

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 29, 2024



FUN DAY

TIMES



Fun at Christmas

Pic. by M.A. Pushpa Kumara

**KIDS'
WORLD**

PAGES 2 = 3



**EVENTS
PAGE 4**

(ONLINE)



**FAMOUS PEOPLE
PAGE 5**



**ANIMALS
PAGE 6**

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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.

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

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

Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:

Full Name, Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

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

Closing date for weekly competitions:

January 15, 2025



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Famous People
- **Page 6** – Animals
- **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.

I Matter, Melanocytes Do Not

I am special, just like you
My dark skin, black hair, brown eyes should never matter
Any of us completes the other – Black and White
The way a Day is completed by a Night
The way the Moon is completed by the Sun
Even you and I are a part of a great pair
Remember, I am balanced by you and you by me.
Making the two sides of a giant chessboard
Each one of us is playing the same game
Low, nor high, we all are the same – pawns
All of us are trying to play a fair game
Not a single piece should be mistreated
One team, one match, not the opposition
Care, love, justice and compassion
You and I both should make that call
Together we stand, but apart we fall
Each bundle is stronger than one single strand
Strength lies in unity, that is our stand
Different in colour, same in heart
One harmony to compose one tune
Not the colour, but a unique song
Opposites make pairs, differences shatter
To you, us, them and me..... I too matter!

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

Rainy days – a tale of sorrow and joy

Rainy days bring out about many emotions. While some find joy in the pitter-pattering raindrops, others face despair and obstacles as water floods their homes and streets. The soft pitter-patter of rain can be soothing to some but to those in vulnerable regions it brings about worry and hardships they are going to face.

“Some people walk in the rain; others just get wet,” observed Roger Miller. It is a simple statement which reflects the nature of rain. For children, rain might mean they get to play in puddles and make paper boats. For farmers, it brings hope as it is much needed for cultivation and as it nourishes crops. However not everyone gets to enjoy the rain.

In many places, heavy rains bring about severe problems. Areas get flooded, homes get destroyed due to landslides, streets get filled with water and become inaccessible and dengue fever spreads due to all the filled waters.

Landslides devastate entire communities and families lose their homes. Natural disasters claim many lives, leaving behind sorrow and a sense of hopelessness.

This harsh reality reminds us of our duty to those affected. As Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Our small acts of kindness, whether offering a helping hand, donating resources or simply comforting someone with kind words, can make a big difference.

Rainy days serve as a reminder of both nature's beauty and its power. We should cherish the moments of joy they bring but also remain mindful of those who suffer. Help one another and stand in unity during these hard times. May God give us courage and hope!

Anjana Vasanthakumar (15 years)
Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam, Colombo



Saqeef-ul-Haq (8 years)
Matale Int. School



Zahra Maryam Shafraz (12 years)
Ilma Int. Girls' School



Rithmi Wickrema Seneviratne (10 years)
Southlands College, Galle



Adheesha Jayasekara (8 years)
Wesley College, Colombo



Thihama Zacky
Muslim B. M. V., Thihariya



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



Lithev Bethmegedera
Nelumdeniya



Risali Wickrema Seneviratne (8 years)
Southlands College, Galle

My favourite animal

I like many animals. Among them I like the fox most. It has a little triangular face and two pointed ears to hear well. Also, it has whiskers to protect from dangerous places. Its nose helps it to find prey, same as the dogs. The fox has a big bushy tail and I feel its tail is so itchy.

Our ancestors have told us many stories about foxes. One of the famous stories is how a fox tried to pick up a bunch of grapes. But I think the fox got tired. So that's why the fox stopped jumping. Otherwise the fox could pick the bunch of grapes easily.

One day, I went to my grandmother's house and I heard the foxes screaming. Although I like foxes, I don't like their screaming.

People think that the foxes are not useful. They are omnivorous animals. Therefore, foxes help to keep the environment balance.

Seja Abeywickrama (9 years)
Southlands College, Galle

Water

Every day we waste a lot of water and food. Water, in particular is a renewable resource but it's also limited. We can find, purify and pack it but we can't produce it.

