

NBT INDIA INDEPENDANCE DAY Arts And Literary Journal 2018

Religious Acceptance



**Organized By:
North Brunswick Township High School
Agraj Seva Kendra
NBT India Day Committee
www.nbtindia.org**

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NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018

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Naina Goel

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Kuldeep Uppal

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Celebrating India Independence Day

Learn about India's History and Culture
Serve your Community and Share your Heritage

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Wisconsin



August 15th

Senate and General Assembly

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, August 15th is recognized as India Independence Day, which is a day to celebrate India's independence from British rule; and

WHEREAS, just as Americans look forward to their day of freedom every July 4th, people of all faiths join together in India to celebrate a struggle for independence which was begun years ago by Mahatma Gandhi; and

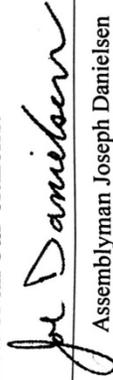
WHEREAS, the Indian independence struggle incorporated the efforts by the people of India to liberate the region from British rule and form the independent nation-state of India; and

WHEREAS, the Indian independence struggle involved a wide spectrum of Indian political organizations, philosophies, and rebellions. India emerged as a unified nation-state on August 15, 1947; and

WHEREAS, both America and India fought against British domination to secure freedom for their nations; people in both countries cherish the freedoms found in our respective constitutions; and

WHEREAS, both America and India serve as models for democracy and freedom around the world and our independence days symbolize these achievements;

NOW THEREFORE, Assemblyman Joe Danielsen of Legislative District 17, **Do Hereby Proclaim**, August 15th, 2018 as India Independence Day and call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.


Assemblyman Joseph Danielsen
Legislative District 17

MESSAGE



Surendar Reddy Revuri

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the NBT India Independence Day Celebrations on Aug 11th, 2018, to commemorate India's 72nd Independence Day. It is a great privilege to lead a team of over 150 youth and adult volunteers to bring today's event. With the support of North Brunswick Board of Education, the local businesses and the volunteers, we are able to celebrate this event today. The mission of this event is to provide a platform for the youth to develop leadership skills while volunteering in team roles and showcasing their talents, as well as guiding younger children along a similar path.

The theme chosen for this year's event is "Religious Acceptance." We chose this theme as it's such an apt theme given the world events that are dividing people based on religion, caste, color of the skin, etc. Religion is one aspect of cultural personality that a number of folks feel very close to their hearts and are not ready to embrace changes or any influence from other cultures. Keeping traditions and beliefs is a great way to pass on the heritage but we need to understand we are sharing this world with others with other heritages too. While tolerating other religions is very important for world peace and harmony, it is also important to understand various religions and go even higher ground and accept them with open arms. Mahatma Gandhi said "***Let us respect other religions even as we respect our own. Mere tolerance thereof is not enough***". Whether it is language, cultural, religious or culinary habits, we need to look for attributes that tie us together, instead of separating us based on differences.

As a part of this event, we conducted various competitions to promote awareness of the theme among the youth. The competitions included essay writing, artwork (2D & 3D) and public speaking. For the first

time, we have introduced Rubik's cube competitions and it's amazing to see the skills that our youth have. Apart from these competitions, children of all ages from the community have trained for the past two months to present various cultural items. For the first time we are presenting a showcase which involves over 45 participants in single act depicting cultures of various religions in the world.

The executive committee and volunteers have helped put this event together to encourage the children of North Brunswick and the neighboring areas. Each youth and adult volunteer has contributed time beyond his/her means to make this event a great success. I admire their dedication and the enthusiasm to keep the cultural roots alive in the community. I am very happy to represent the executive committee for this event knowing that each member has worked hard to represent India, its culture, and its values.

My special thanks to Dr Brian Zychowski, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Michael Kneller, Principal of North Brunswick High School for their support in celebrating this event.

Lastly, I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of founders, previous committee members and volunteers who have contributed to making this event popular.

Happy Independence Day and enjoy the celebrations!

Thank you,

Surendar Reddy Revuri
Chairperson,
NBT India Independence Day Celebration Committee
2018

PROCLAMATION

By Mayor and Council – Township of North Brunswick

WHEREAS, August 15th is recognized as India Independence Day, which is a day to celebrate India's independence from British rule; and

WHEREAS, just as Americans look forward to their day of freedom every July 4th, people of all faiths join together in India to celebrate a struggle for independence which was begun years ago by Mahatma Gandhi; and

WHEREAS, the Indian independence struggle incorporated the efforts by the people of India to liberate the region from British rule and form the independent nation-state of India; and

WHEREAS, the Indian independence struggle involved a wide spectrum of Indian political organizations, philosophies, and rebellions. India emerged as a unified nation-state on August 15, 1947; and

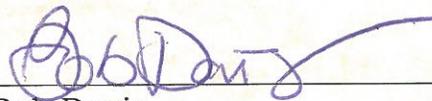
WHEREAS, both America and India fought against British domination to secure freedom for their nations; people in both countries cherish the freedoms found in our respective constitutions; and

WHEREAS, both America and India serve as models for democracy and freedom around the world and our independence days symbolize these achievements;

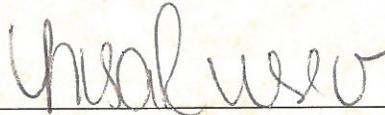
NOW THEREFORE, WE the Mayor and Council of the Township of North Brunswick, **Do Hereby Proclaim**, August 15th, 2018 as India Independence Day and call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Francis M. Womack III,
Mayor
Township of North Brunswick



Bob Davis,
Council President



Lisa Russo,
Municipal Clerk
August 11, 2018



MESSAGES



FRANCIS M. WOMACK III
MAYOR

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK
710 HERMANN ROAD
NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY 08902

FRANCIS M. WOMACK III
MAYOR



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August 11, 2018

Welcome to North Brunswick Township's India Day celebration! We here in North Brunswick are very proud of our diversity as it has become an integral part of our community. This year's celebration theme "Build Peace and Harmony in the Community, Nation and the World by understanding and appreciating various religions." is very appropriate for the times we currently live in.

We welcome you to North Brunswick and to the 12th annual NBT India Day Celebration! It is our honor for you all to be here.

Enjoy the Celebration!!


Francis M. Womack III, Mayor
Township of North Brunswick



North Brunswick Police Department

710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Director of Police Kenneth P. McCormick

Deputy Chief Joseph A. Battaglia

Ph. 732-247-0922 Ext. 400 Fax: 732-220-0761

India Day

"Build Peace and Harmony in the Community, Nation and the World by
Understanding and appreciating various Religions"

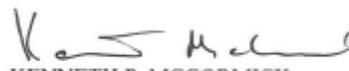
On behalf of the North Brunswick Police Department I would like to thank the organizers of the India Day Celebration. This year's theme is Build Peace and Harmony in the Community, Nation and the World by understanding and appreciating various religions."

