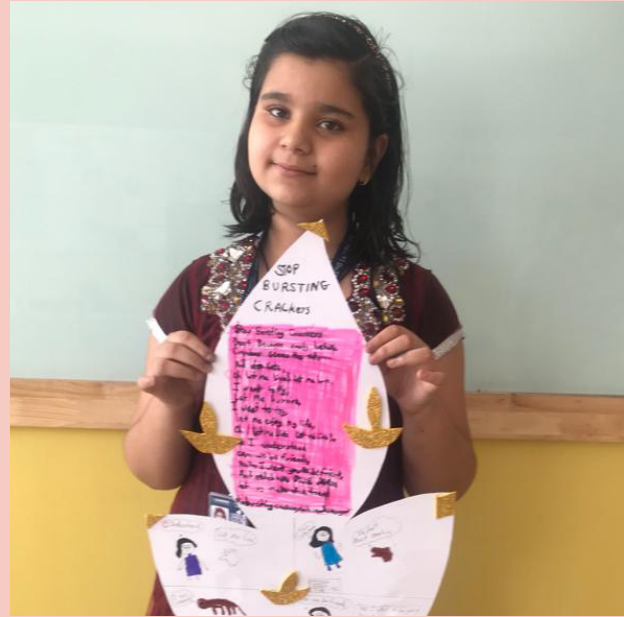


As part of the Unit of Inquiry, the learners read, inquired, watched videos, researched, and inferred on various aspects of the heritage and rich culture of India and focussed on Delhi as 'Mini India'. In line with the theme, they made a beautiful graffiti on the city of Delhi.

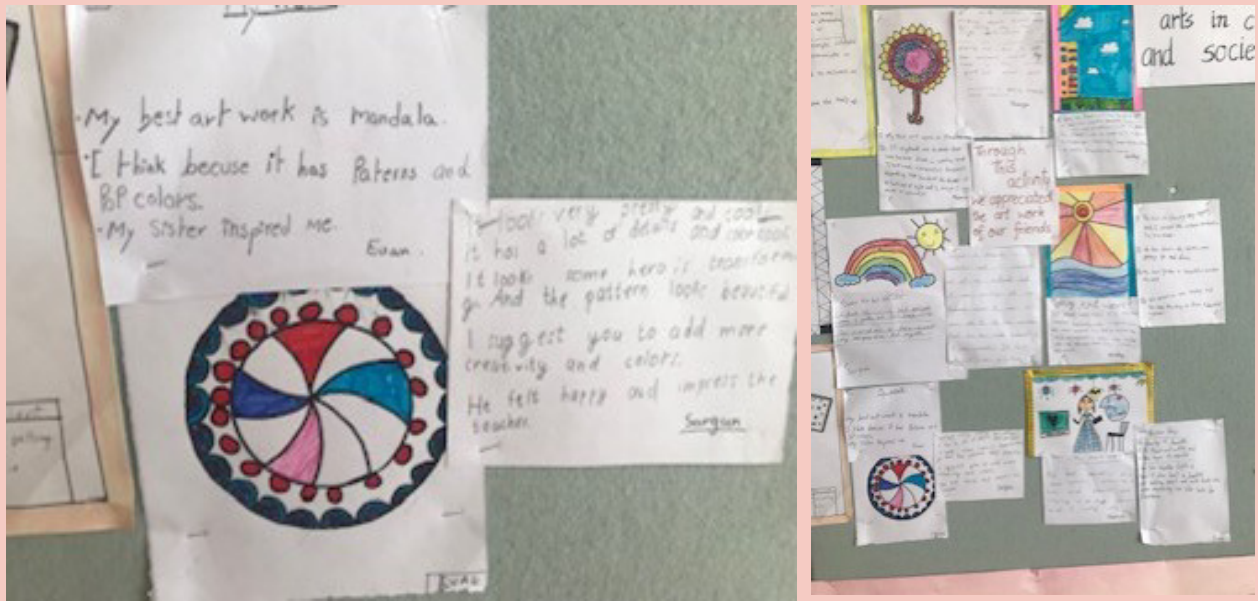


# Grade 4

Grade 4 learners wrote a poem to send a message on Diwali.



