



NORTH NEWS

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Student Voice Leading Our Learning

Cultural Celebration Special Edition

Chinese New Year / Lunar New Year

By Amelia L 5/6M

What Is Chinese New Year and Why Do We Celebrate It?

Chinese New Year is about removing the old and bad, and welcoming the new and good. It's a time to worship ancestors, exorcise evil spirits and pray for good harvest. It is also a time to reunite with family.

What Do You Do Before Chinese New Year?

Most people clean their house before Chinese New Year to drive away the bad luck of the previous year to allow a new start.

What Do You Do on Chinese New Year?

On Chinese New Year people set off fireworks and give offerings to their ancestors. People also have a reunion dinner with relatives. The best thing of all is lion dancing / dragon dancing. Adults give a red envelope that has money inside to kids.

What Do You Eat?

On Chinese New Year you eat a lot of different foods. Dumplings with sauerkraut are forbidden because they mean a poor and difficult future; it's common to eat dumplings with cabbage and radish instead, as a symbol of prosperity for the body and the mind. Spring Rolls are eaten during the Lunar Year (also called the Spring Festival) and it's common to say the phrase "A ton of gold," referring to this dish as a carrier of prosperity. A whole chicken is another symbol of the family; that's why, once cooked, Chinese people first offer the chicken to the ancestors asking for blessings and protection. Rice balls are a staple of Chinese celebrations: their rounded shape is associated with reunion and being together. The so-called Longevity Noodles symbolize longevity: they are longer than normal noodles and uncut. The longer, the better. Fa Gao is a typical Chinese dessert made with soaked rice ground into a paste and steamed. Exactly like Nin Gao, it is a wish for success.

What Do You Wear?

Females wear something called a Cheongsam (qipao), a high neck, tight fitting dress with short sleeves and a side slit skirt. Males wear something called Changshans, a long, loose top, over trousers.



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Janmashtami

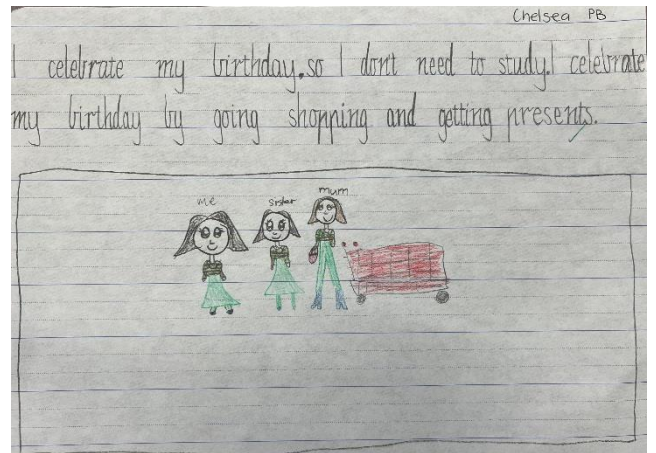
By Prakrit A 5/6R

Janmashtami is a very important festival in the Hindu culture. We celebrate the festival of Janmashtami to mark the birthday of Lord Krishna. He was born in a jail in the city of Mathura. There was a very powerful storm going on but his father Vasudeva carried him on his head through the storm. We decorate the idol by getting new clothes. We take an idol of Lord Krishna and imitate his birth from inside a jail and sing a song. We make an army of toys because Lord Krishna really loves toys. Children dress up as Lord Krishna and Radha. We drink Charnamrit which is a mixture made up of curd sugar, honey, dry fruits, etc. We also eat Panjiri which is a powder made of oil, sugar and chickpea flour.



Birthday

By Chelsea PB



Nirvi
I celebrate diwali. It is a celebrate of
culas. I do painting, I get digers.
I like it because it is sweet.



Diwali

By Nirvi C PD

Mooncake Festival

By Eamon L 3/4K

I celebrate the Mooncake Festival and I would like to tell you all about it. There is a folk tale about the overthrow of the Yuan dynasty that was done by messages smuggled in moon cakes. Mooncakes were used by revolutionaries in their effort to overthrow the Mongol-led Yuan dynasty, eventually resulting in the establishment of the Ming dynasty.

Why should you eat them?

When should you eat mooncakes? Traditionally, you should eat mooncakes you received with your family in the evening, while looking at the moon. However, most people receive so many mooncakes, while they are so filling, that they eat long after the Mid-Autumn Festival is over.

When is it?

The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month in the Chinese lunar calendar. In the Gregorian calendar, it usually falls in September or early October.

What is the secret message?