No life is possible without water. Saving water means protecting life on Earth and gives us the chance to provide food and water for people who don't have enough.

Thihama Zacky (10 years)
Muslim B.M.V., Thihariya

My favourite book

Everyone has a favourite book. I also have favourite books. But I have a special favourite book. That is 'Palu Dupatha.'

'Palu Dupatha' is a children's novel written by H.G. Jayasumana. This story has two characters. They are Nandana and Nimal. This book give us knowledge of science and geography.

'Palu Dupatha' is a most interesting and knowledgeable story. Throughout the story they describe the adventures of boys. This writer is clever enough to describe the mind of youth. This book is very beautiful. The writer is a very mindful man.

I like to read this book very much.

Bihandu Keerthisena (Grade 7)
Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala

Christmas



Christmas is celebrated by Christians all over the world. Christmas falls on December 25 every year. It is a religious festival. Christians celebrate the Birth of Baby Jesus on this day.

Christians clean and decorate their houses before Christmas Day. Most Christian homes have a Christmas tree. They decorate it with ornaments, colourful bulbs and gifts. There will be a 'Gawalena' in Christian homes. It shows the Birth of Jesus.

New clothes are bought for members of the family. They make delicious cakes, puddings and wine.

On this sacred day, they go to church and engage in religious activities. They share food with relatives, friends, neighbours and even with poor people. Christmas songs are sung in various places and churches. All children love Christmas because they are given presents by Santa Claus.

Christmas brings happiness, peace and joy to the world.

Uththara Yatawara (Grade 4)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

My family

I have a wonderful family. There are four members in my family. They are my parents and my brother. My father is a businessman. My mother is a development officer. I love my family very much.

Chenuli (Grade 1)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Please remember that **ARTICLES, POEMS and PAINTINGS** sent, will not be published unless they are certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.

Also please mention the topic, your full name, date of birth and address in your entry.

Articles should not exceed 200 words.

Art should be on A4 size paper.





Christmas celebrations at Little Angels AMI Montessori, Nugegoda.