Learners chose their best artwork and reflected on what inspired them to make the art piece. They also wrote about their emotions, how they felt when they were drawing. Peers brainstormed and shared positive feedback. They also shared what they perceived about the drawing and how artists expressed his/her ideas creatively.



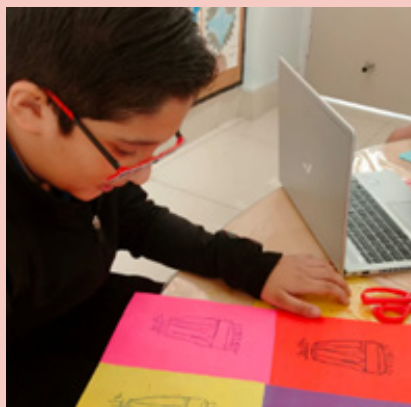
Learners researched on the 'Mona Lisa' painting and found about the artist and how his paintings influenced culture and society.

Learners also expressed their creativity by drawing Mona Lisa according to their perspective.





## Grade 5



Learners at work - creating posters to understand the effect of visual art in advertisements.



Making earthen lamps – Grade 5 Learners worked on the Potter's wheel to make earthen lamps on Diwali celebrations at school. The learners were excited and said that it was an exciting experience. They had never thought of making earthen lamps in a traditional way.



Learners created a poster to persuade people to celebrate a safe and eco-friendly Diwali.

Grade 5 learners created the outline of the rangoli and filled it with flower petals, showing the way to all the other learners from Montessori to grade 4 to complete the rangoli in a safe and healthy way. As an endeavour to save the planet, they did not use any colour.



# Visual Arts



Learners of Grade 5 took the initiative to promote 'Green Diwali' around the campus. Under the unit- Media, they learned how to influence people and communicate with the audience through different sources which include advertisements, posters, graffiti art etc.


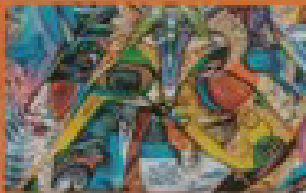
During Diwali, learners pledged to celebrate a cracker-free Green Diwali. Grade 5 learners created a huge graffiti-inspired poster with the same message for the young learners as part of the culmination activity.

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## REFLECTION

**Happy Diwali ! My class grade-V had created a diwali graffiti in which we had joined two huge chart papers and drew on them. Graffiti is a technique we use to draw on walls and mostly street walls. As could not damage our school property by drawing on the walls. It took us almost two weeks to finish the graffiti on Diwali. Our main purpose of drawing the art was to prevent bursting crackers which creates a lot of Air, plastic and noise pollution, and specially noise pollution scares the animals a lot mostly the dogs as now days everyone is petting them.**

**Our Visuals Art facilitator had give us a lot of ideas and we used ipads to research on graffiti.**



# It's Time to Celebrate...



Learners across all the grades gathered to make a rangoli for Diwali. It was a great opportunity to develop an understanding of aesthetics, design sense and colour coordination. As an initiative to celebrate a 'Green Diwali', only natural flowers were used to create the same. It gave the learners immense pleasure to be a part of this unique celebration.

# Dance To The Lights

The lights dimmed. A voice from above prayed for a celebration where “light wins over darkness when happiness wins over sadness.” Learners International school hosted the Diwali celebration in the school campus across all the grades where Grade 1 mesmerised everyone with their dance performance on the song - ‘Deepawali Ayi Re’. Learners enjoyed the whole preparation time where they explored India’s folk movements and even gave inputs in the choreography. They also explored how coordination adds on to a dance performance and understood the importance of teamwork. Other learners enjoyed the performance and appreciated the efforts made by their peers.