At a time when policing is under such scrutiny and the feelings of distrust between the community and Police, this event and the theme of "Peace and Harmony" will only foster more positive relationships between us.

As a community we need to better understand the role of the Police and we also need to better understand the community we serve. We need to have greater understanding of the different cultures and ethnicities that surround our community. This can only be accomplished through activities such as your India Day Celebration where we interact together in a non-official environment and develop bonds that will last through generations to come.

Your efforts to build positive, lasting relationships are the building blocks to foster trust and community. "Peace and Harmony in the Community, Nation and the World by understanding and appreciating various religions" will be our theme for today, tomorrow and the future.

Thank you once again for allowing us to celebrate and work together with you.


KENNETH P. MCCORMICK
Director of Public Safety

"United we stand, divided we fall." -Aesop

Messages



Govinda Rajan



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

On behalf of members of Agraj Seva Kendra, the Board of Directors and on my own behalf, I invite you all to the NBT India Independence Day Celebrations 2018.

Agraj Seva Kendra is a tax exempt nonprofit organization with the mission to preserve Indian culture and traditions and promote diversity. More than one hundred students of North Brunswick Public Schools, most of them born and brought up in USA have strived for the past several weeks to put together this unique show on religious acceptance. They have used their creativity and critical thought and expressed themselves in Art, Essay, Public Speaking and a Showcase on religious acceptance. The journal they have brought out is a testimony of their efforts.

This service project was done as a Cross Age Mentoring Program (CAMP) developing Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, Caring and Compassion among the participants. I thank the Middlesex County Office of Cultural and Heritage, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, New Jersey History Commission and the Legislatures for the generous grant. I thank the executive committee of NBT India and all the volunteers and participants and their parents for the wonderful performance. I also thank you all for your kind support and encouragement.

Govinda Rajan
CEO
Agraj Seva Kendra

Dear Shri. Surendar Revuri and the members of NBT India Executive Committee,

On behalf of the *Rotary Club of Plainsboro-North & South Brunswick* it is my pleasure to extend our greetings on the occasion of the India Independence Day celebrations.

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that the students of North Brunswick have put in lot of efforts to bring out this event with the theme: Building Peace and Harmony in the Community, Nation and the World by Understanding and Appreciating Various Religions. It is needless to say that this is the need of the hour.

We also encouraged the students of North Brunswick School District by providing them a platform to showcase their expertise in the area of STEM. Student members of our Interact Club at North Brunswick also conducted several service projects.

We at the *Rotary Club of Plainsboro-North & South Brunswick* share with you the goal of community service with a selfless attitude. As you know, Rotary is in the service of humanity and communities all over the world.

On the international front we supported "Jaipur Limb" project in India and assisted in providing facilities for homeless elderly persons in India. We supported the fight against "Riverblindness" in Africa.

We sincerely wish the event and your organization success in this and future projects.

Sincerely,

Christine Cuoco

President

Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick



P.O. Box. 171, Kendall Park, New Jersey 08824

www.plainsbororotary.org



Messages

Brian Zychowski



Dear Community Members,

As Superintendent of the North Brunswick Township Public Schools, I am grateful to the NBT India Independence Day Committee for their commitment and efforts hosting this community function.

This year's theme: **"Build Peace and Harmony in the Community, Nation, and the World by Understanding Appreciating Various Religions"**, will enhance the cultural and learning experience for all attendees. The program will illuminate the positive contributions and societal impact of India while making it a fun-filled Saturday morning. Our society is in need of commemorations that focus on understanding and appreciating others.

Students from all cultures should be apprised of the timely and timeless contributions of Mohandas Gandhi. His vision and ideals influenced the work of Martin Luther King and journey of Nelson Mandela.

Much like the significance of July 4th, 1776, the Independence Day of India, August 15th, 1947, is a celebration of freedom and the birth of a NEW NATION. A nation must never forget its past as its history is the laboratory of progress for future generations.

India's independence was the inspiration of nationalist movements and provided a roadmap for liberation throughout the globe. India's struggles for decolonization are a model for all people and must never be forgotten.

We, as a people of freedom with global connections, need more Gandhi's amongst us and more days of celebration representative of the ideals of India's Independence Day. India's foundation of democratic laws is a model for all people. It is among the many reasons why I am grateful to the India Independence Committee for their commitment and efforts hosting this community function.

We, as a people of freedom celebrate and thank NBT India Independence Day Committee for its program of **"Build Peace and Harmony in the Community, Nation, and the World by Understanding Appreciating Various Religions."**

Sincerely,

Brian Zychowski Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
North Brunswick Township Public Schools

MICHAEL KNELLER NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Michael Kneller



Dear Community Members,

On behalf of North Brunswick Township High School, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our school for the 2018 NBT India Independence Day celebrations. I want to thank the members of the committee for hosting this educational event for our community! As a former teacher in the Social Studies Department, who created our Comparative Religions course, I embrace the importance of understanding all cultures in our community and country to fulfill the theme of this years program, "Building Peace and Harmony by Understanding and Appreciating Various Religions." As Principal, I believe that at NBTHS we understand that our greatest strength is our diversity. I welcome you to the 2018 India Independence Day and look forward to celebrating the 71st commemoration with each of you!

Respectfully,

Michael Kneller,
Principal NBTHS



Program

- Welcome Address - Surendar Reddy Revuri
- Prayer - Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal
- Pledge of Allegiance - Anusha Vakkalagadda
- Flag Hoisting Ceremony
- "Jana Gana Mana" (Indian National Anthem) - Led by Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal
- "Star Spangled Banner" - Anusha Vakkalagadda
- "Vande Mataram" (National Song of India) - Led by Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal
- "Tu Hi Ram Hai" – Chorus Led by Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal
- Introduction of the Emcees
- Invocation Dance "Jathiswaram" – By Guru Aparna Nadendla Students
- Guest Speaker – "Dr. Usha Ramachandran" Associate Director SATHI
- "Voice of Innocent Heart" - Elementary School Dance Participants
- "Wedding Masti" — Middle School Dance Participants
- President's Volunteer Service Awards Presentation
- "Ghoomar" - Adults Dance Participants
- "Cultural Fusion" - High School Dance Participants
- Competitions Awards Presentation – Sponsored by Rotary Club of PN&SB
- "Neerja Ashok Chakra" - Dance by Rhythm Dance Group
- Vote of Thanks and Committee Felicitations – Kirtana Krishnan
- "Religious Showcase" - Fashion Show
- "Hind Desh Ke Nivasi" – Chorus Led by Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

Masters of Ceremony: Riya Patel and Aruhi Vakkalagadda

PROGRAM DETAILS

Prayer

Om sam gachhadwam, sam vada-dwam –
Go forth together
Sam vo mannansi jaanataam - Let your voices unite as one, let your minds unite as one
Deva bhaagam yathaapoorve - To perform your duties, as did many ancestors in times before you
Sanjaanana upaasatee –
Let your determination unite you Samaani vah aakoothi samanaa Hridayaani vah –
Your hearts and minds
Samaanamastu vo mano yathaa vah susahaasati –
So that you may live together in peace and harmony

Singer: Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Led By: Anusha Vakkalagadda

Flag Hoisting Ceremony

India proudly became a free, democratic nation on August 15, 1947. The freedom movement led by Gandhi, based on the principles of “Ahimsa” and “Satyagraha”, has inspired many people across the globe to bring about change in their own country.

