



FUN DAY TIMES



SLAF performing dogs

Pic. by Eshan Fernando



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(ONLINE)



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Pride



Mumudi Gajadheera (11 years)
Horizon College Int., Malabe

My classroom

My name is Watheesha Dahammeth. I study in Class One. My classroom is very big and airy. There are 20 desks in my classroom for students.

I love my class very much.

Watheesha Dahammeth (Grade 1)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle



My visit to Thailand

I was flying to Thailand with my family. After that we went to the hotel called Avani. Then we went to the 7th floor to have breakfast and the first thing I had was cereal. After that we went to a shopping mall. Next we went to our room.

The next day we went on the train and the station we got off was Siam and there was a shopping mall there too. For lunch we had KFC. After that we walked around the mall.

The next day we went to the Floating Market and we got on a boat. On the small boats people were selling vegetables and fruits.

So I like Thailand very much.

Devanya Perera (Grade 2)
Wycherley Int. School

My favourite hobby

My hobby is raising a cat. I have a Persian cat and I named it Brownie. It is a male cat. He has soft, fluffy fur and a beautiful tail. He also has an innocent face. When he makes a sound, it is not loud like other cats.

Every morning he comes near my bed and wakes me to have some milk. When I come from school he comes behind me asking for food. I feed him fish bun and other stuff which I eat. He also loves to eat chocolate like me.

Once, while I was looking for him he was playing with a small mouse. I love to spend all my free time with him. Even when I get angry at times, I hug him and sleep. Raising Brownie as my pet has brought so much joy in my life.

Shyma Nafees (9 years)
Zahira College, Gampola

My Garden



Desandhi Senulya (Grade 2)
Bodhiraja Int. School, Embilipitiya

My first school trip

My first school trip was scheduled for Friday June 14. I was so impatient until the day dawned. I slept early the night before as I had to be in school by 5.30 a.m. I was ready to pack my bag and I was happy because my mom had prepared a bag of goodies. Then I left home and I was soon at school.

I was delighted when I saw three buses parked outside school. I went to where my class teacher and my friends were. We left school at 6 a.m. My friends and I had a great time singing songs and playing musical instruments till we reached the Galle Fort at around 9.45 a.m.

We had breakfast there and we saw the Galle Lighthouse. We walked around the Galle Fort. There were lots of small things on sale.

Our next destination was the Martin Wickramasinghe Museum. We had lunch near the canteen and went to the museum.

We saw a lot of things such as traditional kitchen appliances, clothes and ancient plates, costumes, vehicles etc. Then we went to his house and we were shown his work and books. We also visited his grave. We also visited the bookshop where his books were for sale. We purchased books.

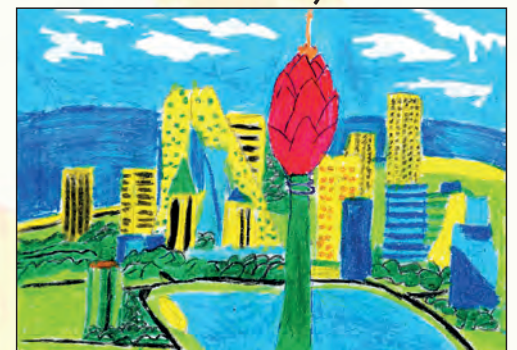
We left Koggala at around 3 p.m., to our next destination which was the Turtle Hatchery. I learned a lot about turtles there. At around 4 p.m., it was time for us to get back to school. We were sad as the day was coming to an end.

That day not only did we learn a lot of things, it was a fun day with all my friends. We got back to school around 9.30 p.m., due to an unfortunate incident where the driver of our bus fell ill.

It was a happy but tiring day. I look forward for future school trips.

Thameem Dilshan Ibrahim (11 years)
Negombo South Int. School, Piliyandala

The City



Shenol Ponrajah (12 years)
Highlands College, Maharagama

Save the Environment



Thenuri Keerthisena (13 years)
Maliyadewa B.M.V., Kurunegala



Craft Buddies

FINGER PAINT



Shenuk Senanayaka
Painter - 2055

UNLEASH
THE ARTISTIC
GENIUS IN YOUR CHILD!





Please send competition entries to:

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

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.

Please note competition entries are also accepted by email.

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:

October 16, 2024

Tel.: 2479337/2479333 Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Kids,

Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.

or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Maritime Day
- **Page 6** – Reports
- **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.

Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop



Read-a-Book for August



10 – 12 years

Nuzha Usri Nauman – *The BFG* by Roald Dahl

13 – 15 years

Senuli Rathnasekara – *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Kekulu Kinder ART COMPETITION - 2024

Model Application Form

Child's Full Name :

Date of Birth :

Permanent Address and Telephone Number :

Email Address :

Kindergarten Name and Address :

Name of the Kindergarten Principal :

Phone Number :

Kindergarten Email :

District :

Kindergarten Principal's Signature :

1. Eligible only for children between 2 ½ to 5 years of age.
2. Competition topic is 'A Rainy Day'.
3. Drawing can be submitted only on an A4 sheet using pastels only.
4. Should be certified by the Kindergarten Principal, that the drawing is done by the child.
5. It is mandatory to paste the application to the back of drawing.
6. Certificates are given only for drawings where application form is filled correctly.
7. The product wrappings and the drawing to be enclosed in an envelope without stapling together and sent to the following address before 01st October 2024.
8. Address: **Hettigoda Industries (Pvt) Ltd., No. 33/3, Sri Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana.**
9. It is important to have filled the following application form correctly. If not, the drawing will be rejected.
10. Any clarifications on the competition, please call Imanji on 077 834 4219 or Gayani on 077 638 6807.

Kekulu Toothpastes



Kekulu Baby Soaps



Kekulu Baby Colognes



Kekulu Toothbrush



THE OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER



OFFICIAL PRINT PARTNER



OFFICIAL BANKING PARTNER

* Important Notice – To all Kindergarten Principals, please ensure that all drawings are submitted with the correct product wrappings to the above address before 01st October 2024.

Maritime Disasters

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

World Maritime Day is observed annually on September 26 and this year's theme is 'Navigating the future: safety first!' highlighting the efforts of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to improve the safety at sea, while also protecting the marine environment.



Since being established in the mid-20th century, one of the IMO's main responsibilities has been to create international regulations aimed at enhancing maritime safety.

Some of the best learning opportunities arise from disasters, which often prompt the creation of new regulations (or the tighter implementation of existing ones) to avoid a repetition of history.

So, put on a life jacket and let's sail through the murky history of a few maritime disasters, specifically ones that would not have been as disastrous had safety been given more priority.

The RMS Titanic

The sinking of the Titanic is arguably the most well-known disaster in maritime history.

The ship embarked on its maiden voyage in 1912 with over 2,200 people aboard.

The British Board of Trade required the vessel to carry 20 lifeboats, which the Titanic adhered



Lifeboat carrying survivors from the Titanic. (National Archives and Records Administration)

to. However, its 20 lifeboats could only hold 1,178 people in total, which was, of course, only around half the number of the people aboard.

To make the situation worse, after disaster struck, the lifeboats were launched well below their full capacity as the crewmen were concerned that the davits (the equipment used for suspending and lowering lifeboats) would be unable to withstand the weight of a fully loaded boat. The crew were under this view because the lifeboat drill that should have occurred earlier that day was cancelled, and they had not been informed that the davits had already been tested before the voyage. The result of these errors was the deaths of over 1,500 people.

In response to this disaster, the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) was adopted in 1914.



The X-Press Pearl.

In 2021, the X-Press Pearl, a cargo ship transporting chemicals, caught fire off the coast of Sri Lanka and sank, resulting in its toxic substances leaking into the ocean.

Considered the worst environmental disaster in Sri Lanka, the toxic substances not only killed and affected an enormous amount of sea life, but also impacted the livelihoods of the fisherfolk nearby and the safety of food.

Days before the disaster, the crew had noticed a leak in a container carrying nitric acid.

In 1973, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), was adopted. The landmark convention covers a variety of aspects from safe packaging to prevent pollution to requiring oil tankers to have a double hull to prevent oil spills.



The sinking of the Titanic. (Undated illustration, AFP/Getty Images)

The MV Doña Paz

Considered the deadliest peacetime maritime disaster, the passenger ferry, MV Doña Paz, collided with an oil tanker, MT Vector, on a clear day, off the coast of the Philippines in 1987.

The reason: The bridge of the Doña Paz did not have any senior officers, the Vector had no lookout, and both ships were suspected to have not had a functioning radio.

The collision ignited the oil and gasoline aboard the Vector and engulfed both ships in flames. Of the combined 4,400+ people aboard both ships, only 26 were rescued.



The MV Doña Paz disaster.

The X-Press Pearl

From our Funday Times Young Reporters

Goodbye Plastic

We all know about the plastic problem. Millions of metric tons of plastic are discarded to the ocean every year, bring ends to thousands of lives of marine creatures, including turtles, fish, corals and even the birds who hunt in the sea for survival.

