

A Sweet Diwali of Gratitude

The Interact Club of Lakshmi School has always been conscious about the welfare of the community at large. It has always been quick to identify the need of the hour and respond with solutions and support. From March 2020, the world around us almost came to a standstill and we all know that it was because of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Interactors quickly swung into action and designed an online activity in order to generate funds that were used to purchase material that would be of use to the warriors of this pandemic. However, over the months, the presence of the virus continued and so did the war against it.

The Interact Team decided that it was time to acknowledge and also show gratitude to these personnel who were fighting the war at the frontline. With Diwali being round the corner, we thought that this would be the appropriate time to say thanks to a few of these personnel. We realized that the Urban Primary Health Centers (UPHC) usually go unnoticed and decided to say thanks to the medical staff there.

The students of classes 9 to 12 were requested to MAKE 'Thank You' cards specifically addressed to each of the medical personnel belonging to the UPHCs in Madurai. Much to our delight, beautifully handmade cards poured in, each reflecting the creativity and uniqueness of the student who made it. As it was a festive occasion, we added a box of sweets to be given along with each of these cards. Now that the sourcing part was completed, the new challenge of distributing the cards and sweets presented itself. This challenge was taken care of by a few teachers of the school who enthusiastically accepted and accomplished the distribution.

At the end of it all, two days before Diwali, around 300 medical personnel from 31 UPHCs went back home with a smile on their face and a deep feeling of happiness in their hearts. For them, and for us, this Diwali was indeed a sweet Diwali of appreciation and gratitude.

- **Padmaja Rishi**

Interact Club Coordinator