The National Flag of India or the “tiranga”, the “tri-colored” represents India, the world’s largest democracy, and is hoisted to honor the country. The color saffron represents renunciation in action, the white in the center represents purity of thought, and green represents prosperity and our close connection with the earth that sustains us. The Dharma Chakra represents the Wheel of Dharma and is a reminder that it is our duty to commit to right actions in life.

Jana Gana Mana – National Anthem of India

The Indian National Anthem “Jana Gana Mana” was written and composed by the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. The poet asks Vidhata, The Creator, to bless his country, his fellow countrymen and most of all benedictions for a bright future for his country. He evokes in us a pride for the States and regions, the magnificent mountains and rivers that form the majestic land of Bharat and the people of Bharat who sing the glory of their Creator.

May my country’s future rise high and may she always bask in victory captures the crescendo - Jai Ho! Jai Ho! Jai Ho!

Chorus Led by: Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

By: Anusha Vakkalagadda

Vande Mataram – National Song of India

Vande Mataram, the National Song of India is a poem from the famed novel Anandamath written by the poet Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1882.

Mother India is described in all her glory in this beautiful poem written in Sanskrit and Bengali. The beautiful rivers, plentiful fruit orchards, the cool breeze, the rich harvest, all inspire the poet to sing praises of his motherland. “I bow to you Mother,” says the poet humbly as he bursts into a melodious song, his heart filled with wonder, pride and joy as he describes his country.

Chorus Led by: Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

Sarv Dharm Prayer-“Tu Hi Ram Hai, Tu Rahim Hai”

Tu Hi Ram Hi is a sarva dharma prayer and spreads the message that God is one. It hardly makes any difference by what name or manner we remember Him. He is bound by no religion or cast.

Chorus Led by: Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

“Jathiswaram: Kuchipudi Classical Indian Dance Presentation

Jathiswaram is an invocation Nritta /Pure Dance with a combination of Jathi and swara patterns it is usually tala centric (beat) having many passages varying in length in an increasing fashion.



Talam : Adi
Ragam : Ragamalika

Adult Mentor: Guru Aparna Nadendla
Participants: Anushka Ayanampudi, Charvika Gopi, and Sravya Rachakonda

Guest Speaker: Usha Ramchandran

Usha Ramchandran, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at RWJMS. Her lifelong interest in providing compassionate and high quality care to underserved communities motivates her work at the Eric B Chandler Health Center and through teaching medical students, pediatric and family medicine residents, as well as mentoring undergraduate students in public health. Dr. Ramchandran's areas of interest include health disparities, community health, South Asian health, pediatric nutrition, literacy promotion, and developmental disabilities. She has been invited to speak in both professional and community settings on these areas and is currently engaged in NIH funded research on infant feeding practices in South Asian families.

“Voice of an Innocent Heart” Dance by Elementary Students

This dance is presented by the elementary school dance students. “Brahm Gyaan ko mano” is a song that portrays the simple message of respecting religions and following the voice of humanity. They will also present dances on prayer songs from diverse religions. “Ik Onkaar” is the prayer song for Sikhs in praise of Guru Naanak, “Khwaaja Mere Khwaaja” is a Muslim prayer where we invite Allah to our hearts, “Devaa Shree Ganesha” is a Hindu prayer in praise of Lord Ganeshaa. The dance ends on a patriotic note with “Vande Mataram,” taken from the national song of India.

Adult Mentor: Naina Goel
Youth Leaders: Navya Malhotra and Rhea Thakur
Participants: Amrit Mahtani, Anish Sinha, Ankita Bilkoo, Anya Chouhan, Arnav Chouhan, Bharan Kalasapati, Chetan Kunisetty, Eva Patel, Jasleen Suri, Jayraj Suri, Jia Patel, Joanne Rajasekar, Ojas Shrivastav, Reeve nade, Saachi Lacit, Samanyu Appanagaari, Sejas singh, Shrijee Shah, Sia Dixit, Simran Amarnani and Sonia Patel

“Wedding Masti” Dance by Middle School Students

Wedding Masti is a medley of four bollywood songs. Each one of these songs shows a wedding celebration from a different religion. The first song “Maula Maula”

from the movie “Singham,” is a Muslim wedding song. The song is about a couple praising and thanking their god for bringing them together. The next song, “Navrai Majhi” from the movie “English Vinglish” is a song from a Hindu wedding celebration. The song is sung by the bride’s parents telling the groom to take care of the bride as she has been brought up with a lot of love. The third song, “O’Maria O’Maria” from the movie “Saagar” is a song from a Christian wedding celebration. In this song, the bride’s friends ask her if she loves her husband and if her husband makes her happy. The last song, “Punjabi Wedding Song” from the movie “Hasee Toh Phasee” is a song showing a Sikh wedding celebration. Friends gather for a big party, and get ready for the Bhangra. When this peppy music plays, you just have to dance!

Adult Mentor: Blisse Vakkalagadda
Youth Leaders: Anusha Vakkalagadda, Aruhi Vakkalagadda and Saanvi Kunisetty
Participants: Anish Bokka, Abinaya Dinesh, Anusha Vakkalagadda, Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Isha Shrivastava, Jessica Rajasekar, Krish Tiwari, Poojitha Kalasapati, Saanvi Kunisetty, Shreya Harish, Srujan Lacit, Tejas Krishnan, Tisha Subhedar and Vedika Sengar.

President’s Voluntary Service Award Presentation

“Ghoomar” Adult Dance

Ghoomar is a folk dance which showcases the rich volumes and traditions of Rajasthan. A very famous traditional dance performed by females to celebrate occasions or accepting new member in the family.

