

The Haj festival

Muslims have two important festivals. They are the Ramazan Festival and the Haj Festival. Muslim festivals do not fall on the same day every year as we follow the lunar calendar. The Haj Festival is very great.

Rich people go to Mecca and celebrate the festival there. Those who don't go to Mecca, get up early in the morning on that day, have a bath and then wear new clothes. Then they go to the mosque to pray to Allah. They make special food and sweets. They also give food and money to the needy.

Children enjoy this festival. They enjoy themselves visiting friends, relations and neighbours. Everyone has a good time.

Arkam Ansar (Grade 5)
Al-Humaisara N.S.,
Beruwela

Christmas



Nirmani Dasanayake (9 years)
Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy

My father

My father's name is Upul. He is 39 years old. He works in Kandy. He is a hotel manager. He comes home only once a month. I play chess with him. He loves me and I also love him. "May the *Dalada Samindu* bless him!"



Sobashi Somindi (7 years)
Southlands College,
Galle

Buzzing bumble Beezz...



Shabnam Siddique (7 years)
G. H. S. K.

I love to play



Mayumi, the Great Team Mermaid

Most of you would have seen the SAG Swimming events on television and read about the brilliant performance of a wonderful girl named Mayumi Raheem.

Mayumi Raheem won the first gold medal for Sri Lanka, on August 19, for the 100 metres breast stroke. She got the gold medal in just one minute 15:85 seconds, setting a new South Asian Games record. She has won two gold medals for 50 metres and 200 metres breast-stroke, setting a new games record. She also won three silver medals and four bronze medals, totalling 10 medals. This is the first South Asian

Games, she participated in. Mayumi is just 16 years old and studies at United World College, in Singapore. She is skilful in her studies just as much as she is in swimming. We are all very proud of her.

Mayumi, who has bright eyes and a cheerful smile, has brought fame to our motherland.

I wish that you can become the greatest international swimmer one day, Mayumi!

You are a wonderful teenager and you are also our very own Great Team Mermaid!

Shabiha Banu (Grade 5)
Ecole International,
Digana

Good intention

We shifted to our new house. It was a very happy day for me. There was a big garden in front of the house. In the evening my father, mother and myself, started gardening. Then I saw something funny. One by one, bees were coming and going into a mango log. When I showed it to mama, she said the bees take a lot of trouble to make honey, by collecting sweet nectar from the flowers.

I wondered how I could help these teeny, tiny creatures. In a flash, I got an excellent idea. I ran to the kitchen and made a little sugar syrup and kept it on the log. Then I watched the reaction of the bees. I saw the bees were sucking up the

sugar syrup. I was happy and started my garden work. After a while, mama was screaming, "Oh look, what a foolish thing you have done!" I ran to her, only to find that the red ants and bees were fighting for the sugar syrup! I was about to cry, when I heard my papa say, "Don't worry, my dear, good intentions don't always work well." I nodded my head.

What do you think? Was I helpful or was I foolish?

Gimhani Waduge, (11 years)
Carmel Convent,
Chilaw
(Prize-winning Essay at
the Shankar
International
Competition, 2006)

Suveen Ellawela (Grade 1)
Dharmasoka College,
Ambalangoda

My favourite cartoon

My favourite cartoon is Transformers. It goes on Cartoon Network at 7.30 p.m. There are four characters. They are Optimus Prime, Jass, Hammer and Bumble Bee. They are robots. They can transform into vehicles. Optimus Prime is a truck, Jass is a car, hammer is a jeep and Bumble Bee is a racing car.

They fight for justice. There is another team who are bad. They try to destroy the world. In the fights sometime the transformers break, but they get together and destroy the bad team. It is a good cartoon. I like it very much.

Shanmugam Muhundan, (10 years)
Kandy Grammar School, Kandy

Flying kites



Sobashi Kodippili Arachchi (7 years)
Southland's College, Galle

At the pool

Shehan Horadagoda (8 years)
Ceylinco Sussex College, Badulla

A village



Kalani Perera (Grade 6)
Pushpadana Girl's College, Kandy

Note

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. Articles should not exceed 200 words.

A Poem for the Week

Create your own little poem and send it in to us. This competition is open to age groups from 4 – 14 years. The poems will be judged according to the age of the competitor.

Please remember that the poems you send should be your own original composition and not copied from anyone or anywhere. Entries should be in your own handwriting and clearly certified as your own creation by a teacher or parent.

Word limit: 100 words

Please write 'A POEM FOR THE WEEK' at the top of your entry. The winner will receive a book voucher for Rs. 500.

Nature

Quiet and peaceful,
People living in harmony,
Without any wars,
That is Nature.

Rainbows, sun and rain,
Trees, gardens, flowers,
Waving in the breeze,
As if saying 'hello',
That is Nature.

Ponds, seas, rivers,
And the fish,
Swimming here and there,
That is Nature.

Animals, plants,
Everything that's natural,
Is
NATURE.

Minoli Gamlath (6 years)
Ceylinco Sussex College, Kegalle