



Happy  
Onam

LOYOLA SCHOOL  
SREEKARIYAM P.O.  
THIRUVAVANTHAPURAM



**LENS**

LOYOLA ELECTRONIC NEWS SERVICE  
VOL.1 | NO.3 | SEPTEMBER 2020



# LENS

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VOL.1 | NO.3 | 15 SEPTEMBER 2020



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## *From the Principal's Desk...*

**I** am happy to release the third edition of LENS this year. Thanks to James Thomas Sir and Fr. Roy for editing the paper and thanks to all the contributors.

Loyola school was a NEET exam centre on 13<sup>th</sup> September. We followed all the Covid-19 protocols and conducted the test successfully without any glitch. The online Teachers' Day programme conducted by the students was excellent and so was the online Onam celebration. Loyola also conducted the Open House for each of the divisions of Std. IX, X, XI and XII. The participation level was excellent. Teachers of each division identified the weak students and those who need counselling. The Principal met all of them and some of them who were addicted to online computer games like PUBG were sent for counselling.

We also conducted online Assemblies for each of the classes separately. Students performed marvellously during the Assemblies. Finally, students are in the midst of Term examinations. Std. IX, X, XI and XII will do the normal three-hour exam in the evening with parents as invigilators. Students will upload the answer scripts online. For better evaluation, the physical answer scripts will be collected. For this, all the school buses will ply on 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> September and also on 3<sup>rd</sup> October in the normal evening schedule. Those who cannot submit it to the bus can drop it in the drop-box kept at the school gate. Outstation students need to send the answer sheets through courier within seven days of the exam.

The urgency of online learning forced on us by the lockdown has transformed teachers, students and parents and has made them tech-savvy. I thought that the learning curve would be steep but the ease with which all of you have adapted to the situation is amazing.

**Fr P.T. Joseph, S.J.**

# Hi, Corona Speaking



**First** of all, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Onam. I hope you all know who I am! I am the one and only Mr Corona, the undefeated champion of World Virus Entertainment. I am here to share with you my humble beginnings.

I was born in China. My cousins, SARS and MERS had advised me not to go out. They warned me that you humans had invented vaccines which would kill me. Even then, I found a pig to stay in for some days. Surprisingly, a Chinese man with a complex name, bought the pig. From there it was an easy journey. I mutated myself suitably so that I could carry out my work easily.

Now, I am touring Kerala, especially its capital city. I had heard about this place during my travel. I had also heard that the famed Onam festival is going to be held here. I am a great fan of festivals. They bring out crowds of all kinds, which is basically a hunting ground for me. Moreover, I thank the Government of Kerala for removing the lockdown during this festival.

Last but not the least, the students should be grateful to me for getting a lion's share of screen time.

It is time for me to go now. If you want to meet me just come out of your houses without masks and we can have a good time.

Stay out! Let's have the last ride together to hell!



**Adithya Kishor, X B**



# വ്യാസപദം

ഓണം വന്നേ ... ഓണം വന്നേ...  
പൊന്നോണത്തിൻ കാലം വന്നേ  
ഓണത്തുമ്പിയുമോണപ്പാട്ടും  
അത്തപ്പുവും കളിയുഞ്ഞാലും  
സമത്വസുന്ദര സുരഭില നാടും  
എൻ സ്മൃതിയിൽ നിറവേ കുന്ബോൾ  
വെള്ളിടി പോലെ മനമിതിലെത്തി  
മഹാമാരി തൻ താണ്ടവ ചിത്രം  
പ്രതിരോധിക്കാം ഒറ്റക്കെട്ടായ്  
പ്രതീക്ഷയോടെ മുന്നേറാം  
ഓണം കണ്ണുതുറക്കും നാളിൽ  
എല്ലാ നന്മയുമേകുന്നു.