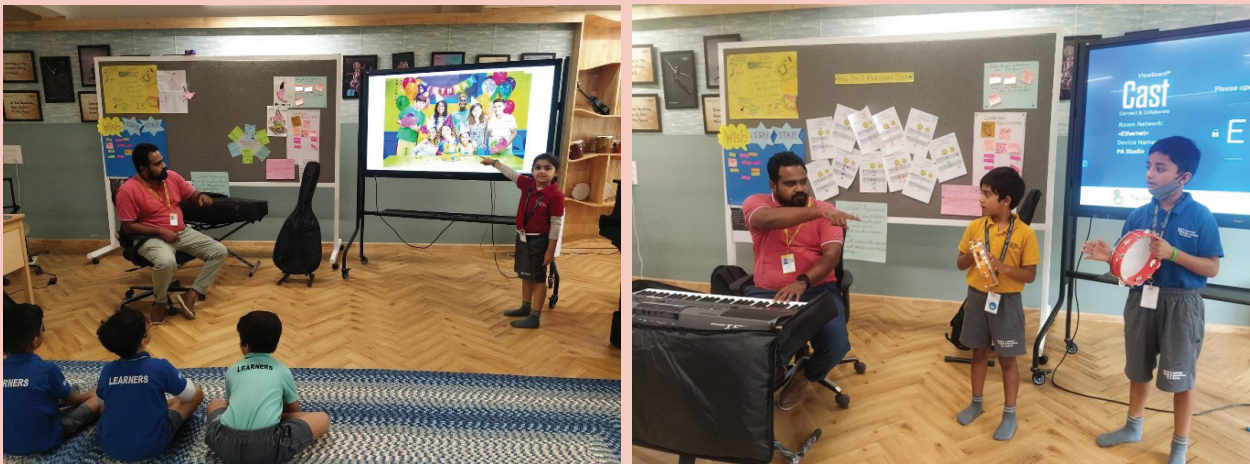


Learners explored Indian folk movements.

# Music and Festivities



Learners exploring how music is an integral part of celebrations.



Learners singing songs to celebrate the spirit of festivals.



Learners understood that music is a very important part of celebrations, and they explored how people from different cultures include music in their festivities. With this, they got aware about the cultural diversity across the communities and understood how important music is in our lives. They participated whole heartedly in the jamming session by playing the percussion along with some famous celebration tunes like “Jingle bells”, “Happy birthday” and “I am a little star”.





# Reflections:

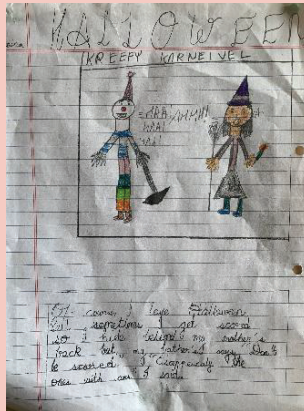
Reflection  
Diwali

When this year we celebrated Diwali on 24 of October.

Why -> We called a potter and made diyas and made rangoli and made diyas out of paper.

Where -> We celebrate in India and it is to hindu and is celebrated all over India.

How -> What we do: We light diya, go to Gurdwara, wear saffron and say thank to the soldier who protected us.



Reflection  
Diwali

We have celebrate Diwali at 24th Oct and why should we celebrate Diwali because we can light crackers and work colorful lit rangoli and light up Diya at our house.

Where I went for Diwali holiday I went to the Pink City Jaipur and How we like when to Jaipur by my car and we had when to Jaipur we had a Day trip. Dada and Didi and I celebrate Diwali at school also we did give gift to teacher and made a flower rangoli and had a show and we dress and suit and had a great Diwali. HAPPY Diwali!

Reflection

My favorite festival is Holi because we get to play with water and colors. We also sometimes have what I like to call a water war. Sometimes I go to call for backup. What I mean by that is my cousin comes down to help me. My dad comes with me and dad also brings my little brother when we are all done with playing we go home then we take a bath.

Ha

I Love Holi Because Holi is very colorful and we can do changes and the decorations are beautiful.

I Love Halloween because it is very spooky and fun and we can decorate our Home with like spider webs and skeletons around the House and more.



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