

**Makar Sankranti** (*celebrated on January 14<sup>th</sup> of 2012*)

Sankranti marks the beginning of every solar month. There are 12 Sankrantis in a year. **Makar Sankranti** is celebrated in the month of 'Magh' and is a harvest festival. It is a celebration of spring on the occasion of the 'ascent' of the sun to the north (Uttarayana). This is the time when the length of days and nights are exactly the same. Starting this day, the duration of day starts to increase.

Since India is a mixture of many cultures, at each place it is celebrated in different manner. In Tamil Nadu it is celebrated as Pongal, in Punjab as Lohri and everywhere else as Sankranti. The various customs include flying kites in Gujarat, lighting bonfires in South India, eating sweet treats.

How do you celebrate Makar Sankranti? Parents please help your children understand how this festival is important to you and your family. Please help them write a few sentences or draw a picture (for the very young in the class who have not yet mastered the art of writing.)



Draw a colorful picture of you flying a kite. Please include details such as grass, birds that compete with your kite, trees that snag the kites.