

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024



FUNDA DAY TIMES



Art by
Thinuli Pathiraja (13 years)

WINNERS!
**ANNIVERSARY
COMPETITION**
PAGES 2, 5 & 6



**MATHS
PAGE 3**



**COMPETITIONS
PAGE 4**

(ONLINE)
KIDS NEWS
PAGES 7 & 8

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Please send competition entries to:

Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2.

Please note that competition entries are accepted by email.

Write the name of the competition and the date clearly

at the top of your entry and include the following details:

Full Name (including Surname).

Date of Birth, Address,

Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

All competition entries should be certified by a parent or guardian as your own work.

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

Closing date

for this week's competitions:

September 18, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Art Winners
- **Page 6** – Essay Winners
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times epaper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.



24th Anniversary Competitions



Essay Competition

9 years and below

My favourite hobby

1st Place

Adheesha Jayasekara
Wesley College Primary

2nd Place

Yashan Ibrahim
Negombo South Int. School, Piliyandala

3rd Place

Fathima Heena
Zahira College, Gampola

Consolation Prize:

Seja Abeywickrama
Southlands College, Galle

10 – 12 years

Why I like to read

1st Place

Suhanya Gamaarachchi
Horizon College Int., Malabe

2nd Place

Aurora Kapukotuwa
Musaeus College

3rd Place

Yonal Batuwita
St. Joseph's College, Colombo

Consolation Prize:

Durangi Mullegama
Colombo Int. School, Kandy

13 – 15 years

Pros and cons of digital reading and art

1st Place

Aysha Manaal
Ilma Int. Girls' School

2nd Place

Anjana Vasanthakumar
Saiva Mangayar Vidyalayam

3rd Place

Nethmi Batuwita
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

Consolation Prize:

Thisari Ariyaratna
Colombo Int. School, Kandy

Art Competition

4 – 7 years

1st Place

M. I. Imasha
Vavuniya

2nd Place

Netana Krause
Ladies' College, Colombo

3rd Place

Suganthan Labisashan
Harvard Int. School, Matale

Consolation Prizes:

- **Pinidi Wijetunge**
Methodist College, Colombo
- **Ayaad Nasran**
St. Anthony's College, Wattala

8 – 15 years

1st Place

Thinuli Pathiraja
WP/Jaya Samudradevi B.V., Nugegoda

2nd Place

Nethmi Batuwita
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

3rd Place

Kaveen Gnanaweera
Brisbane Int. School, Nugegoda

Consolation Prizes:

- **Dilmith Prabhasha**
Isipathana College, Colombo
- **Rasandi Ranasinghe**
Musaeus College, Colombo

Digital Art Competition

1st Place

Amel Rabiha Fawaz
Britus Int. School

2nd Place

Thisari Ariyaratna
Colombo Int. School, Kandy

3rd Place

Esandi Ranasinghe
Musaeus College, Colombo

Consolation Prizes:

- **Ramiru Thissera**
D. S. Senanayake College, Colombo
- **Salma Khalid**
Ladies' College, Colombo

Winners please call 2479333/2479337 on

Tuesday's or Wednesday's and arrange to collect your prizes.



Prize Sponsors



Junior Crossword 994

► **Sinethi Fernando**,
Negombo



Junior Crossword 993

► **Safaa Ishaq**,
Kirulapone



Maths in Action 84
By R. N. A. de Silva

6174 is a Special Number

The number 6174 is known as Kaprekar's Constant.

R. Kaprekar was an Indian school teacher of mathematics. In 1949, he discovered a special property of 6174 and it is now known as the Kaprekar's Constant. The following is the Kaprekar's routine to obtain 6174.

1. Consider any four-digit number using at least two different digits.
2. Arrange the digits in descending order and thereafter in ascending order to obtain two four-digit numbers.
3. Subtract the smaller number from the bigger number.
4. Now, go back to step 2 and repeat the process.

This process will always reach its final result as 6174. It has been found that this constant is reached with a maximum of 7 iterations.

