

## MAHASHIVARATHRI

**Mahashivratri** is one of the most important Hindu festivals of the year. Mahashivratri is termed as the 'Great Night of Shiva'. The festival is celebrated on the 13th night and 14th day of the Hindu month of Phalgun. On this day, devotees chant prayers and observe a rigorous fast to seek divine blessings of Lord Shiva.

Mahashivratri is very significant for people who are on the spiritual path. On this night, the northern hemisphere of the planet is positioned in such a way that there is a natural upsurge of energy in a human being. This is a day when nature is pushing one towards one's spiritual peak. One of the fundamentals of this night-long festival is to ensure that, to allow this natural upsurge of energies to find their way, one needs to remain with the spine vertical and stay awake. According to Hindu scriptures, devotees who worship Lord Shiva on the night of Mahashivratri, will have their wishes fulfilled. Hence, devotees perform special puja on this day, giving a sacred bath to the Lord and offering fruits, flowers and bel leaves.

On Mahashivratri, many devotees observe fast and chant '*Shivji ki Jai*' in Hindi and '*Om Namah Shivaya*' in Sanskrit. They later celebrate Mahashivratri by drinking *thandai*. It is said that Lord Shiva liked this drink and devotees take it in the form of prasad along with sweets.

According to ancient legends, Mahashivratri marks the wedding day of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. It is also believed that on the night of Mahashivratri, Lord Shiva performed the Tandava dance. On this day, Lord Shiva saved the world from a pot of poison that emerged from the ocean during Samudra Manthan, by drinking it. It is a celebration of spirituality, inner strength and goodness by invoking the name of Shiva -The Great Yogi.

The school will remain **closed** on **4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**, Monday, on account of **Mahashivarathri**.

Principal