Pix by M.A. Pushpa Kumara



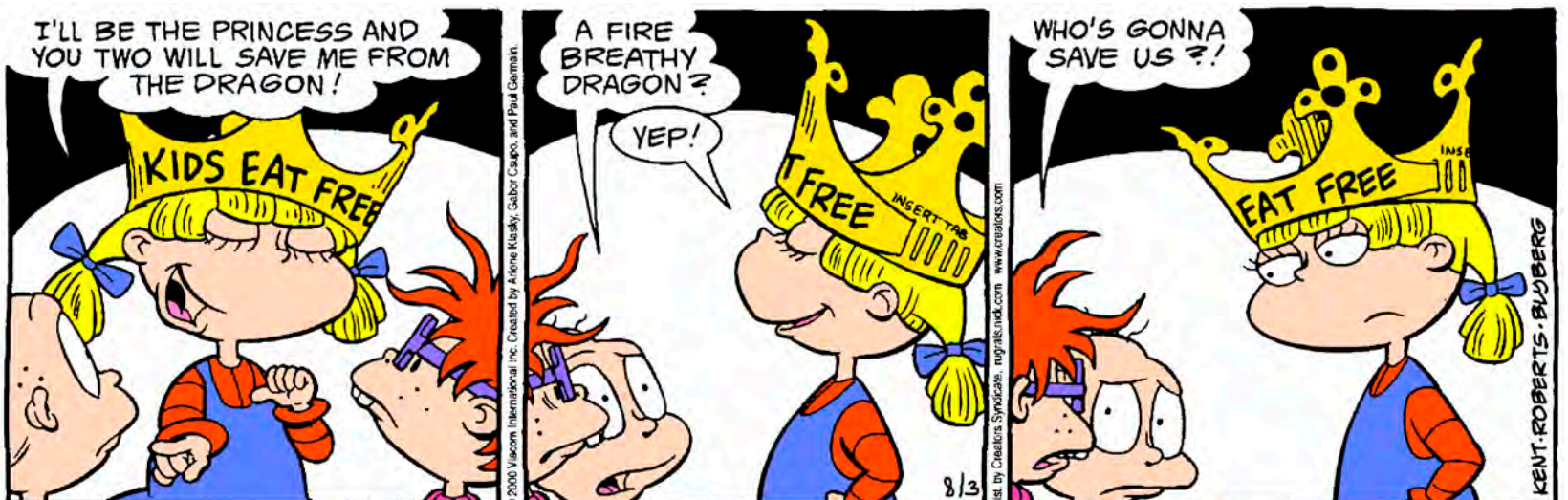
Fun with Flavour



Lyceum Academy organised an event where budding chefs participated to enjoy the magic and flavour of the Christmas season.



Rugrats





Charles Babbage

English mathematician and inventor Charles Babbage is credited with having conceived the first automatic digital computer.

He also designed a type of speedometer and the cowcatcher (a sloping frame on the front of a locomotive that tosses obstacles off the railroad tracks).

Babbage was born on December 26, 1791, in London, England. In 1812, he helped found the Analytical Society, whose purpose was to introduce developments from Europe into English mathematics.

At about the same time Babbage first got his idea for mechanically calculating mathematical tables. Later, he made a small calculator that could perform certain mathematical computations to eight decimal places.

In 1816, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London, the oldest scientific society in Great Britain. Then, in 1823, he received government support for the design of a projected calculator with a 20-decimal capacity.

He called it the Difference Engine. While he was developing this machine, he served as a professor of mathematics at the University of Cambridge.



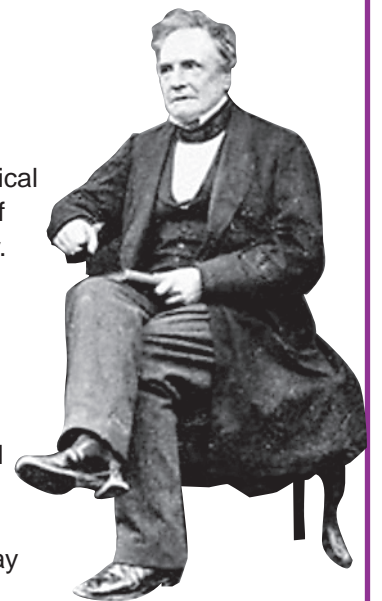
Difference Engine
The completed portion of Charles Babbage's Difference Engine, 1832. This advanced calculator was intended to produce logarithm tables used in navigation.

In the mid-1830s, Babbage developed plans for the Analytical Engine. It was the forerunner of the modern electronic computer. He envisioned the device as a general-purpose computing machine. It would perform any mathematical operation on the basis of instructions from punched cards. The device would have most of the basic elements of the present-day computer.

In 1843, Babbage's friend Ada Lovelace, a mathematician, translated a French paper about the Analytical Engine. In her annotations she described how it could perform a sequence of calculations. Scholars consider her notes the first computer program.

Lack of funding and technical constraints prevented the Analytical Engine from being completed. Babbage's design was forgotten until his unpublished notebooks were discovered in 1937. In 1991, British scientists built Difference Engine No. 2 to Babbage's specifications. In 2000, the printer for the Difference Engine was built.

Babbage made notable contributions in other areas as well. He published papers on mathematics, statistics, physics and geology. He also assisted in establishing England's modern postal system. Babbage died in London on October 18, 1871.



Interesting Facts

- Babbage was a top mathematician as a student.
- He taught himself aspects of contemporary mathematics ahead of his entry to Cambridge University.
- He was the first person to invent the idea of a computer that could be programmed. Unfinished parts of his mechanisms are on display in the London Science Museum.
- He was instrumental in setting up the Royal Astronomical Society in 1820.
- His 'Difference Engine' could perform mathematical calculations.
- Babbage created the more complex 'Analytical Machine'
- His inventions weren't limited to computing.
 - He campaigned to reform British science.
 - He helped establish the modern postal system in England.

