

Issue
#003



GUJARATI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**Come to the Mandir
Patotsav on 27th and 29th
December at 7:30pm to
see our Gujarati School
Performances!**



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Introduction

Namaste, Jay Shree Swaminaryan and welcome readers,

This is issue no. 3 of our newsletter, but it's the first one of the new academic year 2013-2014. Firstly, we would like to welcome all of our new readers; who include Ankodi students and all new starters, along with their parents and families.

Why do we create these Newsletters?

So you can keep up with the latest news at Gujarati School. You may learn something new by reading our issues, which include various photos, games and reminders.

If you haven't read newsletters 1 or 2 yet, you're missing out! Please log onto **<http://www.sksst.org/newsletter>** and read them!

Please feel free to send any feedback or suggestions to **school@sksst.org**

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter every time it's released, please send an email to **school@sksst.org** saying "PLEASE SEND ME NEWSLETTERS!"

I would like to thank all of the students at the Gujarati School for their support and willingness to take part in activities prepared by their teachers and members of the newsletter committee.

Thank you to Shivani Patel and her admin team to make this Newsletter interesting, organised and fun!

We hope you enjoy reading!

Calendar

For 2013/2014:

Saturday 7th September 2013 - Start New Term

Saturday 9th November 2013 - Closed for Diwali

Saturday 21st December 2013 – Open Day & Parents' Day

Saturday 28th December 2013 - Closed for Christmas

Saturday 4th January 2014 - Closed for Christmas

Saturday 11th January 2014 – Start of Classes

Saturday 15th February 2014 – Closed for Teachers' Training

Saturday 19th April 2014 - Closed for Easter (one week)

Saturday 21st June 2014 – End of Year Exams

Saturday 5th July 2014 – Enrolment of New Students

Saturday 12th July 2014 - Open Day/Awards and *Last day of School before summer break*

August 2014 - Closed for Summer Break

Saturday 6th September 2014 - Start of New Term

Please note that the School's phone number is **020 8909 9389** (Ext.239) (during school hours - 10am to 3pm).

Open Day:

There will be an open day for the Kenton Gujarati School on Saturday 21st December 2013.

Feel free to come along!

Lost Property

If any of these items belong to you please come and collect them from the Gujarati School Office.



GCSE

We would like to congratulate our GCSE Gujarati students of 2012—2013 on the fantastic set of results which they produced this summer.

Congratulations to :

- ◆ Akhil Patel
- ◆ Anjni Vekaria
- ◆ Aurmi Hirani
- ◆ Dilan Vekaria
- ◆ Dillon Jadva
- ◆ Dipen Patel
- ◆ Harshil Kerai
- ◆ Krupshna Kerai
- ◆ Nikita Shah
- ◆ Payal Chudasama
- ◆ Purshotam Kerai
- ◆ Riya Visavadia
- ◆ Shivani Hirani
- ◆ Sonali Poojara
- ◆ Vikita Patel
- ◆ Karina Bhojani
- ◆ Manisha Sidhpura
- ◆ Mohini Jesani
- ◆ Monika Valji
- ◆ Ria Vekaria
- ◆ Roshni Hirani
- ◆ Urvashi Panchal
- ◆ Anmol Seth
- ◆ Chandni Vadgama
- ◆ Minnati Shah
- ◆ Puja Patel

Overall Grades:

8A's

12B's

5C's

End of Year Awards

At the end of the academic year of 2012—2013, we held our annual End of Year Awards ceremony. We had many activities planned for the day. First, a couple of speeches were made by some of the teachers at the school and the winners of some competitions were announced. For the competitions, the students had to draw and colour pictures and the best pictures were nominated. People also brought in freshly baked cakes, which were served throughout the day. The GCSE students in the school were called up to be congratulated for their hard work in sitting their exams in the summer. Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates were then awarded to students that had performed exceptionally well in their end of year exams. The day ended with a variety of performances from dancers, singers and a student who showed his origami skills.



