



# It's Thanksgiving!

~ Hailey Lam (L7) ~

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*Do* you know that there actually is a festival on every fourth Thursday in November? It is Thanksgiving! This festival was first celebrated in the United States and then in Canada back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

But why is there this particular festival popping out of the calendar? There are legends about it and this is one of them: *Once many sailors were travelling at sea for a long period of time. The wind was weak and could not carry them to their destinations, so they soon ran out of food. Many died due to various reasons, like hunger or cold. One day, they came across a piece of land, where they met an Indian, who taught them ways to grow crops. Unfortunately, there were droughts so they still could not grow any food. The sailors then prayed to God, desperate for some help. God answered their prayers and it eventually rained. They were thankful and held a grand feast that took place in India, and that was what people referred to as "The First Thanksgiving Feast".*

I do not really believe in such myths as no one knows if it is real or not. I see it as an interesting way to add to the legend of Thanksgiving.

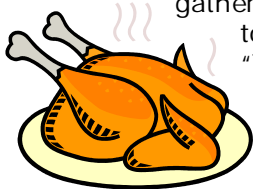


Thanksgiving is a big festive event in some western countries like the USA and Canada, which is just as important as how we view our Chinese New Year. In the USA, the Americans usually celebrate it by gathering families together for a big family reunion feast. People will also exchange presents like candy bouquets; gift boxes; fortune cookie pails and lots more.

In both the US and Canada, people usually celebrate Thanksgiving with parades and floats 'floating' down the streets. They will also thank God for a year of good business and pray for another good year ahead.



So, what will be there in the Thanksgiving feast? Usually there will be pumpkin pies and a big fat juicy roasted turkey. There may also be berries and beans and cranberry sauce. I have learnt from the internet about a song called "Turkey Song" and this is an extract of it: " O turkey dear, O turkey dear, we gathered here to eat you. O turkey day, O turkey day, the family is all together... "



I did not even know that there is something called "Turkey Song", so I was laughing really hard when I saw it. But if the turkey could really hear the song, I would feel so bad for having laughed at it!

I genuinely hope that we will treat this festival seriously like the Americans and the Canadians. Although we live in Asia, we should also be thankful for a good and safe year and pray for the best. I hope that every person will know more about this meaningful festival because I think the rationale behind it is very significant. We can learn how to be thankful and feel satisfied with the things we have, but not moaning about what we do not have.

What's best, we could even set a day off from school!