Adult Mentor: Naina Goel
Participants: Agma Chouhan, Blisse Vakkalagadda, Darshna Amarnani, Indu Shrivastava, Jagruti Patel, Jayanthi Kothakota, Lija Lacit, Lymphia Miranda, Naina Goel, Poonam Nade and Vina Patel

Cultural Fusion” Dance by High School Students

The dance consists of several songs from different cultures and religions and displays different styles of dance. “Sun Saathiya” is a bollywood song. It is a slow, melodious, and beautiful song which leads to contemporary choreography. “Shiva Tandava” is an Indian classical song in praise of Lord Shiva. It is a representation of His dance, the Tandava. “Shape of you (Enna Sona)” is a remix of a Punjabi song and an American Song. The words “enna sona” translate to “so beautiful,” in reference to the beauty of a young Indian girl. “Amplifier” is a Punjabi/Hindi song. The dance is a

mix of bollywood and Bhangra which takes you back to 2009 to show how Punjabi was mashed up with hip hop. "Phone" is a Punjabi song showcasing the Punjabi folk dance Bhangra. "In my feelings" is currently one of the top hit songs in the country. It is a modern American Rap that is catchy to today's generation and is played at many parties. "Bom Diggy" is a high energy, and fast paced song. It falls under the Indian, Bollywood genre and many people all over the world have danced to this song.

Adult Mentor: Blisse Vakkalagadda

Youth Leaders: Riya Patel and Rhea Thakur

Participants: Aditya Sharma, Anmol Patel, Ashna Sinha, Deep Hathiramani, Deep Patel, Kirtana Krishnan, Nandana Varier, Navya Malhotra, Nikita Shinil, Riya Patel, Siri Harish, Tanya Kakkar and Titiksha Agrawal

Award Presentation for Competitions (Art, Essay, Public Speaking and Rubik's Cube)

Awards presentation for the Art, Essay, Public speaking and Rubik's cube competitions conducted as a part of NBT India Day celebrations, sponsored by Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North and South Brunswick. RCOPN & SB is actively involved in projects at local, national and international level and is long time supporter of NBT India Day.

"Neerja Ashok Chakra" Dance by Students from Rhythm Dance School.

This performance is based on real story of Neerja Bhanot, youngest recipient of the Ashok Chakra award. She was an Indian model and purser for the airline Pan American World Airways who lost her life trying to save passengers on Pan American Flight 73, which was hijacked by terrorists during a stopover in Karachi, Pakistan, on 5 September 1986.

Adult Mentor: Trupti Kotian

Participants: Anvita Komarraju, Amruta Komarraju, Haasini Tatti, Hridya Nookala, Manya Elugoti, Nidhi Vobilisetti, Riya Prabhudesai, Saanvi Aluri, Siya Deshpande, Syonaa Deshpande and Veda Vobilisetti

Vote of Thanks & Committee Felicitation

Kirtana Krishnan

"Religious Showcase"

This show case highlights some of the major Religions across the India and world. All the participants have contributed to compiling an audio visual slide show followed by depictions of the religious highlight of each of the religion. We intend to celebrate the religious communities coexisting in India for centuries and thriving to bring rich cultural diversity.

Disclaimer: The intention of this show is to bring attention to the positive aspects of all religious communities. The research was done by students and we hope we do not offend any particular community or religion.

Adult Mentor: Archana Sengar

Youth Leaders: Ajita Nair, Anudeep Revuri and Vedika Sengar

Participants: Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Abhitej Bokka, Ajita Nair, Amrit Mahtani, Anish Bokka, Anish Sinha, Ankita Bilkoo, Anmole Bilkoo, Anusha Vakkalagadda, Archana Sengar, Ashna Sinha, Bharan Kalasapati, Blisse Vakkalagadda, Charandeep Kaur, Chetan Kunisetty, Eva Patel, Gangadhar Vakkalagadda, Indu Shrivastava, Isha Shrivastava, Jasleen Bilkoo, Jasleen Suri, Jaspreet Singh, Jayraj suri, Jiya Patel, Joanne Rajasekar, Kanwaljit Uppal, Kirtana Krishnan, Krish Tiwari, Kuldeep Uppal, Lacin Pullanhi Veetil, Lija Lacin, Mallika Tiwari, Ojas Shrivastava, Poojitha Kalasapati, Rajeev Shrivastava, Reeva Nade, Saachi Lacin, Saanvi Aluri, Sanjay Sengar, Sejas Singh, Shrijee Shah, Sia Dixit, Simran Amarnani, Sreeram Rave, Srujan Lacin, Tanya Kakkar, Tejas Krishnan and Vedika Sengar

"Hind Desh Ke Niwasi" Chorus

"Hind desh ke niwasi sabhi jan ek hai " is patriotic song highlighting the fact that all are one though our complexions, dresses and languages are different.

Chorus Led by: Mrs. Kuldeep Uppal

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD WINNERS:

Abhitej Bokka

Ajita Nair

Anudeep Revuri

Khyatishree Kalasapati



Nithyasree Balaji

Pramod Mitikiri

Surya Ananthu

Varun Chari

NBT India Day Executive Committee 2018

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018



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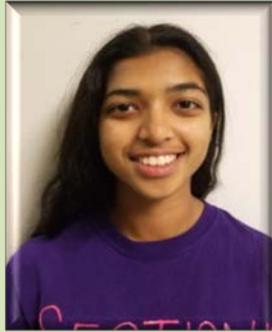
If tolerance, respect and equity permeate family life, they will translate into values that shape societies, nations and the world. – Kofi Annan



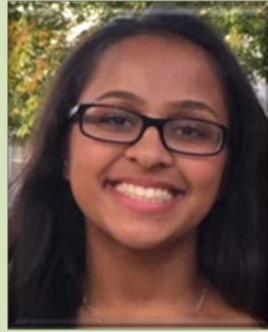
Gangadhara Vakkalagadda
Advisor



Youth Leaders



Ajita Nair
Show Case



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Competitions



Anudeep Revuri
IT/Website/Journal/
Show Case



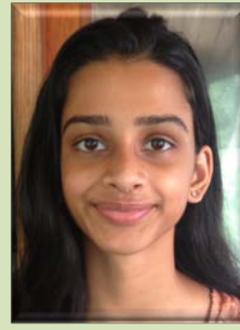
Anusha Vakkalagadda
Choreography- Middle
School Dances



Ashna Sinha
Competitions



Aruhi Vakkalagadda
Emcee & Choreography-
Middle School Dances



Mallika Tiwari
Decorations



Navya Malhotra
Props-Elementary
School Dances



Rhea Thakur
Choreography- HS
Dances, Props-ES Dances



Riya Patel
Emcee & Choreography-
High School Dances



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Journal/Competitions



Vedika Sengar
Show Case/
Photography

For non-violent person, the whole world is one family. He will fear none, nor will other fear him.
---- Mahatma Gandhi

