

The Festival of Onam

Onam is the biggest and the most important festival of the state of Kerala. It is a harvest festival and is celebrated with joy and enthusiasm all over the state by people of all communities. According to a popular legend, the festival is celebrated to welcome King Mahabali, whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at the time of Onam.

Onam is celebrated in the beginning of the month of Chingam, the first month of Malayalam Calendar (Kollavarsham). This corresponds with the month of August-September according to Gregorian calendar.

Carnival of Onam lasts from four to ten days. First day, Atham and tenth day, Thirunam are most important of all. Popularity and presentation of rich culture of the state during the carnival made Onam the National Festival of Kerala in 1961. Elaborate feasts, folk songs, elegant dances, energetic games, elephants, boats and flowers all are a part of the dynamic festival called Onam.

St. Xavier's Institute of Education celebrated Onam on 17th of September, 2016. An assembly was conducted by the Malayalee students of the class. They introduced about the significance of Onam and sang famous songs that are sung during this festival. The rich cultural heritage of Kerala was brought up by the presentations done by the students. Reflections from non-malayalee students were welcomed where they shared about their experiences of celebrating Onam with their friends.



The assembly was concluded by distributing sweets that are specially made during the time of Onam to staff and students.