End of Year Awards



Diwali

Dhan Teras

This is the first of the five day celebration, this is what is known as Dhan teras, 'dhan' meaning wealth and 'teras' meaning 13th day of the month. On this day, houses are cleaned and decorated to welcome Laxmiji, goddess of wealth. Lamps are also lit for the welcoming and houses are decorated using Rangoli patterns. As well as this, cattle in villages are adorned and worshipped as they are their main source of income.



Kali Chaudas

This is the second day of celebrations and falls on the 14th day of the month. On this day, Hanumanji's arti is sung and puja is done to protect us from evil spirits. Also coconuts and ladhuu's made of sesame seeds, rice and ghee are offered to Hanumanji.

Laxmi Pujan and Diwali

This is the third day of celebrations. This day celebrates Ram Bhagwan's journey back to Ayodhya after 14 years in exile. This also celebrates Ram Bhagwan's victory after killing Ravan and rescuing Sitaji. On this day devotees of Ram Bhagwan lit lamps to direct him back to Ayodhya and made Rangoli's to celebrate the joyous occasion. It is also said that Laxmiji only enters houses that are clean and decorated with lamps and Rangoli's. The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word 'Deepavali'- Deep= Light Avali=Row. Also on this day Chopada Pujan takes place. This is a puja done to thank Laxmiji for her presence and blessings. Lastly on this day Lord Shri Krishna left his mortal form on Earth on this day.

Ankooth – Bestu Varas

This is the fourth day of celebrations. On this day at the end of each monsoon season people of Gokul used to do puja of Indradev. One year young Krishna stopped them which made Indradev angry. Indradev then made it rain for 7 continuous days. Krishna lifted the Govardhan Mountain with his little finger on his left hand so that the people of Gokul could shelter under it. The monsoon season brings new harvest which is used to make the Ankooth. A mountain of different foods, sweets and savouries are put before Bhagwan. Bhagwan is also dressed in beautiful garments and jewellery. 'Nutan Varas' means dawn of the new year also known as Bestu Varas.



Bhai Beej

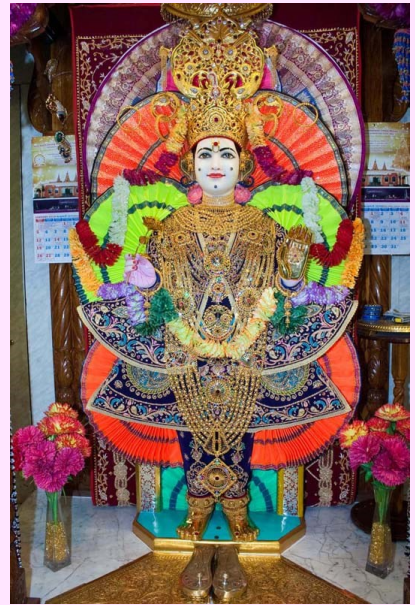
Bhai Beej is the fifth and the final day of the celebration. Bhai means Brother, Beej means the 2nd day of the bright half of the month Kartik. On the day of Bhai Beej, sisters call their brothers and his family to their homes for a meal. Brothers normally give a gift or leave money under their plate after they have finished. By tradition, brothers would go to their sisters' marital home to make sure that she was in good health.

Tulsi Vivah

What is Tulsi Vivah?

Tulsi Vivah is the day when the marriage of Shree Vishnu and Tulsiji, who was also known as Vrinda. The story behind this is that one day there was a beautiful Vrinda who was married to the evil son of the ocean and Laxmiji's brother, Jaaldhar, due to a previous curse. Vrinda was a beautiful and virtuous wife.

Due to the strength of her virtues, Jaaldhar became very powerful which led him to harass kings all over the world. Once, he confronted Lord Shiva to fight with him. Lord Shiva was unable to win, so he asked Lord Vishnu to help him. The only way to weaken Jaaldhar, who was harassing the world, was to break his wife's virtuous nature.