Scientists have come together to find a solution...but when there was no answer, nature decided to improvise with mutations to save earth.

Ideonella sakaiensis, is the scientific name given to the bacteria that is slowly cleansing our world. It was discovered by Japanese scientists when they realized that some plastic bottles in a recycling plant had been decomposed.

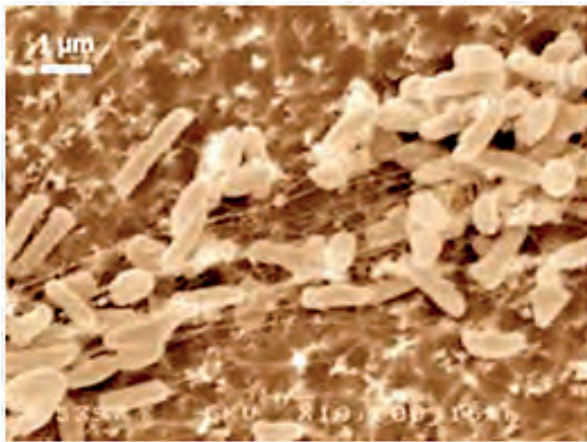


Image credit: Shosuke Yoshida et al.

Its favourite meal is a plastic called polyethylene terephthalate. Simply put, the common plastic used to make plastic bottles and food packages.

Till recently, we assumed that plastic could not be naturally broken down. Try tearing a plastic bottle in half. It is very difficult. This is why it has been piling up over the years, polluting our lands and seas.

This special bacterium (singular for bacteria) secretes enzymes into the plastic, enabling them to slowly digest the plastic.

With these new evolutionary creatures, we can start taking steps to fix the damage we caused.

However, this isn't a fast process. By the time taken for the bacteria to finish one bottle, many more would have piled up. We use more plastic than how much the bacteria can decompose. Let us aid them! We have a role to play as inhabitants of this planet.

As the young generations, it is our duty to act too. Reduce the amount of plastic you are using. Toys made of wood or cloth are absolute fun. Plastic bags are easily and efficiently replaceable by cloth.



Image credit: Sarintra Chimphoolsuk

Glass bottles and woven packaging made of plant fiber are viable alternatives for plastic. Reuse as much as you can. That plastic shopping bag can be used again and again...till it tears anyway! Plastic and polyethene is also a creative material for house decorations you can make at home.

We can bring back our beloved earth! Help yourself and the rest of the world by advancing in an economical and efficient manner...that doesn't destroy our home.

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

All you need to know about Chocolate!

Don't you just love the taste of Kandos, Ritzbury and Toblerone? But have you ever wondered how this amazing wonder land came into existence? Let's dive into the history of chocolate!

How it all started

Before the invention of chocolate bars, chocolate began as a drink. The Olmes civilization in the Mexican Gulf Coast region was the first to cultivate cocoa trees. Cocoa beans and the beverages made from them, held



immense significance in local culture serving as currency, rewards for warriors after battles and for religious rituals. Afterwards in the early 1500s, the Spanish learned about this.

The Chocolate Bar

Joseph Fry created the first solid moulded chocolate bar and so introduced a method to eat chocolate, besides only drinking. Moreover, Daniel Peter invented sweet and creamy, white chocolate. By the 1900s, these innovations were utilised by chocolate manufacturers all over the world to create these delicious treats that we now call, 'chocolate'!

Different types of chocolate

The three main types of chocolate are white chocolate, milk chocolate and dark chocolate. However, there are so many different chocolates out there too



Did You Know?

- World Chocolate Day is celebrated annually on July 7.
- It is amongst one of the best foods to consume before a test since, it helps improve memory and concentration.
- Chocolate acts as a poisonous food source for pets like cats and dogs.

including Ruby chocolate, bittersweet chocolate and many more!

Nafha Usri Nauman (15 years)
Royal Institute Int. School

New Zealand's Māori people crown new queen

September 19, 2024

The Māori people of New Zealand welcomed a new queen on September 5, 2024. Nga Wai Honoite Po succeeds her father, Kiingi Tuheitia, who died on August 30, 2024, after 18 years as king. The 27-year-old is the youngest child and only daughter of the late king. She was chosen by a committee of 12 Māori leaders. Nga Wai Honoite Po is only the second woman to lead the Māori monarchy since it was founded in 1858.

The crowning ceremony occurred on the final morning of her father's six-day-long funeral rites.



Nga Wai Honoite Po is only the second woman to lead the Māori people.