Charles Babbage

Source: Britannica Kids



Canada Goose

The Canada goose with its long black neck and white cheeks, is one of the best known birds in North America. It is found in every contiguous (adjoining) U.S. state and Canadian province at one time of the year or another.

Canada geese usually graze together in fields, eating grasses, sedges, grains and berries. Their bills have serrated edges, which helps them cut tough grass stems.

Canada geese also feast on aquatic vegetation. When eating in water, they “tip up,” reaching underwater and tearing water plants with their heads beneath the surface and their rear ends sticking up in the air.

Male geese fight one another to win a particular female. The winning male gets the female as a mate, and the pair may stay together for life.

The female of the pair picks a good spot to make her nest. She finds a place — always near water — which is isolated and a little higher than anything right around it.



The female makes her nest of dry grasses, twigs and other plant material. She uses her body to shape the nest into a bowl.

The baby geese, called goslings, take about a month to hatch. Babies are covered with soft feathers called ‘down’.

They hatch with their eyes open and will leave the nest within 24 hours, following their parents.

Goslings can swim right away. In less than two months, the goslings grow adult feathers and learn to fly.



Goslings can swim right away, but the family stays together. Both parents take care of their young by feeding them and guarding them from danger.



With the right wind conditions, a flock of Canada geese can fly 1,500 miles in just 24 hours.

COMMON NAME	: Canada Goose
SCIENTIFIC NAME	: <i>Branta canadensis</i>
TYPE	: Bird
DIET	: Herbivore
GROUP NAME	: Flock
AVERAGE LIFE SPAN	
IN CAPTIVITY	: 24 years
SIZE: Body:	30 to 43 inches;
Wingspan:	4.2 to 5.6 feet
WEIGHT	: 6.6 to 19.8 pounds



Source: National Geographic



Christmas lights around the world

December 10, 2024

Across the world tinsel has been hung up high, Christmas trees adorned and festive feasts are being prepared ahead of the big day on December 25.



This incredible Christmas tree outside the Rockefeller Center in New York City, stunned crowds with its dramatic light switch on. ▲



Lots of people turned out to watch the switch on ▲ of the lights in the city centre of Ljubljana, Slovenia.



Snap a selfie! These colourful lights and trees ▲ can be found in central Syntagma Square in Athens, Greece.



Next, to Russia where this tree lights up a shopping centre in Moscow. ▲



Over to Nigeria now, where these lights line the streets ▲ as cars drive past on Victoria Island.



▲ Over in Spain these beautiful circular lights hang above crowds of people as they walk through the city of Barcelona.

How about some ice skating under the lights? These lights are at the Tivoli Amusement Park in Copenhagen, Denmark. ▲



Source: CBBC Newsround

December 23

News in Pictures



Venice, Italy
People dressed as Santa Claus row during a Christmas regatta along the Grand Canal in Venice.



London, England
Choristers at St. Paul's Cathedral practise for the Christmas Day service, the first to include girls in the choir.



Nairobi, Kenya
Young dancers perform a Christmas ballet in the Kibera shantytown.

Kochi, India
A man carries a girl wearing a Santa-Claus-themed costume on his shoulders during Christmas celebrations outside a church.



Magdeburg, Germany
Tributes left outside St. John's Church to the victims of the attack on the town's Christmas market.



Damascus, Syria
A view of the destruction in the Eastern Ghouta neighbourhood after the collapse of 61 years of the Ba'ath regime.

Tokyo, Japan
The chief executives of Nissan, Honda and Mitsubishi attend a press conference on their companies' merger talks.



Guatemala City, Guatemala
Guatemalan firefighter Hector Chacon, dressed as Santa Claus, waves before rappelling down the Las Vacas bridge to deliver toys to children in the Jesus de la Buena Esperanza neighbourhood.



Damascus, Syria
Children line up to buy bread, after Syria's Bashar al-Assad was ousted, in Duma, on the outskirts of Damascus.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters