

Norwalk Citizen

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Montessori school celebrates Diwali



The Montessori School is decorated for Diwali, the Festival of Lights, last Friday. One legend associated with Diwali is about Lord Rama, who was a distinguished warrior king banished from the kingdom by his father Dashratha, the King of Ayodhya after being provoked by his wife to do so. After vanquishing the demon Ravana, Lord Rama returned to his kingdom in Ayodhya at the end of his 14 years of exile. The victory of Lord Rama over Ravana signified the triumph of good over evil and people welcomed him back home by lighting rows of clay lamps and since then Diwali is celebrated to mark the triumph of good over evil.

Parent volunteer Tiha Munshani tells the story of Ganesha to a group of fourth graders during the celebration of Diwali.



Francesca Andre / Staff Photographer

Saira Munshani carries a plate of flowers before her classmates during the celebration of the Hindu holiday Diwali, the Festival of Lights, last Friday at the Montessori School campus in Wilton. The Montessori Middle School is located at 24 Lois St. in Norwalk.



According to information from the Montessori School, Diwali is the biggest and brightest of all Hindu festivals. It's marked by four days of celebration, which literally illumine the country with brilliance, and dazzles all with joy. Each of the four days is separated by a different tradition, but what remains constant is the celebration of life, its enjoyment and goodness. In each legend of Diwali lies the significance of the victory of good over evil; and it is with each Diwali and the lights that illuminate homes and hearts, that this truth finds hope. The light that empowers people to commit to good deeds brings them closer to divinity.

Left: Fourth grader Harrys Patnaik shares his knowledge about Ganesha, the Remover of Obstacles. Ganesha is also called the elephant-headed God. He symbolizes auspiciousness and wisdom. Lord Ganesha is worshipped by the Hindus on Diwali.