PONGAL CELEBRATION – Jan 2020

Pongal is the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu, celebrated on the first day of 'Thai' (Tamil month). A festival to thank God for all his goodness and mercies and to look forward to a prosperous year. It usually falls on the 14th or 15th of January in the English calendar. Loyola College celebrated Pongal on the 13th of January for the year 2020.

Students were asked to report by 8:15 a.m. for the first hour of class. The students arrived in traditional dhotis and sarees to mark the occasion. The celebration started around 9:30 a.m. The entrance of the staff room was decorated with colorful Rangoli. The college gathered to celebrate pongal with their respective departments with the supervision of the staff members of the college. It was an ambience filled revelry, music, dance and the joyful faces reverberated with big smiles.

Each department was allocated a spot for their celebration inside the college campus. The department of English (Shift 1) were allotted near the main building. Pongal was prepared by the department staff and students. The ceremony was inaugurated by lighting the firewood, by Dr. Annam Ragamalika, President English Literary Association. As the milk came up to the brim of the pot, boiled water and milk overflowed and the crowd cooed 'pongalo pongal' to express oneness. The soaked rice and dhal was poured into the boiling milk and water. The first handful of rice was added by Dr. K. S. Antonysamy, Head, Department of English followed by other professors and students.

Meanwhile there were other activities conducted. The management had organized an interdepartmental rangoli competition for the students to celebrate the traditional art forms. There was also a modern dj to balance the tradition. Sweet Pongal and sugarcanes were distributed to all the students. There were a bunch of students taking turns in enjoying the bullock cart ride around the campus. The 'uri adithal' a traditional game where people are

blindfolded and are asked to hit a mud pot hanging from a rope with a rod. The day came to an end with the announcement of the prize winners for the best Pongal and Rangoli done by the departments. Everybody left home with memories as it was yet another joyous celebration Loyola College had to offer.