Lord Vishnu disguised himself as Jaaldhar and stayed alone with her for some time. According to the plan, this broke her virtuous dharma and his strength was weakened. He was then easily killed by Lord Shiva. When Vrinda found out about the plot, she was angered by the deception and cursed Lord Vishnu to become a stone, as she

felt that he had no feelings of the pain she was going through. This stone became famous and is known as Shaligram. In return Lord Vishnu gave her a boon to become a tree. This tree is famously known as Tulsi. Tulsi was alone now that her husband had died and this made Lord Vishnu feel the pain he had caused through his deception. This led to Lord Vishnu and Tulsiji getting married and is celebrated every year. Lord Vishnu also said that he would not accept pujas or yagnas without her presence. This is why in religious ceremonies, Tulsi leaves are offered to the Lord's puja, which otherwise would not be accepted.

Willesden Mandir's Ghanshyam Silver Jubilee Mahotsav

This year Willesden Mandir celebrated their Ghanshyam Silver Jubilee Mahotsav. The celebration lasted 9 days and within these 9 days all 8 mandirs gathered together to celebrate this joyous occasion. This event was attended by over 10,000 people and during this occasion the mandir's very own sixth album was released. On the second day their Nagar Yatra took place from Roundwood Park to Willesden Mandir. This Nagar Yatra featured performances from carnival girls, Willesden Mandir's first girls' band as well as dance and lazium groups from the other mandirs including Harrow's girls dressed in blue, orange, green and pink outfits. At the end of this day doves were released and confetti canons were fired. This celebration was featured in Zee TV's "Out and About". Throughout the celebration, pictures and videos were taken and a highlight video was made at the end of each day. The programme for Willesden Mandir's Ghanshyam Silver Jubilee Mahotsav was as follows:

First Day:	Pothi Yatra Opening Ceremony
Second Day:	Poojan Vidhi for all Yajmaans Bhajan Show and release of Audio CD
Third Day:	Nagar Yatra
Fourth Day:	Ghanshyam Maharaj's 25 th Abhishek Raas & Dandia Raas
Fifth Day:	Academy Bal Mandal Boys Drama Lazium show Gujarati School Results Academy Ladies Night
Sixth Day:	A Musical Journey
Seventh Day:	Kenton Mandir dance & Woowich Mandir Drama
Eight Day:	Academy Mens Quiz Night Ladies Musical Show
Ninth Day:	Bal Kendra performance Boys Drama



Wordsearch

This wordsearch contains Gujarati teachers' names, how many can you find?

C I J P I V I Y V Y P A D G A W Q O P A
I U Z O V N I U J L O K W R X L V F R N
C R D S D A K V I Y O I P U M A I A G O
S O X N N R T L E X J V U B W A V S J S
T B A A N N A I R K A A G F T E M L A P
H H I B K J P R H D P H Z I E I M S B R
C S V N A X W C H K U B S N T F F A H R
C S Y I D N M Z A N I R A A P D B S W X
M H M V R I S H I V A N I P U H E U R S
D E P Y R U Y R V D X J W N D R I G C H
E N Y A L I B A I M F F A D A U J M Y I
R E E N A Z I E T W U H M N D P I J D V
D F Y U J S Z V N V C N H X T I I I S A
B H X S H D E E P A L I S N Z K L O X N
U H A N I A H B H S E N I D X A H I R I
W U I N K K B S E J A L R O N I E N Y K
U Z N H U I N V W C C D A E N C E P D E
V B I X O B P O J X X Y K I R O S H N I
Q L X F S U E K G W C O K N R A T A N Z
I T O Y J K Q N I M I S H A S H A R X Q

AKHIL	DEEPALI	LILA	RATAN	SHIVANIP
ASHA	DHANUBEN	NARESH	RAVEENA	SMITA
BANSRI	DHRUPIKA	NIKHITA	REENA	SOHINI
BHAVIKA	DILAN	NIMISHA	RIANNA	SONA
BINDIYA	DINESHBHAI	NYAL	ROSHNI	VAISHNI
CHANDNI	JYOTI	POOJA	SEJAL	VIRUBEN
DARSITA	KARISHMA	RASILA	SHIVANIK	VIVEK

Thank you

This newsletter was produced with the help of:

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- Nyal Vekaria
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Thank you to you all for all of your help!

We hope that you enjoyed this edition of our newsletter!