The soon-to-be queen, or Kuini, sat on a wooden throne placed in front of the late monarch's coffin. An archbishop blessed her with the same Bible used to anoint the first Māori king.

Following her coronation, the focus shifted to laying the late king to rest.

Prayers, chants and a traditional dance honouring his legacy preceded the procession.

A fleet of intricately carved canoes then escorted the monarch's coffin to the sacred *urupā* (burial ground) of Māori royalty.

Nga Wai Honoite Po was educated in a Māori language immersion school and holds a Master's degree in



The new queen has traditional Māori tattoo on her chin and lips.

Māori cultural studies from Waikato University. She has also served as a board member with the TeKohanga Reo National Trust, which works to revitalize the Māori language.

Though the monarchy is mainly ceremonial, Nga Wai Honoite Po's ascension has sparked widespread optimism among the Māori. The young Kuini's unique mix of cultural heritage and modern perspective makes her well-suited to preserve cherished traditions while guiding her people toward a prosperous future.

"She's the new dawn," said Māori rights lawyer Annette Sykes. "We've all watched her grow up, she's very humble. I've watched her mature into this woman who has this thirst for authentic knowledge and brings this into the modern world. She's someone who wears Gucci, and she wears *mokokauae* [traditional Māori tattoo on chin and lips]. She is leading us into uncharted and turbulent waters, and she will do it with aplomb."

DOG0 News



Kiingi Tuheitia (L) with King Charles (R) in 2023.

Heman Bekele is Time's 2024 Kid of the Year

September 19, 2024

Heman Bekele has been named TIME's Kid of the Year for 2024.

The 15-year-old has come up with an idea for a soap that could help treat skin cancer, and he is already working with scientists to test his idea.

Heman's family came to the USA from Ethiopia when he was four. Heman remembers seeing people there working outside in the sun without protecting their skin.

From his parents, he learned about the dangers of cancer, and how important it is for people to protect their skin from the sun. Skin cancer can often be cured, but the treatment is extremely expensive.

Heman was always curious, and experimented as a youngster by mixing different liquids together. When he was 7, he got a chemistry set, and nearly started a fire.

As Heman got older, he began to wonder if his curiosity could actually help make a difference.



NewsForKids

September 24

News in Pictures



New York, USA
Philemon Yang, President of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, opens the 79th United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York on September 24.



Munich, Germany
People dressed in traditional clothes with instruments sit in a tent during the 189th 'Oktoberfest', the world's largest beer festival in Germany. Oktoberfest has its origins in a horse race that took place in 1810 to celebrate the wedding of Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen.

Cogenhoe, UK
Holiday homes at Cogenhoe Mill Holiday Park near Northampton are submerged by floodwater after the River Nene topped its banks. Flood warnings are in place across England after more than 100mm of rain fell in the last 48 hours.



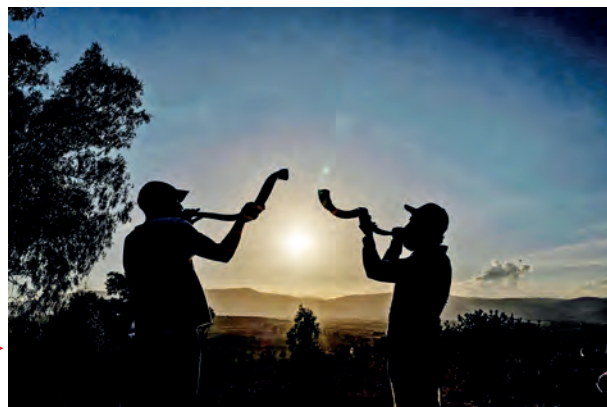
New York, USA
Oscar-winning actor and activist Meryl Streep talks to the press at the UN headquarters after attending a meeting on the inclusion of women in Afghanistan.



Tyre, Lebanon
Smoke billows over southern Lebanon following Israeli strikes, amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from Tyre.



Golan Heights
Jewish tourists Patrick Pesach from Switzerland and Alexander Horn from Germany blow 'shofars', which they say symbolises waking the world up to the reality of the deadly October 7 attack, as the sun sets in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.



Tyre, southern Lebanon
People carry belongings at a beach as they flee, amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces.



London, UK
A drone view of a sink hole caused by heavy rainfall, on the pitch at the Cherry Red Records Stadium, home of AFC Wimbledon football club in south-west London.

September 23



Patna, India
People caught in floods move to a safer place after a rise in the water level of the Ganges River.

Source : Reuters & The Guardian