Ihsan Safar, X C

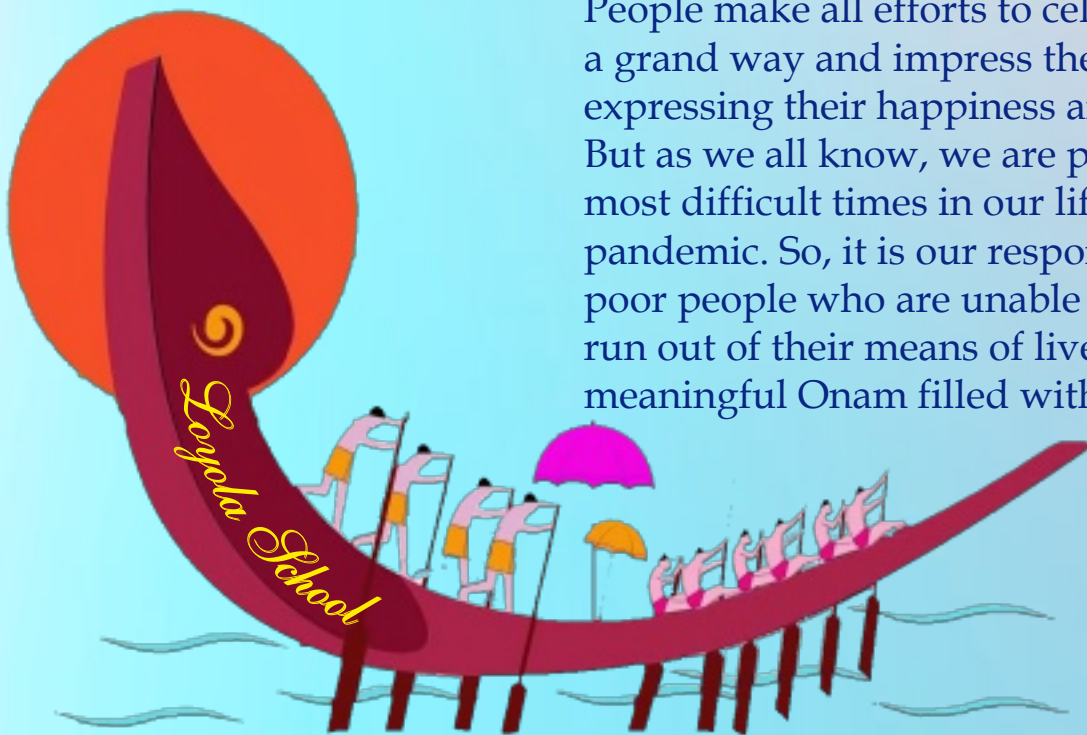
# Onam

*The Malayalis' Pride*



Akhil T. Allan, X A

**Onam** is the most awaited harvest festival of Kerala celebrated with elaborate feasts, folk songs, elegant dances, energetic games, caparisoned elephants, boat races and flower carpets called *athapookkalam*. It is always a pleasant memory in the minds of the Keralites, especially the students. It is a time of togetherness with family and relatives. It is the festival centred on prosperity and rich culture. It is celebrated by all, with joy and enthusiasm, commencing in the month of *Chingam*. It showcases the feeling of oneness in diversity. Onam is celebrated to welcome King Mahabali under whose reign Kerala witnessed its golden era where all subjects were happy and prosperous. The Gods became envious of Mahabali's growing popularity and they decided to bring an end to his reign. Still, in recognition of all the good deeds he had done, he was granted a boon to visit his ever loving people once every year. This is celebrated as Onam every year for ten days from *Atham* to *Thiruvonam*. People make all efforts to celebrate the festival in a grand way and impress their dear king, expressing their happiness and wishing him well. But as we all know, we are passing through the most difficult times in our life due to the pandemic. So, it is our responsibility to help the poor people who are unable to work and have run out of their means of livelihood, to make it a meaningful Onam filled with joy and prosperity.



# Onam

## and the tradition



Amarnath Sujith, X A

**Onam** is a celebration in Kerala. Being a Keralite, I find it a pleasure to be part of this celebration. People across India come to see the celebration.

During the Onam celebrations, all family members come together at their ancestral homes. According to Hindu mythology, Vishnu had given Mahabali the permission to return to the earth every year and that day of every year is celebrated as Thiruvonam.

According to legend King Mahabali was pressed down by the foot of Vishnu. It is believed that Mahabali comes to see all his subjects every year and enjoys the occasion to the maximum.

**Onasadya** is an integral part of the celebration. It is a sumptuous meal comprising 24 to 28 dishes. We sit on a mat and eat it without using any cutlery. The main dish is rice along with curries like *parippu*, *pulissery*, *sambhar*, *eriserry*, *rasam*, *kalan*, *thoran*, *avial*, etc. We also get to eat a special type of dessert which is tastier than the ice cream.

After the *sadya* all men and women get ready to play certain traditional game like musical chair, tug of war, *thiruvathirakali*, *onamkali*, etc.

# ONAM

## with a difference



**Alvin Noble, X C**

*The* time has come to celebrate and rejoice,  
To welcome the man who is in the hearts of all  
To savour the *onasadya* wearing the mundu,  
And to sing in unison in our God's Own Country.  
Let's celebrate Onam in a different way,  
Remembering the crusaders against Covid-19  
Cooperating with the guidelines and  
Staying indoors and greeting them virtually.