According to legend, Han Chinese revolutionaries hid the message "Rise up in revolt, on the day of the Mid-Autumn Festival" inside baked cakes and handed them to all the people in order to deceive their Mongolian overlords back in the Yuan Dynasty—that's 1271-1368 for all you historians.

What do you eat?

The Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of China's 8th lunar month, traditionally China's harvest time. Every home prepares various foods to celebrate the festival. The most popular Mid-Autumn Festival foods include mooncakes, pumpkin, river snails, duck, and hairy crabs. Each of them has a symbolic meaning.

Is it a religious celebration?

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a cultural and religious holiday signifying the end of the autumn harvest. It is among the most recognized Chinese festivals along with the Dragon Boat Festival, Chinese Valentine's Day and the Chinese Spring Festival.

Which country celebrates mooncake festival?

The Mid-autumn Festival is observed widely throughout China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, which typically falls in mid-September or early October.

Who invented the mooncake?

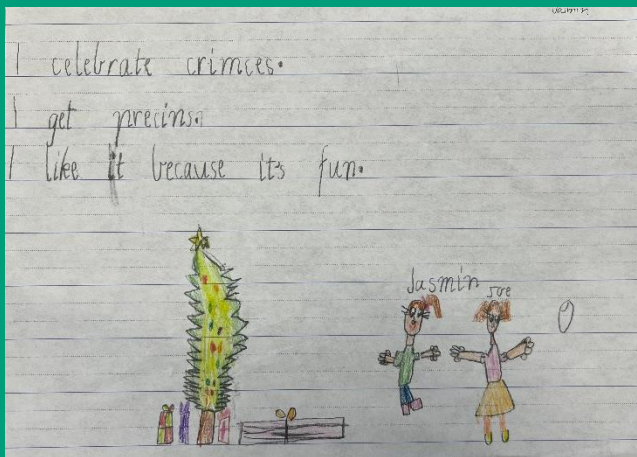
Mooncake history is as long as 3,000 years in China. Before the mooncake was the Taishi cake in the Shang Dynasty (17th century BC - 1046 BC) and Zhou Dynasty (17th century BC - 256 BC). For a long time in history, mooncakes were used as a sacrifice on the Mid-Autumn Festival.



Navjote

By Zahan B 5/6R

The ceremony is traditionally the first time Zoroastrians wear the Sedreh undershirt and Kushti belt, which they then continue to wear for the rest of their lives. Navjote happens once in a lifetime, when a child is seven to eleven years old. The word Navjote is derived from the ancient Persian words 'nav' which means new and 'jote' which means worshiper. The Navjote ritual is believed to connect the child with the spirit of Prophet Zarathushtra.



Christmas

By Jasmin T PD

Oktoberfest

By Alexander K 5/6R

Oktoberfest started in 1810 to celebrate the royal marriage of Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to Princess Therese and has become an annual celebration ever since. It is held from the 16th of September to the 3rd of October every year.

Over 6 million people visit Munich in Germany each year to celebrate this event. It is celebrated through feasting and carnivals, with many rides and events. The traditional dress for this occasion are called Dirndl and Lederhosen. People drink from glasses called Steins and eat Bratwurst, Pretzel and gingerbread. The local people call this celebration Wiesn.



Onam

By Jos P 3/4K

What is Onam?

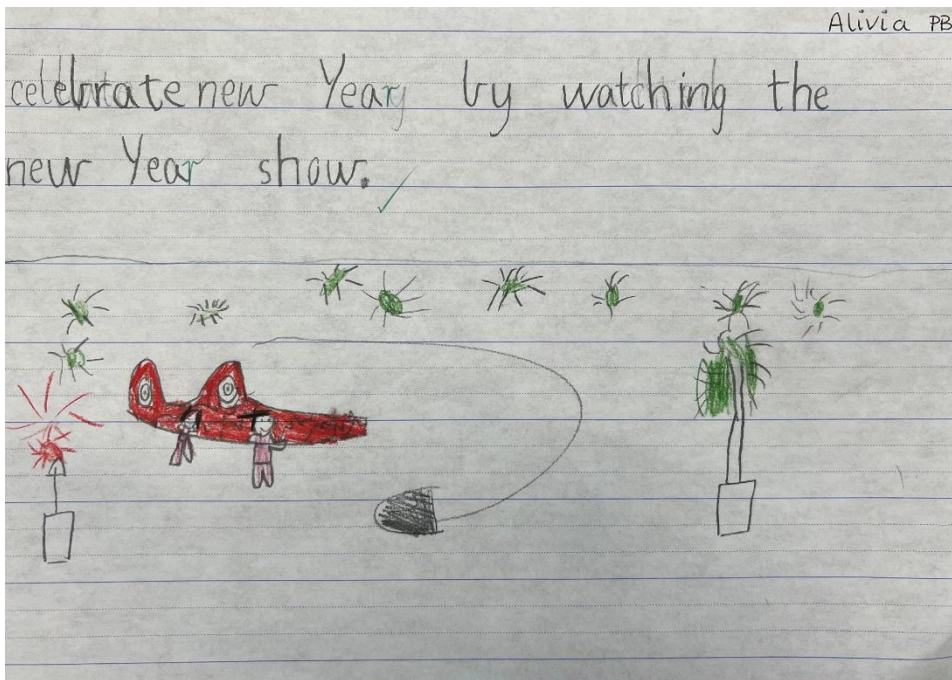
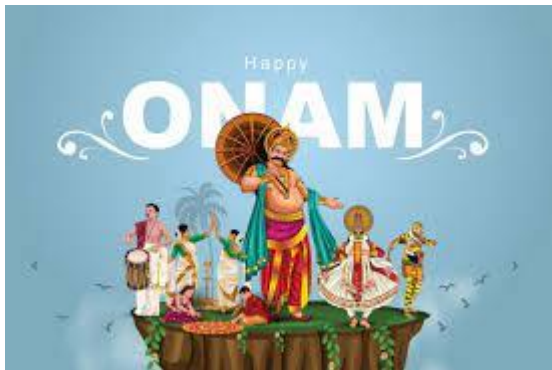
Onam is an Indian festival where we watch many dances and where the Christian community praises the living God.