NBT India Independence Day Participants 2018

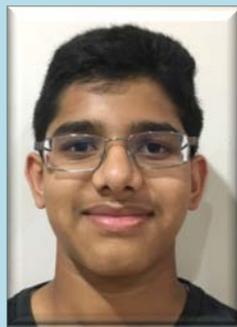
Participants



Aanya Malhotra



Aanya Subhedar



Abhitej Bokka



Aditya Sharma



Amrit Mahtani



Amruta Komarraju



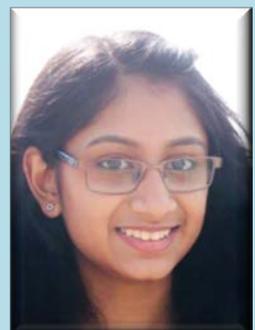
Anish Bokka



Anish Sinha



Ankita Bilkoo



Anmol Patel



Ansvika Kumar



Anvita Komarraju



Anya Chouhan



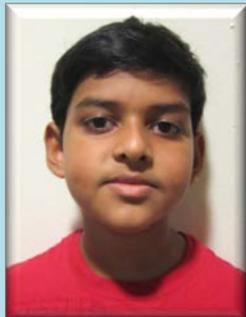
Arnav Chouhan



Avick Kumar



Bharan Kalasapati



Charan Ganta



Chetan Kunisetty



Deep Hathiramani



Deep Patel

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018



Eva Patel



Haasini Tatti



Hridya Nookala



Isha Shrivastava



Ishani Patel



Jasleen Bilkoo



Jasleen Suri



Jayraj Suri



Jessica Rajasekar



Jia Patel



Kirthana Krishnan



Krish Tiwari



Krishi Khatwani



Manya Elugoti



Nandana Varier



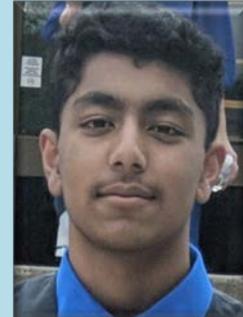
Nidhi Vobilisetti



Nikita Shinil



Ojas Shrivastava



Pannun Raina



Param Sengar





Poojitha Kalasapati



Pramod Mitikiri



Reeva Nade



Ridhi Boggavarapu



Preetesh Shah



Priyashah Shah



Sunidhi Mitikiri



Saachi Lacit



Saanvi Aluri



Saanvi Kunisetty



Saicharan Kankanala



Samanyu
Appanagaari



Samarth Sharma



Samyukta
Appanagaari



Schayta sharma



Sejas Singh



Sheev Shah



Shreya Harish



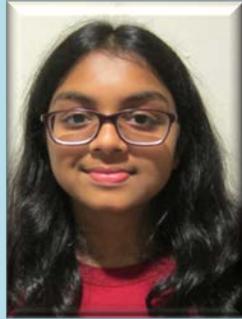
Shrijee Shah



Sia Dixit



Simran Amarnani



Siri Harish



Siya Deshpande



Sourav Siddireddy



Sreeram Rave



Srivarun Kankanala



Srujan Lacit



Syonaa Deshpande



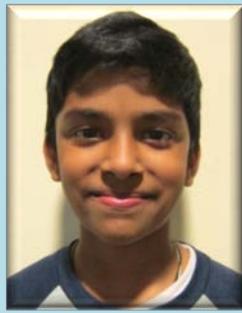
Tania Ommer



Tanya Kakkar



Tapsi Suryawanshi



Tejas Krishnan



Tisha Subhedar



Titiksha Agrawal



Veda Vobilisetti



Veman Ganta



Khyatishree Kalasapati



Sonia patel



Joanne Rajasekar



Abinaya Dinesh



NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018

"The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border." -Pablo Casals

NBT India Independence Day Participants 2018

Adult Participants/Volunteers

NBT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018



Agma Chouhan



Ashish Verma



Darshna Amarnani



Indu Shrivastava



Jagruti Patel



Jaspreet Singh



Lacit Pullanhi Veetil



Lija Lacit



Lymphia Miranda



Poonam Nade



Rajeev Mehta



Rajeev Shrivastava



Ramnivas Singh



Vina Patel



Madhu Kunisetty



Jayanthi Kothakota



Rakhee Bilkoo



Anmole Bilkoo



Charandeep Kaur



Velumani
Krishnaswamy

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO ARE NOT PHOTOGRAPHED HERE BUT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS EVENT

Nikita Shinil, Category Grades 9-12

Religious tolerance is important due to the fact that it unites everyone all over the world and brings us together. People who are able to accept all religions are those who find the joy in the similarities of our friends. However, in recent years people have shown that when choosing to see the similarities/ differences among each other, everyone seems to be choosing the differences. For example, when meeting someone new, the first thing people subconsciously do is judge him/her for their traits. Now, that person may share your hobbies or traits, but you still seem to point out the differences they have. These circumstances are very similar to how people treat other because of their religion. While they share common interests, religion sets them apart.

The reason religious acceptance is so important today is because we live in a fast-paced world where there is no time to simply sit around and enjoy the little things. Religions are something that most people look to for comfort and console. Having something to believe in, is a great way for most people to feel complete. However, when religiously intolerant people step in and ridicule or mock people's religions, they are left with an empty feeling. Religious acceptance is not only important for individuals following a certain religion, but also for the world as a whole. Many people may have heard of or even read the book about the famous girl who was shot in the head by a Taliban for voicing her opinions. Her name is Malala Yousefzia and she is a prime example of how the lack of religious tolerance has caused horrible events to happen. People should embrace every religion, not look at one with disdain. Whether someone believes in Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, or Islam should not be the deciding factor of your opinions about them. In fact, the world could be a far better place if people were to accept every religion. The story of Malala is not the only one that was affected by religious intolerance. There have been far greater events in history that have negatively impacted thousands. The Holocaust was a mass event that was

instigated due to religious intolerance. The opinion of one man alone caused thousands to die. The narrow-minded opinion of Adolf Hitler left thousands of people suffering not just in one country, but all over the world. His idea that people should look a certain way and follow certain beliefs caused mass corruption that could've been easily avoided. The story of Malala and the Holocaust are two significant events in our history that led to ultimate perish.

When given the choice between right or wrong choose right. When given the choice between accepting all religions or leading a narrow-minded life style, be accepting. These basic principles and morals will help make better world for future generations. In the novel, "I am Malala" it says, "I wear my scarf over my head, not my face." This is trying to show that whatever religion you follow you must embrace it. Never be afraid to follow your religion, because the day you become embarrassed of what you believe, is the day the rest of the world will stop accepting religions. Keeping religiously accepting world will ensure that peace is maintained for now, and forever.