## What Onam means to the Keralites



*Onam* is one of the most celebrated festivals in Kerala. It is celebrated as a harvest festival that brings happiness, unity, prosperity and equality. Onam is celebrated by everyone in Kerala. Traditionally, Onam celebrates the arrival of King Mahabali. It is said that King Mahabali arrives in Kerala every year on the day of Onam. Onam is celebrated in the Malayalam month of *Chingam*. In the Gregorian calendar, Onam falls either in August or September. This year, Onam will be celebrated on 31 August. People buy new clothes, clean their houses and get together to celebrate this wonderful festival. Children have a vacation during this time. *Onasadya* is made on the first day of the Onam celebration. Onam celebrations

include *Thiruvathirakali, Pulikali, Vallamkali, Thumbi thullal, Onakali, Onathallu* and many more.

Onam is one of my favourite festivals. The boat race or *vallamkali* is a race many love to watch. Onam is a festival that people celebrate together. Still, on account of the pandemic and the consequent restrictions, this year we have to celebrate this festival at home itself. Though we will be unable to celebrate Onam to the full extent this year, we can surely try to enjoy it at our homes and stay happy and safe.



**Navaneeth Sivadas, X A**





**Onam** is a festival of togetherness and happiness. Occurring soon after the harvest season, it symbolizes prosperity and abundance. As the proverbs imply, even the poorest spend their savings to enjoy this festival with their families. The *pookkalam*, *onasadhya*, and *onakkodi* are all integral to the ten-day festival.

In 2018, this festival was hit hard by the raging floods which came along as an unwelcome guest. The farmers were left shocked as their hard work was washed away. The economy went downhill as the traders awaiting the festive season were facing a serious setback. The same was the story when the floods returned in 2019, causing much more havoc. The two floods accompanied by landslides took the lives of 804 people.

Even against the backdrop of such devastating events, the people of Kerala showed their unique trait of character, togetherness. We saw it everywhere, especially in the relief camps where people belonging to all religions came together to show the true meaning of Onam.

## **New Age Onam**

Ever since our childhood, we have associated Onam with Maveli. But, with man showing no intention of stopping the destruction of nature, the floods are here to stay. Probably in the future, this iconic duo of Maveli and floods may remain inseparable.

Still, one thing is for sure: no floods can defeat the spirit of the *Malayalis*. The new age Onam will bring out the long lost sense of togetherness among the people and will indeed be the festival of happiness.



**Joel Jomy, X B**

# ***With a heavy heart***



A popular cultural festival that is celebrated in the southernmost part of India? A harvest festival where you can see the so-called Mahabali?

Onam, usually celebrated enthusiastically for ten days in August or September, originated in Kerala as a celebration to relive the golden days of Mahabali, the mythical king who ruled over Kerala.

For me, Onam has never been a festival; it is a kind of reunion of friends and family who always wish to see one other. For the past two or three years, Onam has been playing a sad part in every *Malayali's* life. The frequent flooding of the South Indian rivers and the landslides caused due to the monsoon rains have been the major cause.

Along with online classes, we are now having online celebration of Onam, too. Meeting our friends and extended family online will be a fresh experience this year. It would, to a large extent, make up for the loss of opportunities for real social gathering and participation in the traditional games that are inseparable parts of this festival season.

With a heavy heart, following the lockdown caused by the pandemic, every *Malayali* is forced to celebrate Onam at his own home which would be a sad yet satisfactory celebration when compared to other festivals. Let us hope that the pandemic would subside soon, once effective vaccines are made available to us.



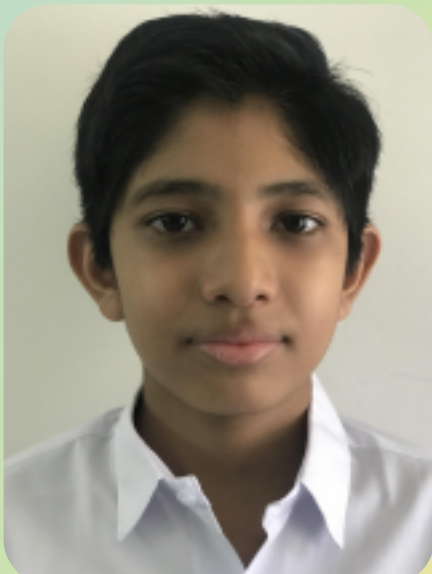
**Sabarinath V. S., X A**

# VIRTUAL BANQUET



*An* idea struck my mind! I shared it with my family and friends. My suggestion was to create a virtual potluck with items from our traditional Onam cuisine. All the kids got excited and chipped in with ideas and suggestions to make a memorable video for Onam 2020. All of us virtually met one another through video conferences and meetings. In the virtual meeting, we finalised the dish to be given to each kid. The only ask was to create a video on how to make the dish allotted to each kid. After three days, I was excited to see the response from them.