What do we eat?

During Onam we eat tons of yummy food which doesn't include any meat. We don't eat on plates but instead we eat on paper leaves!

What do we wear?

Females would wear a huge skirt which in our tradition we call Sari. Males wear not exactly a skirt but something else called Moonde in our tradition.



New Year
By Alivia K PB

Orthodox Easter

By Katelina T 3/4K

GREEK EASTER

Why we celebrate it:

We celebrate it because of the commemoration of the Passion of Christ and celebrate his resurrection on easter sunday.

When we celebrate it:

It's different every year according to the orthodox calander.

Why we dye boiled eggs:

We dye eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ and his sacrifice on the cross

What we do:

We eat split-roasted lamb, meat based dishes, we listen to traditional music, and joyful reunions



Picture:



BY KATELINA T

Norooz

By Anya H 3/4K

We invite family and friends!

We jump over fires! When we jump over fires we sing a song for showing our respect to God.

We sing along to this song... Ckorsee man as to Ckorsee to as man

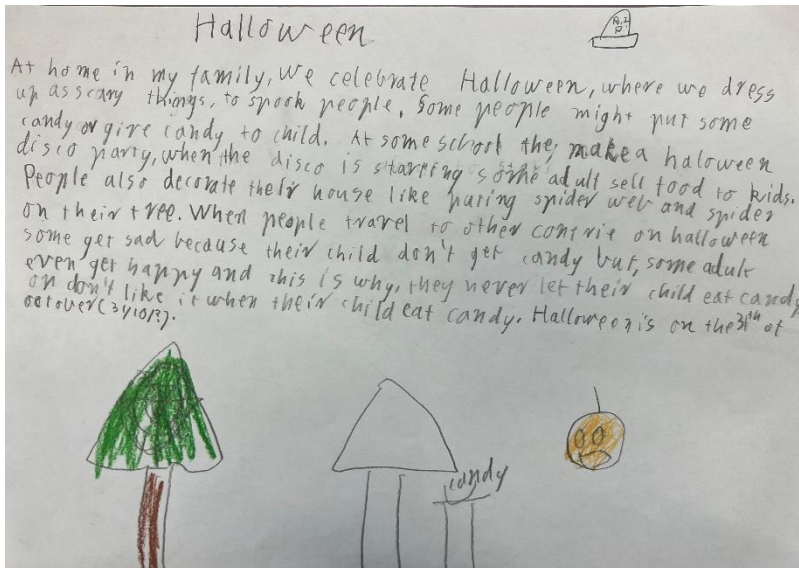
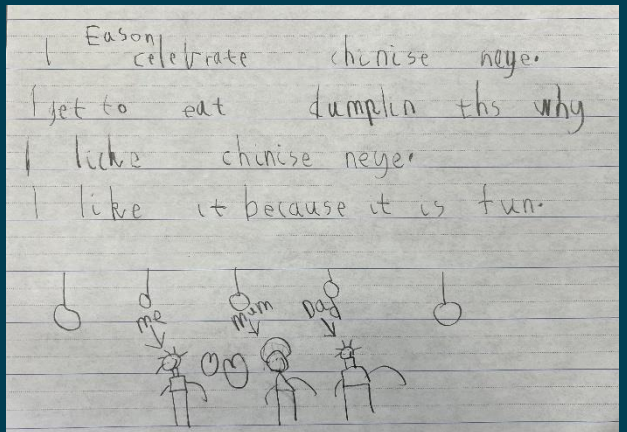
We eat special food!

