

## **AN APPEAL BY THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL - JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Dear Parents and friends

We, the children of Sanskriti School, make an earnest appeal to you to join us in our endeavour to make our city worth living.

Diwali is the festival that brings good luck to all. The lighted diya should not only brighten the environment but it also has to shed the darkness of poverty and ignorance.

Celebrations, lights, sweets, gifts, family and friends – these are the things that define Diwali. The mood across the country is jubilant, festive, and extravagant. But year after year, one smoking issue emerges and that is firecrackers and the impact they have on the environment. The festival slowly but surely is becoming a problem for the environment all over India due to the carelessness of the general people around.

There's really nothing fun about crackers, they are loud, dangerous and just add to the already existing air pollution. Firecrackers have particulate matter which are so minute that they have a propensity to get lodged in the lung and can even enter the bloodstream. Firecrackers are made of chemicals which are lethal to health, causing respiratory, kidney, skin and heart problems. It can even affect our brain growth. Studies show that the pollution caused by these crackers even affect the health of children yet- to- be born.

Keeping that in mind, and the impact on the environment, the Supreme Court has issued a number of guidelines and has also ordered a ban on the sale of firecrackers in Delhi-NCR till November 1.

However, there may be some who want to celebrate an eco-friendly Diwali but are not sure how to go about it.

Here are some suggestions from us to make a better Diwali:-

\*Light up your house and your life with diyas and lights. Avoid anything else that pollutes and increases the smoke levels.

\*Colourful and intricate rangolis round up that festive look in your house. This time, choose organic colours over chemical ones. You can even create one using flowers and leaves.

\*Diwali can be a very frightening and confusing time for your pets. You could request your neighbours not use crackers for the sake of the pets in your area. Take them for a walk in the day before the festivities start.

\* You don't have to always go shopping for your home decor during Diwali. The internet is full of creative DIY ideas and you'll be surprised that your house is already full of interesting stuff. For instance, all those redundant CDs can make for a gorgeous chandelier.

\*During your de-cluttering activities at home, make sure you spread happiness by donating your things to those who are not as privileged as you. Making the underprivileged happy is one of the best ways to celebrate Diwali.

\*Don't trash your diyas and other home decor, it can always be used next year. It's the best way to save money and not add to the waste.

If we choose to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the negative impacts of crackers, then very soon the 'blind eye' and 'deaf ear' will no longer remain mere metaphors.

So can this Deepavali be a brightly lit yet noiseless cracker-less festival of lights?

No matter how little  
their light is, they can still  
light up the whole world and bring  
us out of our dark areas.  
May the lights play such role in your life.

*We are the change makers of today and we decide our future.*

Thank You