VIDYALAYA: Pongal/Lohri Celebration:

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| **PONGAL versus LOHRI** | |
| Pongal is celebrated in South India. | Lohri is celebrated in North India. |
| It is the most popular [thanksgiving](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving) or [Harvest festival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvest_festival); Pongal means the "boiling over" of milk and rice (also known as ‘doodhpaak’). | It is an extremely popular agricultural festival celebrated by the [Punjabis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjabi_people) and [Haryanvis](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Haryanvis&action=edit&redlink=1). Lohri night is meant to be the longest night of the year. |
| Pongal is traditionally dedicated to the Sun God [Surya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surya). People decorate their homes with banana and mango leaves and make decorative patterns on the floor using rice flour (also known as ‘rangoli’ or ‘kolam’). | Millions of people immerse themselves in rivers in North India and offer prayers to the Sun God. People take peanuts, rewri, flour, butter and various food items to places of religious worship to thank God for a good harvest. This ritual is performed for thanking the Sun God and seeking his continued protection. |
| It is considered to be a good sign to watch the milk boil over as it connotes good luck and prosperity. The newly cooked rice is traditionally offered to the Sun God at sunrise to demonstrate gratitude for the harvest. It is later served to the people present in the house for the ceremony. | The bonfire is lit at sunset in the main village square. People toss sesame seeds, gur, sugar-candy and *rewaries* on the bonfire, sit around it, sing and dance till the fire dies out. Till, peanuts, popcorn and other food items are also thrown into the fire. |
| Special foods that are eaten: sugar cane, sweetened rice, milk and jaggery. | During the day, children go from door to door singing folk songs. These children are given sweets and savories, and occasionally, money. Turning them back empty-handed is regarded inauspicious (kind of like Halloween). |
| The family elders present gifts to the young. | Children collect gifts of til, gachchak, crystal sugar, gur (jaggery), moongphali (peanuts) and phuliya or popcorn. These collections are known as Lohri. |
| People fly kites and they prepare savories and sweets such as [vadai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadai), [murukku](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murukku), [paayasam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paayasam), visit each other and exchange greetings. | Singing and dancing form an intrinsic part of the celebrations. People wear their brightest clothes and come to dance the [bhangra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhangra_(dance)) and [gidda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gidda) to the beat of the [dhol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhol). Punjabi songs are sung, and everybody rejoices. Sarson da saag and makki di roti is usually served as the main course at a Lohri dinner. Lohri is a great occasion that holds great importance for farmers. However, people residing in urban areas also celebrate Lohri, as this festival provides the opportunity to interact with family and friends. |
| * Both celebrate the end of winter season. | |
| * Both celebrate the abundance of harvest. | |
| * Both coincide with Makarsankranti, Uttarayan. People offer thousands of their colorful oblations to the Sun in the form of beautiful kites. | |
| * Elsewhere in India, there is also kite flying for example, in Gujarat and Andhra. There is also the Jahangir Dance in Punjab and the Ganga Sagar Mela in Bengal. | |

LOHRI SONG:

There are many Lohri songs. For example, the following song which has words to express gratitude to Dulha Bhatti (the 'ho's are in chorus) will be sung during our Vidyalaya celebration:

*Sunder mundriye ho!*  
*Tera kaun vicharaa ho!*  
*Dullah Bhatti walla ho!*  
*Dullhe di dhee vyayae ho!*  
*Ser shakkar payee ho!*  
*Kudi da laal pathaka ho!*  
*Kudi da saalu paata ho!*  
*Salu kaun samete!*  
*Chacha gali dese!*  
*Chache choori kutti! zamidara lutti!*  
*Zamindaar sudhaye!*  
*Bum Bum bhole aaye!*  
*Ek bhola reh gaya!*  
*Sipahee far ke lai gaya!*  
*Sipahee ne mari itt!*  
*Bhaanvey ro te bhaanvey pitt!*  
*Sanoo de de Lohri, te teri jeeve jodi!*  
(Cry or howl!)

**Translation:**

Beautiful girl  
Who will think about you  
Dulla of the Bhatti clan will  
Dulla's daughter got married  
He gave one [ser](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ser_(unit)) of sugar!  
The girl is wearing a red suit!  
But her shawl is torn!  
Who will stitch her shawl?!  
The uncle made choori!  
The landlords looted it!  
Landlords are beaten up!  
Lots of simple-headed boys came!  
One simpleton got left behind!  
The soldier arrested him!  
The soldier hit him with a brick!  
(Cry or howl)!  
Give us Lohri, long live your pair (to a married couple)!  
Whether you cry, or bang your head later!

PONGAL SONG:

Gobbemmalu or Gobbillu are traditionally placed in front of homes, in the middle of the rangoli and young girls dance around it. Gobbemmalu or Gobbillu are considered to be an incarnation of Goddess Gauri.

Gobbiyallo gobbiyallo (2)

pedanam pedanam petaranta, emi pedanam pettaranta

Rajugari thotalo jama pedanam pettaranta

aounati akkallara chanragiri bhamallara vamanagiri gobbiyallo

gobbiyallo gobbiyallo (2)

puvvu puvvu poosindanta, emi puvvu poosindanta

Rajugari thotalo jami puvvu poosindanta

aounati akkallara chanragiri bhamallara vamanagiri gobbiyallo

gobbiyallo gobbiyallo (2)

pinde pinde pusindanta, emi pinde pusindata

Rajugari thotalo jama pinde pusindanta

aounati akkallara chanragiri bhamallara vamanagiri gobbiyallo

gobbiyallo gobbiyallo (2)

kaya kaya kasindanta, emi kaya kasindata

Rajugari thotalo jamikaya kasindanta

aounati akkallara chandragiri bhamallara vamanagiri gobbiyallo

gobbiyallo gobbiyallo (2)

pandu pandu pandindanta, emi pandu pandindanta

rajugari thotalo jami pandu pandindanta

aounati akkallara chandragiri bhamallara vamanagiri gobbiyallo

gobbiyallo gobbiyallo (4)

**Translation:**

We planted a seed - which seed did we plant?

In Rajaji's gardens, we planted guava seeds

A bud has blossomed - which bud blossomed?

In Rajaji's gardens, a guava bud blossomed

A flower has blossomed - which flower has blossomed?

In Rajaji's gardens, a guava flower has blossomed

A fruit has grown - which fruit has grown?

In Rajaji's gardens, a guava fruit has grown :-)

INFORMATION ABOUT PONGAL-

1. BOMMALA KOLUVU/KOLU

On the 4 steps display all the God statues and dolls from India. We give Harathi once and will sing a Harathi Song.

2. BHOGI PANDLU

Cherries or cranberries, flowers, brown chana, yellow rice, small coins mixed in a bowl and poured on the top of the kids’ heads. All the K.G. kids and the younger siblings for Vidyalaya students are welcome to come and sit on the stage for this celebration.

3. BHOGI  MANTA (Fire Pit )

4. GOBBEMMALU

5 small balls of cow manure ( or clay) are put it the middle of the hall. They are decorated with flowers. All the kids and ladies dance around these balls along with music.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Telugu students will give a Pongal presentation. Sunanda will give a presentation about Lohri.

6. LOHRI

Singing the Sundar Mundariye song and Dance to the Dhol around the fire.

7. KITE FLYING

8. RANGOLI DISPLAYS (MUGGULU)

9. FOOD (PONGAL AND PULIHORA)

Please come to  celebrate and have fun!!