

Dear Sanskritian students & Parents,

We are soon approaching that time of the year when despite the festivities, there is dread that the air quality will drop to such abysmal levels that our children and elderly and those with lung disorders or weak lungs will be exposed to hazard and the rest of us keep inhaling PM 2.5 (equal to smoking 30-40 cigarettes)! PM 2.5 (*Particulate matter which is so tiny that it enters our lungs and bloodstream*) once inhaled tends to settle on the lungs causing long term issues.

We therefore appeal to each one of you to try and undertake measures which will help reduce pollution. We are aware that the Government at the policy level has to do a lot, but at our level here's what each of us can do:

1. Ensure that your staff, guards and others around you do not light fires for warmth. If you can help them by providing them with warm clothes, gloves and caps, it may help keep them warm.
2. Please advise your staff to not use choolas at home. Again, to help them we may need to provide them with electric stoves or help them apply and obtain LPG cylinders.
3. Please turn off your engines at traffic signals and whenever the vehicle is not in motion.
4. Please reduce carbon footprint by sending your children by school bus, using public transport where possible and of course walking where possible. Vehicular pollution is one of the largest contributors to air pollution. If school bus is not convenient for any reason, please do consider car pooling. One car per child is a luxury which neither our air, nor our traffic situation can deal with.
5. Please avoid lighting agarbattis as these too result in a lot of smoke.
6. Avoid bursting Fire crackers for any festival or celebration, including new year and when India wins matches/cups. One small firecracker releases upto 60000 units of PM 2.5.
7. Please ensure the leaves of your plants are wiped to remove dust from them so that they perform their air purification work in a more efficient manner. Wherever possible plant trees.
8. Avoid using Diesel generator sets especially during winters.

These may seem like small measures, but every little drop in the ocean counts!

Yours always

PTA