My job was to integrate all these video clips into a single film, bringing in the required transitions and explanations of the delicious dishes. The resultant short film was appropriately titled with a French flavour: 'Le Unite', meaning 'the unity', because it was the perfect example of the unity of people even during the present crisis. We premiered the film at 12 noon on Thiruvonam day! It was a joyful experience for each kid to realise how differently each family's culture and tradition converged into a short film.



**Nathan Gilroy, X B**

# Onam 2020

*Onam* 2020 will be a really unique one. It would be all that Mahabali could ask for because of the pandemic. No matter who we are or where we are from, we are fighting against the corona virus together. However, a new classification system has evolved with just two groups: COVID-positive and COVID-negative, and negativity (not in the sense of a trait of character) is actually a good thing here. This Onam seems really promising, as there is no time to think of our differences. For all of us Keralites, and others too, this can be a time to stand united. During this festival, people who are confined to their homes can know they are part of a larger crowd, and are not alone.

This year's celebrations would be on a smaller scale than usual, though they would be the same at heart. They would be simpler yet fabulous. This year, we can have our own little celebrations in our homes. During this time, we can understand that we are not alone in this world. There are seven and a half billion other people out there who are facing the same crisis. The only way to stop it is by being united. Though all of us are far apart in real life, our minds can travel a long way if we want them to. So this Onam, we can all keep our minds united in our fight against this virus, and at the same time, celebrate Mahabali's arrival and enjoy this festive season!



**Vishwa Kalyan Reddy**  
(X A)

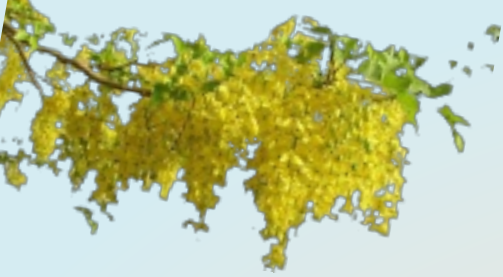


*Onakadha:  
Siddarth P. (UKG A)*

**ONLINE**

**ONFEST**

**CELEBRATIONS**



*Welcome address:  
Maanas Kamnani*

This could not be as fun as a real Onam celebration but we could enjoy speeches, dance, music and all sorts of such things performed by *chettans* and younger ones, online. Of course, we will not get the tasty payasams, however considering the pandemic taking over the world, we had to do an online celebration during this Onam. I really wish the school re-opens soon. I wanted the assembly to be much longer, with a whole lot more of colourful programmes as we witnessed last year. Other students of my class also told me this.

**Abhinand M. Nair, VI D**



*Speech:  
Albie Jacob*



*Onapattu:  
Neerad R.*



*Onapattu:  
Devanarayanan J.R.*



*Dance:  
Alvin Noble*



*Vote of thanks:  
Giridhar Prakash*



The virtual convergence of the threesome of **Pranav Sankar (XI A)**, **Vishwa Kalyan Reddy (X A)** and **Abhinand M. Nair (VI D)** with their wholesome *Onapattu: Uthrada poonilave...*

# The Western Ghats



**With** floods and landslides affecting the normal life of Kerala for the third consecutive year, we have to focus on sustainable development. The ecologically diverse and fragile Western Ghats has been the centre of many natural calamities triggered by the exploitation of the natural resources and topography. The Western Ghats spans over 6 states, 44 districts and 142 taluks and is an abode to many endangered plants and animals.

The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel headed by the ecologist

Madhav Gadgil and another committee led by space scientist Kasturi Rangan submitted their strategical recommendations for conserving these Ghats. Both committees recommended to suspend some of the industrial and mining activities that were harming the region. But none of their recommendations was implemented as both the committees failed to reflect the worries and concerns of the local communities. Sustainable development calls for a deep involvement of all stakeholders – local

people and self-governing bodies, political parties, etc.

The Gadgil Commission report and its warnings proved prophetic when the century's worst flood unleashed destruction in Kerala. A combination of ecological damage and extreme weather events was the trigger for the floods, the landslides and soil piping.