Let us consider 2024 as the considered number. In descending order it is 4220 and in ascending order, it is 0224.

$$4220 - 0224 = 3996$$

$$9963 - 3699 = 6264$$

$$6642 - 2466 = 4176$$

$$7641 - 1467 = 6174$$

Try with your own four-digit numbers.



This constant is now used in cryptography to generate random numbers for encryption and decryption purposes.

If you do this process with a three-digit number, you end up with 495.

Let us try 231 as an example.

$$321 - 123 = 198$$

$$981 - 189 = 792$$

$$972 - 279 = 693$$

$$963 - 369 = 594$$

$$954 - 459 = 495.$$

There may be so many properties of numbers that have been not discovered yet.



Math Plot - 84

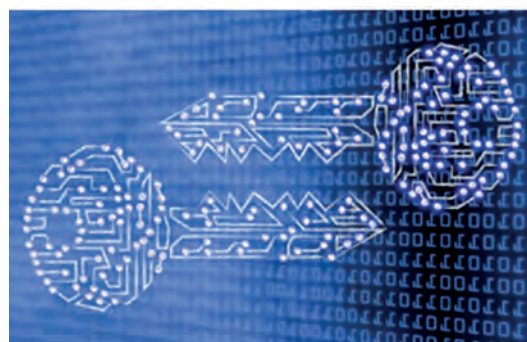
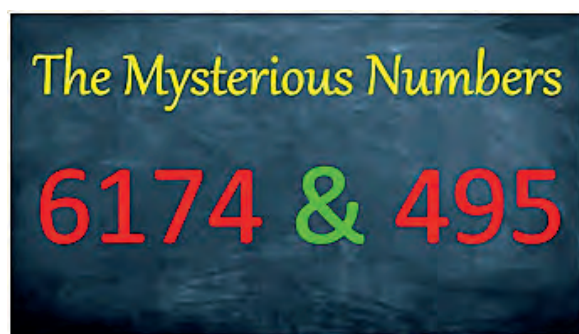
Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to rnades@gmail.com within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

When asked about his birthday, a man said, "The day before yesterday I was only 25 and next year I will turn 28". This is true only one day in a year. On which day was he born?

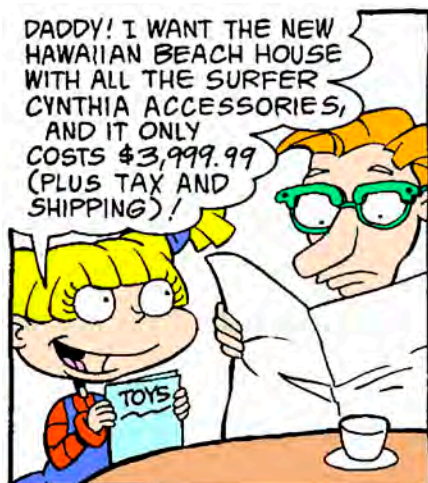
Math Plot 83 – Solution

The answer is $888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8$.

The winner is **Latheef Fathima** of **Mahmud Ladies College, Kalmunai**. Congratulations!



Rugrats



LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION

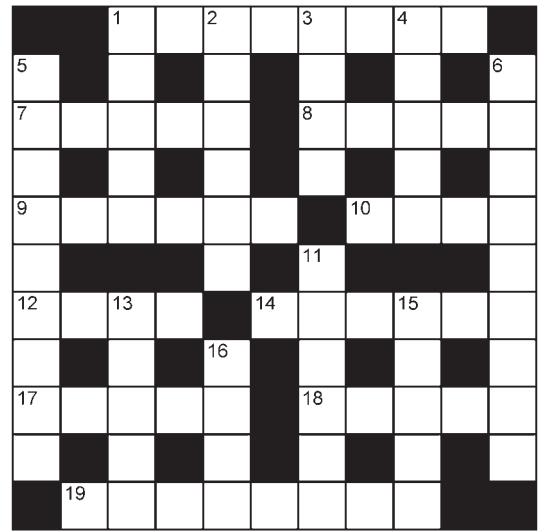
This month we are starting a new competition. You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own.