We wear special clothes to celebrate and show respect to our God.



Chinese New Year

By Eason C PK



Halloween
By Chenhan Z 1/2K

Baha'i Celebrations

By Maya S 3/4R

Feasts are a virtual celebration for Baha'is, and it is incredibly special and important for Baha'is to acknowledge him and remember what he did for us. There are lots of different Baha'i celebrations such as The Birth Of Baha'u'llah, The Declaration Of The Bab and The Declaration Of Abdu'l- Baha. Most of the Baha'i community attends and we say, "The more who come, the more special it is to be here."

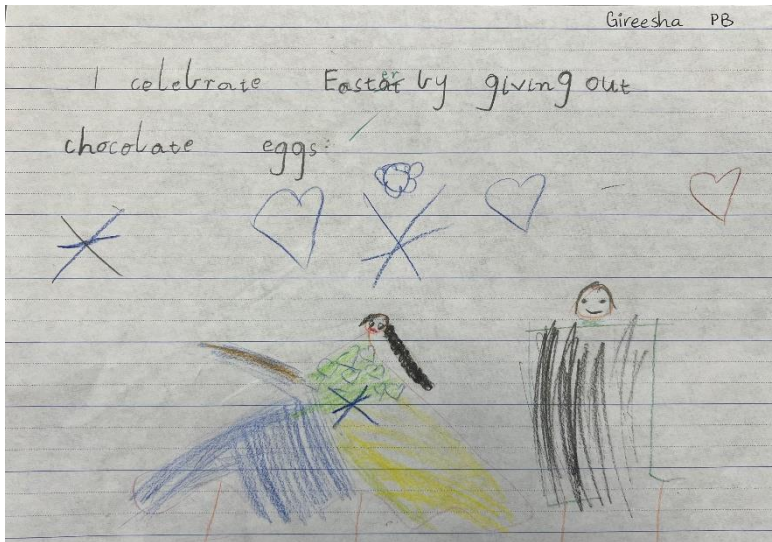
There are three parts of each celebration, teachings, general announcements and refreshments. Teachings are what the Baha'i students are learning about in our cultural class each Sunday morning from 10:00 AM to 11:30 am. The senior group of teenagers come on a Sunday morning from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Us students learn about God, the Bab and lots of others like Abdu'l' Baha. At these celebrations, which we call a feast, in the teachings students say prayers and students tell stories that we learn in our spiritual class. Some of the younger classes like preschool, grade one and grade two sing some quotes and prayers and the preschoolers do actions to remember. Some students also play music with their instruments as a performance. We do not just learn about manifestations, but we also go there to see other people we may have not seen for a long time and spend time with others.

For general announcements, we talk about how much money we raised over the years for charity and lots more. On some of our Feasts, we watch some videos during that time and we compare our presentation to other classes. Sometimes the adults work with other people next to them and they brainstorm ideas for different subjects and us kids just wait, or on other occasions the kids and adults have a hunt or a race. For example, while the Feast happens some people secretly put sticky notes on the walls and windows, we get separated into teams and whichever team got the most points (each sticky note counts as one point), wins. We do not get any prizes, but it is still really fun, especially when everyone joins in.

After general announcements, we have refreshments which is the most yummy and fun time for everyone. Every Feast we bring food and treats like lasagne, chocolates and cookies. Everyone eats and as the adults stack the chairs, the students play tag or hide and seek. The Feasts always go on for hours and sometimes we stay till 10:00 pm. Some people leave much earlier than others since Feast stays up really late. Whenever I stay up late there, I always think that the floor is sleeping since we stay up so late. The last people who are at the Feast get to take the food home since they are the last people there and everyone is usually done eating by then, even though most of the snacks are demolished already.

The Birth Of The Bab is an incredibly special occasion where we say prayers and maybe even reunite with old friends or family as we believe in our culture.





Easter By Gireesha S PB

Korean New Year

By Yuha L and Chaeyun J 3/4R

In Korea, people eat rice cake soup and bow on New Year's Day. After bowing, you receive your allowance and play Korean traditional games.

Games played on New Year's Day include Yutnori, Neolltwigi, Seonggyeong Do Nori, and Donggi. Yutnori, one of the most popular games, can be enjoyed by anyone inside or outside the home, regardless of gender or age. There are two types of yut, firewood yut and chestnut yut, and there are various ways to play. Yut is also used to tell one's fortune for the year.