ART



Kirtana Krishnan, Category Grades 9-12

ESSAY

Nandana Varier, Category Grades 9-12

Our world is a unique place, filled with people of different faith, ethnicity, and personalities. Over the centuries, many religions emerged and several collapsed. There are several reasons why religious acceptance is important in today's world.



One reason is to keep peace amongst each other. Over the course of history, there have been many events where religion caused wars and discrimination. An example is the Holocaust, which led to millions of deaths. Tragic events like this can be avoided by simply accepting people of all faith and religion. “United we stand, divided we fall,” is a quote that shows clearly why we must accept everyone no matter their religion, ethnicity, or background.

Another reason is to teach future generations to accept everyone. Current generations pave the path for the future and need to set a good example. No one should make the mistakes of the past, which has led to a loss of millions of innocent lives.

A last reason is to maintain the current balance in both India and U.S. Both countries are a mixing pot of religions by accepting and appreciating each and every religion. Both, India’s Fundamental Rights, and the Bill of Rights allow the freedom of religion. There are many celebrations and holidays in both countries, where different religions come together to celebrate. An example would be Thanksgiving in U.S. which celebrates religious acceptance of the Pilgrims. In India, people come together for the Ganapathi festival, Diwali, and Independence Day. No one is discriminated or excluded in these festivals. This balance should be maintained to continue these traditions and to make others feel like they fit in. Many countries discriminate the minority religion, which leads to a division in the country, but people should learn to accept others for who they are, not their religion.

“Build bridges, not walls,” someone once said. This quote shows how our community should be acting toward others; By accepting and making connections instead of looking at differences and stirring hatred.



Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Category Grades 6-8

ESSAY

Vedika Sengar, Category Grades 6-8

Acceptance, specifically religious acceptance is crucial to the development of unity and effectiveness in a modern society. Through gruesome, heartbreaking, and horrifying news headlines surround us today, the good in our hearts can change that. In the past, we have seen examples of religious intolerance which many of us still face on a daily basis. However, I believe that religious acceptance is wide spread across many different parts of the world and is a key factor to living in harmony.

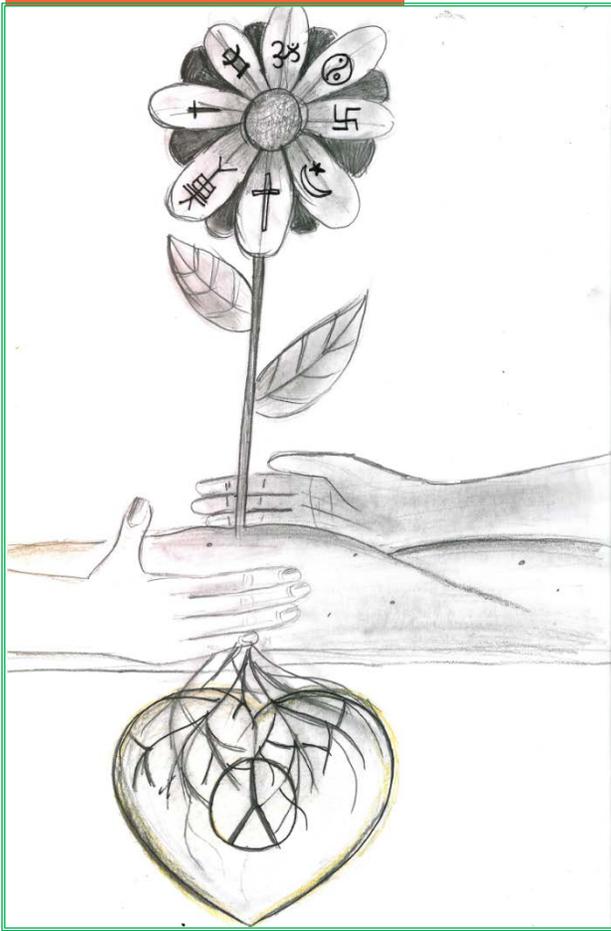
Before defining religious acceptance, we must define what religious acceptance is not. In the early 1940’s, the Nazi Germany committed mass genocide against the European-Jewish population. We now refer to this event as “The Holocaust”. Millions of Jews were murdered, gassed, displaced, and separated from their loved ones. Thus, beginning World War II. This shows how small actions begun a larger epidemic which will never be forgotten by many people, and especially those who have survived the Holocaust. On September 11, 2001, two planes clashed with two major landmarks in New York City. This bone chilling act of terrorism was organized by a Muslim terrorist group, called Al Qaeda. Large masses of people were killed, and critically injured. After 9/11, Muslims all around the world faced verbal and physical abuse. Al Qaeda showed intolerance toward society, however, society expressed intolerance to an innocent Muslim community. These homicidal and genocidal events created tension in different religious and ethnic groups. The key concept is that intolerance is inhumane. Disrespectful acts lead to larger, worldwide problems but we must not live fearfully, and we should be able to express ourselves regardless of race, religion, or appearance.

Greater than intolerance, what is religious acceptance. Religious acceptance is disregarding our peers’ beliefs and loving each other unconditionally. India has over 22 main languages with over 720 dialects! And, we are all free to speak whatever language we pertain to, even if it is not on of those 742. North Brunswick Township itself is split almost evenly ¼ Hispanic, ¼ African American, ¼ Caucasian, ¼ Asian. As a Hindu myself, I take part in all Hindu traditions. Also, I celebrate Christmas. During Ramadan, I fast from sunrise to sunset. My parents

have opened my eyes to many religions and let me become part of whichever one I decide.

In conclusion, we as a community have seen many examples of tolerance and intolerance alike. I believe working together and forgetting differences will help us live in harmony. In the end, we are all the same religion, human. In 4 paragraphs I hope I have convinced you to love no matter what, and to accept. Being tolerant and respecting others' beliefs will only be advantageous to us as a society. These are some of the most important parts of religious acceptance in today's world..

ART



Tapsi Suryawanshi, Category Grades 6-8

ESSAY

Saanvi Kunisetty, Category Grades 6-8

Throughout history, a multitude of famous people have shown acceptance of religion. Alexander the Great conquered Babylon but preserved their religion and beliefs. An Ottoman emperor invited

ostracized Jews. We have continued to nurture this concept. But, why is religious acceptance so vital. How does it contribute to our society and cultures, and what can we do to improve it?

Firstly, what is religious acceptance? To comprehend this, let us split apart the phrase. Religion is a number of beliefs and tradition that serve as a purpose for a group of people, and acceptance is understanding something's importance, and agreeing to live with it. Together it means agreeing to live with various beliefs.

Religious acceptance impacts our society in many ways. Specifically, it allows us to form groups within this society. This is due to the fact that religion creates a certain intriguing bond between people, and that bond is magical. Aside from this, religion teaches the society to have a purpose in life, as religion gives people a purpose.