All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 1, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it in to us.

Cut the strip '**LUMALA Crossword No. 1**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

One lucky winner will receive a brand new LUMALA bicycle each month.

LUMALA Crossword – No. 1



Age Group: 8 – 15 years

Entries should be certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

mailto: Or
email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Across

- 1 Tree limbs
- 7 Sweep with this
- 8 Chuckle
- 9 Help
- 10 Applaud
- 12 Close by
- 14 A chewy sweet
- 17 A health worker
- 18 In the lead
- 19 Fruit tree flowers

Down

- 1 Libraries have lots of these
- 2 Nearly
- 3 A baby cow
- 4 Of the same length
- 5 Getting
- 6 People who look after sheep
- 11 A root vegetable
- 13 A month
- 15 These insects jump and bite
- 16 Find these in bedrooms

Closing Date: September 30, 2024

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4 – 6 AGE GROUP

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4 – 6 years



- ▶ Nisali Perera, Ja-Ela
- ▶ Ahamed Mishriff, Rajagiriya
- ▶ Nuha Ali, Colombo 3
- ▶ Mohamed Jaaz, Dehiwala
- ▶ Azmat Thanish, Colombo 3

Winners please call Funday Times on 2479333/2479337 and arrange to collect your prizes.

mailto: Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



24th Anniversary



4 - 7 years

Art Competition

The Seashore



M. Imran Imasha (4 years)
Vavuniya

Pandas in the Wild - Protect our Earth



Netana Krause (5 years)
Ladies' College, Colombo

My Garden



Suganthan Labisashan (7 years)
Harvard Int. School, Matale

8 - 15 years

Enjoying Reading with Funday Times



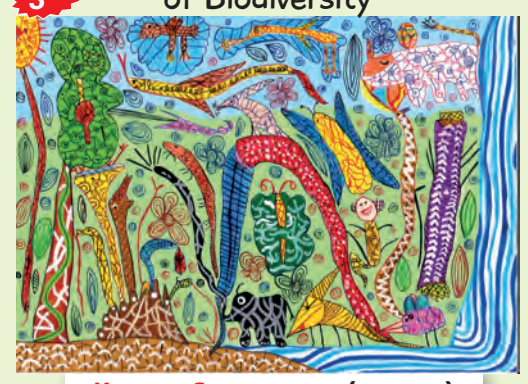
Thinuli Pathiraja (13 years)
WP/Jaya Samudradevi B.V., Nugegoda

2nd A Cherished Newspaper



Nethmi Batuwita (13 years)
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

3rd Cane Wall Decoration of Biodiversity



Kaveen Gnanaweera (9 years)
Brisbane Int. School, Nugegoda

1st The Kite Magician



Amel Fawaz (12 years)
Britus Int School

Digital Art Competition

2nd A Wishful Night

Thisari Ariyaratna (14 years)
Colombo Int. School, Kandy



3rd Save the Sea

Esandi Ranasinghe (10 years)
Musaeus College



24th Anniversary

Essay Competition

9 years and below

My favourite hobby

Reading is my favourite hobby because it takes me to amazing places and helps me to learn new things. When I read, I can go on adventures, meet interesting characters and visit different worlds. Every book is like a new journey that sparks my imagination.

I love reading because it is both fun and educational. I learn so much from the books I read, whether they are stories about animals, space or different countries. Reading also helps me understand new words and ideas, making me smarter every day.

Reading is a great way to relax after a busy day. When I open a book, I can forget about everything else and just enjoy the story. It's a wonderful way to unwind and feel happy.

Another reason I enjoy reading is that I can do it anywhere. Whether I am at home, in the park or on a long trip, I can always bring a book with me. It's a hobby that fits perfectly into any part of my day.

Reading helps me connect with others. I like sharing my favourite books with friends and talking about the stories. It's fun to recommend books and hear what others think.

Reading is my favourite hobby because it brings joy, knowledge and relaxation into my life.

I encourage everyone to pick up a book and discover the magic of reading.

Adheesha Jayasekara (7 years)
Wesley College Primary

10 – 12 years

Why I like to read

Reading is more than just a hobby for me. It sparks my imagination, broadens my horizons to write and creatively express myself.

When I pick up a book, my mind starts buzzing with ideas. I picture myself right there with the characters, fighting alongside them or solving riddles. It's like watching a movie in my head, but I get to create the characters and scenes myself!

Reading is my escape. When things get tough or I just need a break, I can always curl up with a good book – especially when it's raining outside! It takes me away from my worries and transports me to a magical place. It's not just about improving my vocabulary or doing well in school (although those are important too, and I hope my teacher isn't reading this!) It's about getting lost in a story and feeling a connection with the characters.

Whether I'm conjuring spells, soaring on a dragon or solving a mystery, it leaves a lasting impression on me. It isn't just words on a piece of paper, but a door that opens to a new world.

Every book is a treasure trove of knowledge. Whether historical facts, scientific concepts, understanding different cultures and traditions or life lessons in bravery and resilience, I'm constantly learning and growing. It inspires me to believe in myself and to never give up on my dreams. For me, it's a passion that shapes how I see the world and who I want to become.

Suhanya Gamaarachchi (12 years)
Horizon College Int., Malabe

13 – 15 years

Pros and Cons of Digital Reading and Art

In today's world, where technological knowledge has advanced by leaps and bounds, technology has influenced various fields, including literature and art. As two of the most significant fields of the Renaissance era, these have evolved into digital forms in our advanced world.

Let us delve into the pros and cons of digital reading and art and their impact on society.

Due to the rarity of many books, it is often difficult to discover new potential reads. Digital media provides access to a vast array of books across different genres, offering an advantage over the limited availability of hardbound copies.

Digital reading also sparks interest through interactive elements, such as embedded audio and visuals. Factors like search-ability, cost-effectiveness, and relevance, have led to the popularity of digital reading among both children and adults. Screen fatigue and distraction have become common issues for many people, including myself. Although digital reading benefits society, challenges such as data privacy concerns and the digital divide in certain areas have become prominent with the growth of digital reading.

Remember the swish and swash of a paintbrush against a canvas and a sketch pencil across paper? Nowadays, digital art is widely used to create the wonderful works we once crafted by hand.

With its sustainability in eliminating unnecessary paint supplies and its efficiency in using diverse brushes and effects, digital art is used worldwide and shared easily across the globe.

Nevertheless, the complexity of using technical digital tools and factors such as the value of the art, have arisen in the world of digital art.

Even though digital art and reading have shaped a society interested in these fields, we may also face some disadvantages.

Traditional methods, such as reading with a physical book and painting, should be appreciated by us and for the generations to come.

Aysha Manaal (14 years)
Ilma Int. Girls' School

Florida Carpenter Ants perform life-saving 'surgeries'

August 23, 2024

Ants are known for their teamwork. The tiny insects work together to build homes, find food and care for their young.

Now, a new study has found that Florida carpenter ants even perform life-saving 'surgeries' to save their nestmates. This remarkable social behaviour has never been observed in a non-human species before.

Florida carpenter ants are native to the southern United States. The reddish brown insects live inside rotting wood and often sustain injuries while defending their homes from rivals. But unlike some other ant species, Florida carpenter ants lack the special glands that produce antimicrobial substances to treat infected nestmates.

Curious to know how these ants responded to battle-related injuries, Dr. Erik Frank and his team at the University of Würzburg, brought back some specimens to their lab in Germany.

The researchers began by injuring the legs of around 100 ants. Some ants suffered cuts on their femur, or upper leg, while others were hurt on their tibia, or lower leg. The wounds were then exposed to a commonly found soil germ.

The injured ants were divided into two groups. Some were left to fend for themselves, while others were placed back in their nests. The injured ants in the nest received immediate attention from their mates.

The ant 'doctors' began by cleaning each wound with their tiny mouths. Their next step depended on the type of injury.

For those with femur injuries, the ants would carefully bite off the leg, completely removing it. Each amputation took at least 40 minutes and involved multiple 'surgeons.' This extreme measure helped stop infections, resulting in a 90% survival rate among the treated ants. In contrast, only 40% of the isolated ants with femur injuries lived.

Tibia wounds were treated with a mere lick to remove the bacteria. This simple action helped save 75% of the injured ants. By comparison, only 10% of the isolated ants with tibia injuries survived.

The scientists believe the treatment decision is linked to the flow of hemolymph, a fluid similar to blood in invertebrates. A high-resolution image of the ant's leg revealed that the femur has more muscle tissue than the tibia.



A Florida carpenter ant cutting the leg and cleaning the wound of another ant.



Ants perform life-saving 'surgeries' on injured nestmates.

The muscles help slow down the 'blood' flow, preventing bacteria from spreading quickly. This gives ants the time needed to perform the amputation.

The ant's tibia, on the other hand, has less muscle tissue to stop the 'blood' flow. This allows infections to spread much faster. Since amputations would take too long, the ants focus on cleaning the wound instead.

"The ants are able to diagnose a wound, see if it's infected or sterile, and treat it accordingly over long periods of time by other individuals — the only medical system that can rival that would be the human one," said study leader Dr. Erik Frank.

The scientists published their findings in the journal *Current Biology* on July 2, 2024. They next plan to explore whether other ant species perform similar 'surgeries' to save their friends.

Roman beach buried by Mount Vesuvius's eruption, now open

August 21, 2024

In AD 79, Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the city of Pompeii and nearby areas in thick volcanic ash. Among them was Herculaneum, a small seaside resort on the west coast of central Italy.

Nearly 2,000 years later, the ancient city's beach has been excavated and restored. It was opened to the public on June 19, 2024.

"The restoration of the beach allows people to see the site from the same position as the ancient Roman people," says Francesco Sirano, the director of the Herculaneum Archaeological Park.



Ash from Mount Vesuvius buried Pompeii and surrounding areas.

The visitors have to go down through a tunnel ... and it's like we go back two thousand years, and then suddenly you have the beach."

The original beach featured black sand.

However, to ensure wheelchair accessibility, local authorities replaced the sand with a dark-coloured material that closely matches the original hue.

Visitors can not only enjoy the restored beach but also explore the ancient city's other impressive attractions. They include remarkably well-preserved baths, an underground theater and luxurious homes.

August 27

News in Pictures



Ashkelon, Israel ▲
Wall paintings on the wall of a vaulted tomb that, according to the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), date back 1,700 years to the Roman era, near the beach of Ashkelon in Israel.



Solingen, Germany
People stand in front of flowers and candles, laid at a makeshift memorial near a sign marking city's 650th anniversary, on the day of protests on the streets of Solingen, following a stabbing rampage in the western German city in which several individuals were killed and injured.

August 26



Paris, France ▲
Vintage military vehicles and re-enactors take part in a re-enactment of the liberation of Paris from German occupation as part of commemoration ceremonies marking the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Paris from Nazi rule.



Feni, Bangladesh ▲
Children eat snacks while sitting on a concrete shelf as they shelter in a 'madrasa' amid severe flooding, in the Fazilpur area of Feni.



Mumbai, India ▲
A devotee tries to break a clay pot containing curd, during the celebrations to mark the Hindu Festival of Janmashtami (Dahihandi Festival) in Mumbai.



Feni, Bangladesh ▲
People move on a tractor through a flooded street amid severe flooding in Feni, Bangladesh.

Nuflo de Chavez, Bolivia ▲
A community member hugs his dog before being evacuated by members of the Armed Forces from the affected areas, while supporting the fight against wildfires in Nuflo de Chavez Province, Bolivia.

Sao Paulo, Brazil ▲
A firefighter tries to put out a fire in a sugar cane plantation near Dumon city, as wildfires affected 30 cities in Brazil's Sao Paulo state.



Vilnius, Lithuania ▲
Dogs run during Corgi Race Vilnius 2024.

Source : Reuters