Every Keralite goes to bed with a deep sense of worry: '*Will the flood water reach my doorstep?*' '*Will the land I live on hold up to the manmade calamities and nature's fury?*' As ecologically committed citizens, we need to remember that we have no option to go forward without sustainable development.



**Tharun G. Sajan, X A**

# Google Effect

*“One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.”*

Wise words stated by Elbert Hubbard, an acclaimed American writer and philosopher.

An astounding upsurge in the number of these machines has been noted since August 6, 1961 when the Internet was first opened to the public. Our obsession with the Internet is decreasing our resolve and ability to work hard. It has also initiated a trend to recourse to rote learning from websites. Rote learning is a memorization technique based on repetition. This method contradicts the very definition of learning which is the relatively permanent change in a person’s knowledge or behavior due to experience.

The Google effect or digital amnesia is the tendency to forget information that is easily available on the Internet.

Manifestation of this phenomenon is visible in every digital citizen using the Internet.

Considering the importance of the Internet in our lifestyle, it is impossible to truly isolate our self from this 'essential commodity'. So, responsible use of it is our only viable alternative.



Adithyan Praveen, X B



# News Reading Competition Winners



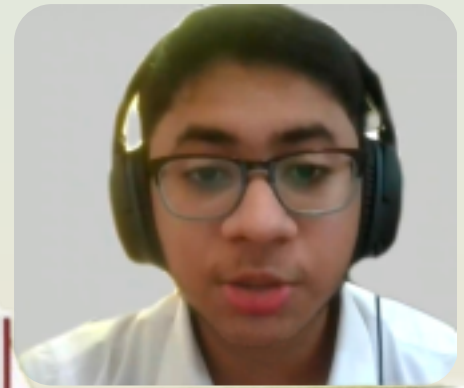
**Bhagat Sunand**  
(IX C)

2



**Rehaan Rolland**  
(VIII A)

1



**Vaisayan Bhattacharya**  
(XI C)

3

## Special Mention



**Aakarsh Y. Nar, IX B**  
Background & Setting



**Adithya R.S., IX C**  
Graphics & Presentation



**Allen Philip, IX B**  
Setting

**LittleMaestros:**  
**Winners in**

**MUSIC**  
**COMPOSITION**



NEELLESH MANUB, III C

2



**JUNIORS**  
RITHAV S., IV C

1



DAN JACOB ANIL, IV C

3



MADHAV MOHAN PILLAI, VIII B

2



**PRE-SENIORS**  
ABHINAND M. NAIR, VI D

1



ABHIRAM S. NITHIN, VI B

3



BHAGAT SUNAND, IX C

2



**SENIORS**  
HARIMADHAV B., IX C

1



VISHWA KALYAN REDDY, X A

3

# Gratitude

*Ever* since I took the responsibility of writing this article, I have been trying to condense every encounter I have had with my teachers during the past thirteen years. After trying multiple times, I have come to the conclusion that it is impossible to put it all down to a small article. However, September 5<sup>th</sup> is more than a day for any student.

A reminder. Reminder of what? All the memories teachers have given us? The ones which we cherish forever or the ones which were bitter at first and then turned out to be sweet? Where would all the accomplished men and women of the world be if they had no teachers to guide and teach them how to differentiate between what is right and what is wrong? It is still a mystery how each teacher managed to see through our lies, understand us the same way our parents did. Our lush campus could have had chocolate fountains (and maybe even a Chipotle outlet with guacamole) and it still would not be the same if not for our beloved teachers.

To get a glimpse of what teachers go through, almost a year back, I tried to find out how it is to manage kids or how it is to make sure someone fully understands what you teach them. Observation? I found it a very tough and engaging process. Whatever vocabulary skills or communication skills any student in this institution possesses, it is due to some teacher's effort.

If we start thanking these craftspeople who moulded us into the sculptures we are, we could do it forever. They have helped us in becoming better speakers, better thinkers, better writers, better observers, better listeners, better students, and most importantly, better humans, for a better tomorrow. They are indeed the people who plant seeds for fruits, not for themselves but for generations to come.

Thank you, Teachers.

**Agnivesh U., XII A**



*Opening up grateful hearts on*  
**TEACHERS' DAY**



*Steve Aaron Fernandez*



*Vishwanath J.R.*



*Agnivesh U.*



*Dhevanandh P.L.*



*Comperre:  
Aadithya S.D.*



*Vote of thanks:  
Kalidas D.K.*



*Song:  
Geevarghese Nebu*



*Prayer:  
Vian Vinod*