Though religious acceptance impacts society, it also contributes towards culture. Religion itself consists of cultures, so it forms a sort of protecting aura. But, particularly, religious acceptance permits different cultures and their traditions to combine, resulting in a fusion. This has occurred in the past through trade and travel, and it is our duty to continue it.

Now, we must look from a different perspective. We must try and understand the problems that religious acceptance is facing. Well, my confidence is that several people are only tolerating religion due to the world around them. They are spreading actions of religious acceptance just because everyone else is doing the same. But, I believe that actions aren't everything. These pessimistic thoughts will come out at some point, and they will oppose religious acceptance. This may end up in protests and rebellions.

So, what can we do to fix this problem? First, we have to apply the concept of "actions speak louder than words." This phrase compares our thoughts, and what we say, to what we do. When we apply this concept, instead of just accepting different religions, we perform actions to prove our point. This could guide us to preventing protests and rebellions.

So, what actions can we perform to show the world the truth about religious acceptance? My first idea is that we can have a religion festival. There can be rides, food stalls, and booths where you can learn information about various religions. My second idea is that we can create a website with tons of information, videos, pictures, and interactive links, this is a great way for large amounts of people to find out about religions through the internet.



To recapitulate, religious acceptance impacts our society and cultures. We can improve this concept by applying “actions speak louder than words.” We can have a religion festival and create a website. It is OUR job to change the world for the better, and it all starts with YOUR decision!

ART



Sourav Siddireddy Gari, Category Grades 4-5

ESSAY

Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Category Grades 6-8

Did you know that there are around 4,200 religions in the world! So it’s no surprise that there are differing views and beliefs between religions. That is why the need for religious acceptance arises in today’s world.

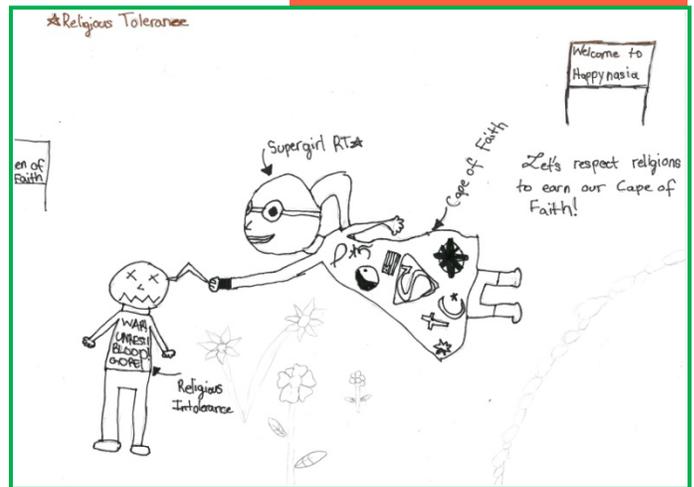
Moving on, some governments do not allow religions other than their own to live in their country. Examples of countries like that are Saudi Arabia, and North Korea. Those countries are led by dictators who don’t believe in religious acceptance, and think their religion and cultures are the only ones worth respecting. We have been reminded of a lack of religious acceptance in a cruel part of history: Hitler’s tyranny. Since Adolf Hitler thought that Germans were superior and he had no respect towards Jews he took away all the joys in Jews’ life. In fact he ruined the whole country while he was ruling just because he didn’t have religious acceptance. All of this is relevant because if these dictators repeated the same thing, instead of waiting for the world to end, we would all destroy ourselves. Now do you see how the two words “religious acceptance” could change the fate of the world’s future?

Next, I would like you to know a little bit

about secularity. Secularity and religious acceptance go hand in hand. Secular countries are countries that greatly respect other religions and customs. Examples of those are America, and India who are great leaders in terms of religious acceptance. That is why it is no wonder that America’s and India’s populations are rapidly growing!

Okay, so to straightforwardly answer the question religious acceptance is very important because many countries are growing and there are people with a variety of religions all around the world. So, the next time a new girl joins your school and is wearing a religious scarf around her neck, don’t make fun of her, accept her for who she is! One little action like that, if everyone does it, can change today’s world’s meaning of world peace and religious acceptance.

ART



Aruhi Vakkalagadda, Category Grades 4-5

ESSAY

Ridhi Boggavarapu, Category Grades 4-5

Religious acceptance is accepting and being nice to everyone, no matter their religion. We should all have religious acceptance. It is very important for world peace. We can learn a lot from different religions when we start accepting them. We are stronger as one.

When we accept one another’s religion, the world is more peaceful. Many wars happen in the world because of not accepting each other’s religion. If we all respect each other’s religion, the world will be so much more peaceful. Everyone will be happy.

There is so much to learn about from different religions. They are all unique and special in their own

way. Every religion preaches love, harmony and respect for life. It is up to us, how we interpret it.

We are stronger as one. We can achieve more together. We can do great things!

Religious acceptance is accepting each other's religion and begin friendly to everyone no matter their religion. Let's all accept each other's religion today!

ART



Aanya Malhotra, Category Grades K-3

ESSAY

Srivarun Kankanala, Category Grades 4-5

One of our society's biggest problem: Religious Acceptance. What is religious acceptance? How do we see it in our everyday lives? How can we change it in society? I am about to go over all that in this essay.

Now what is the meaning of the religious acceptance? Religious acceptance is accepting the fact that others have the right to believe what they want to believe and should not be criticized, harassed just because of what they believe. The meaning of the phrase is the key because it builds a base for everything we need to know. This is the main meaning.

How do we see religious acceptance in our everyday lives? Well, we all may have friends from all different religious. We also may celebrate different religious holidays on our own, and live as one union with different people. These are all signs of Religious Acceptance.

How can we change Religious Acceptance in our society? We can simply just treat everybody equally, and tell others to do the same. We can stop bullying others just because of their religion and

beliefs. We can stop others from bullying people because of one's beliefs. It all starts with your decision. We can change society for the better.

So to sum this up, I understand Religious Acceptance as allowing others to hold different religious beliefs and not criticizing, harassing or ostracizing them because of what they believe. Please treat everyone with kindness and respect, despite their religion. As the great Delphine Di Girardin once said, "The best religion is the Most Tolerant."

ART



Shreya Harish, Category Grades 4-5

ESSAY

Anusha Vakkalagadda, Category Grades 4-5

"Tolerance is the only thing that will enable persons belonging to different religions to live as good neighbors and friends." Those words were Mahatma Gandhi's. Why are we talking about old concept like religious acceptance today? Well, I think there are many reasons for it. One of the main reasons is that we find people of many religions around us like: Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Bahaim and many more. Did you know there are about 4200 religions? This is why we have to understand their traditions and respect their faith.

Another reason I think this is because we see and hear more and more unrests and fights among different nations of parts of nation because of conflicting religious beliefs. We have to remember that every religion teaches us the same lesson of love and humanity. We can agree to disagree on certain principles, but shouldn't stop being friends with them.

Here is some information about some religions. Christians go to church. They believe in Christ or Jesus. Hindus go to temples. Hinduism is the

oldest religion. Muslims go to Mosques. They believe in Allah. Jews go to Synagogues. The Menorah is actually an older symbol than the star of David. Buddhists go to pagodas. Buddhists don't believe in a creator God. Sikhs go to Gurudwaras. Sikhism's symbol is called khanda.

Religious Acceptance is the key to a peaceful society or Nation. In places like US or India we have progress and growth because we tolerate and respect religions. I will conclude with a poem: Respect Religion, Respect Freedom, Religious Acceptance is the key for peace, progress, growth and love. Dhanyavad !

ART



Samanyu Appanagaari, Category Grades K-3

ESSAY

Ojas Shrivastava, Category Grades K-3

What is religious acceptance? Many of you must know that there are several religions in the — such as Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, and so on. There are differences in each and every religion about the existence of god, the way to pray, and the celebration of religious festivals. So religious acceptance is acknowledging that difference without disturbing others or abandoning our own religion.

You don't have to go to church, mosque, or other places to show your respect for a religion which is not yours. Swami Vivekanand once said: Learn good things from others and spread good things about your own religion. If we want the world to be a better

place then we have to accept other religions with an open mind. If you don't accept other religions then you can see fight every day. You won't make any progress towards building a peaceful society. Now the question is how can we change our thinking to accept other religions. Well, Thomas Paine said: the world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion. Our Indian culture has been teaching us from hundreds of years about the concepts of Vasudev Kutumbakam - meaning consider the world as a single family. And Sarv Dharm Sambhav- meaning treat and respect all religions equally.

With that in mind, my family and I pray every day that we wish that everybody from any religion will always be happy, healthy, wealthy, and wise.

ART



Simran Amarnani, Category Grades K-3

ESSAY

Arnav Chouhan, Category Grades K-3

Religious acceptance is respecting others religion. We each learn something new from one another. We each should treat each other fairly, boy or girl, dark skin color or light, we each should treat each other nicely. We all should be honest to each other, and respect each other nicely and be fair to everyone even if they are from a different religion. God is the whole center of this. God gave us the power to be friends. We all love god even if we're from a different religion. God loves everyone and we all love god.



Religious Acceptance Awards

Awards Sponsored by Rotary Club of PN&SB

Essay Competition

| Category | Winner | 1st Runner Up | 2nd Runner Up |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Grade 3 and Under | Ojas Shrivastava | Arnav Chouhan | - |
| Grades 4-5 | Ridhi Boggavarapu | Srivarun Kankanala | Anusha Vakkalagadda |
| Grades 6-8 | Vedika Sengar | Saanvi Kunisetty | Aruhi Vakkalagadda |
| Grades 9-12 | Nikita Shinil | Nandana Varier | - |

2D-Art Competition

| Category | Winner | 1st Runner Up | 2nd Runner Up |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Grade 3 and Under | Aanya Malhotra | Samanyu Appanagari | Simran Amarnani |
| Grades 4-5 | Sourav Siddireddy Gari | Shreya Harish | Anusha Vakkalagadda |
| Grades 6-8 | Tapsi Suryawanshi | Aruhi Vakkalagadda | - |
| Grades 9-12 | Kirtana Krishnan | - | - |

3D-Art Competition

| Category | Winner |
|-----------|------------------|
| Grade 6-8 | Isha Shrivastava |

Public Speaking Competition

| Category | Winner | 1st Runner Up |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Grade 3 and Under | Ojas Shrivastava | Simran Amarnani |
| Grades 4-5 | Sourav Siddireddy Gari | Ridhi Boggavarapu |
| Grades 6-8 | Saanvi Kunisetty | Isha Shrivastava |
| Grades 9-12 | Siri Harish | - |

Rubik's Cube Competition

| Winner | Runner Up |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Tejas Krishnan | Aruhi Vakkalagadda |

NRT INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018



Science Symposium

www.nbtscientists.org

Sunday, May 5, 2019

North Brunswick Township High School
98 Raider Rd, North Brunswick, NJ-08902

Rhea Alathur



Rhea is a 15-year-old, from Monroe Township, who represented New Jersey in the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games in gymnastics, July 1-6. **She won 4 Gold and 1 Silver medals.**

Rhea was the youngest in the 60 member Team New Jersey contingent. She bagged the most number of individual medals in Team NJ. Rhea is one of only two athletes from Team NJ who got 4 Golds. **Coping with life altering illness:** At 18 months, Rhea was diagnosed with developmental spectrum disorder, a life-long condition that is best addressed through altering lifestyles, modified learning methodologies and coping mechanisms. Rhea had to undergo intense therapy sessions, diet modifications, life-skills training and communication and social skills guidance to manage her daily life. She was never able to assimilate with regular kids and so playing games or team sports was ruled out. But that didn't diminish her determination to be a winner. Within a year of joining Special Olympics in 2017 she became the NJ State champion. She is learning to use her strengths to overcome her challenges and excel.

Positive attitude in face of adversity: Rhea is constantly optimistic about achieving her goals. But it all stems from her attitude that anything is possible with a structured approach and plenty of practice. Things that seem easy for other children are especially hard for her but her positive attitude helps her overcome any fear of failure.

Demonstrates resilience: Rhea does not give up easily, if she gives up at all. When given a goal and shown the value of achieving it, like the gold medals in gymnastics competitions, Rhea persists till she get every step right. This has taught her a valuable lesson to be persistent despite challenges and she applies it in all aspects of life, including academics. Today she is also a good figure skater, swimmer and theater artist due to the resilience she shows in perfecting her skills.

Sets example for other children. Rhea is a great example of how special needs children have hidden talents and skills that we do not know of until we give them the opportunities to push the envelope. Rhea has also shown that children like her learn at their own pace. They are constantly absorbing the teachings and reveal it in their own time. This gives parents hope to not give up if their children do not show signs of improvement early on and to encourage the child's strengths to overcome the weaknesses. At the same time, Rhea also is a model for special needs children not to get frustrated when success does not come soon enough.



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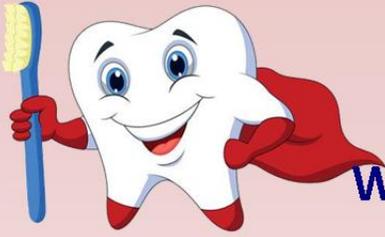
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