



FUNDA DAY TIMES



Enjoying sweet nectar

Pic by Indika Handuwala



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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 (except Reeves Art) are accepted by email.

Please 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 No. 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 weekly competitions:

November 3, 2021

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Achievements

Thejini Gamage (11 years), a Grade Six student of Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo won a Gold Award in the Junior Category of the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2021.



This competition has been held for over 100 years and is open to all 54 Commonwealth countries in the world. A total of 25,648 students entered this year, of which 13,050 students under 14 years competed in the Junior Category.

(Thejini's award-winning essay is published on Page 5 of this week's Funday Times e-paper)



Umar Shamroz, a Grade Five student of Zahira College, Colombo won 3rd Place in the Individual Medley at the All Island Age Group Championship 2020 organised by Rinuhi Swimming Academy.

KV's Kids Fest celebrates Children's Day

Children between the ages of 5 to 18 years flocked to participate in the talent competition organised by Hayleys Plantations subsidiary, Kelani Valley Plantations, in celebration of International Children's Day.

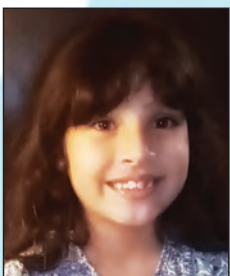
The amazing talent of children from the estate sector was showcased through an art and talent competition. The top three winners of the age categories of below 5, below 12 and below 18 were awarded exciting prizes and a trophy for their achievements.

Notably, the world can also witness the talent of the children from Sri Lanka as the winning art will be uploaded to the website of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

As over 5,000 works of art and 350 videos were submitted for consideration, each participant was also presented with a certificate of participation.



Tree planting at the estate



Kayley Wijesuriya
8 years on Oct. 7



Sayuni Pinidiya
7 years on Oct. 23

NOTE

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.



Children waiting impatiently for the proceedings to begin



From our Young Reporters

Children's Day celebrations - virtual field trip to Water World, Kelaniya

Since COVID-19 has spread all over the world, we are not allowed to go anywhere or to have gatherings. We do our studies virtually.

I study at Methodist College and our teachers are trying to do their level best to make all the lessons interesting and keep us happy.

Our teachers organized a virtual field trip to celebrate Children's Day. Our teachers sent us invitations for the trip. We packed our backpacks and got our snacks. I put my notebook with a pencil in my backpack.

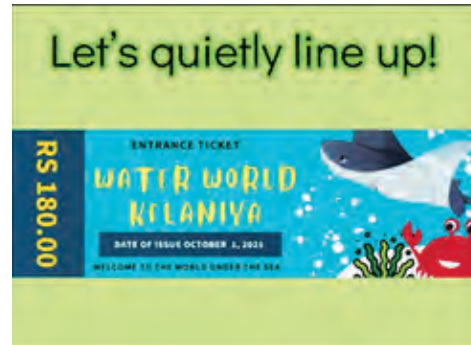
Our teachers sent us the Zoom link. I joined the virtual field trip at 4 o'clock in the evening with all my friends. We all got in the school bus and we sang songs on the way.

Finally, we reached Water World, Kelaniya. We lined up to get our tickets. First we went through the water tunnel. Then we went through the hall and we saw hundreds of fish in enormous tanks. We saw Silver moon fish, Silver arowana, Dorado, Tiger shovel nose catfish, Malabar snake-head, Green alligator, Aba Aba, Marble catfish, Tiger fish, Sharks, Sun fish, Brain fish, Jellyfish, Seahorses, Lobsters and Shrimp.

Our teacher shared all the videos. It was awesome and we all enjoyed with a lot of excitement. The video was at least one hour long. Our teacher happily described everything at Water World. Our teacher introduced all the fish species to us.

We all felt like we were actually at Water World. I saw my best friend Hana enjoying the video with lots of excitement. We had our snacks during the session.

Once the session was over, we all got into the school bus and came home. However, technically we all were at home.



Senuri Gunawardana (7 years)
Methodist College, Colombo

Origami - Paper Folding

Origami is a kind of paper folding art. Many say that it was first invented in Japan. It also has a Japanese-based culture.

The biggest origami sculpture yet created is a paper crane about 81.94 metres in wingspan, created by 800 people of the Peace Piece Project on August 2009 in Japan.



Origami is a great hobby to engage in during leisure time and it expands one's imagination and creativity and also it is a relaxing hobby. There is no age limit to perform creative origami structures.



Ann Amodya (14 years)
Ave Maria Convent, Negombo

FUNDAY TIMES Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

.....

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.

mailto: Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Tomahawk

Quiz
No. 188

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 188 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of September 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2021. All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 188' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard. Please get your entries certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Two lucky winners will receive brand new Tomahawk Mountain Bikes with the compliments of Tomahawk Bicycle Mall

All Funday Times readers between 8 - 15 years are eligible to participate.

(Those who have already won a bicycle are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: October 31, 2021

mail to Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



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QUESTIONS — QUIZ NO. 188

1. Name three of the most widely spoken languages in the world.
2. When rock climbing, who is a 'belay buddy'?
3. What is the famous pyramid shaped mountain situated in the Alps?
4. In which month is World Maritime Day held and what is the theme this year?
5. What is the symbol for infinity and who invented this symbol?



Panther Educational activities are specially designed to assist a child's brain development

Awakens A Child's Mind

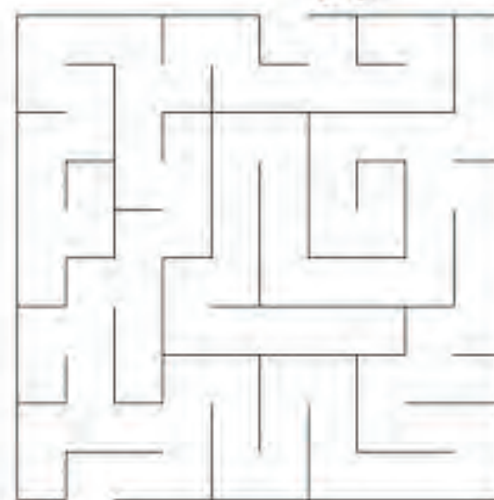


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4 - 6 AGE GROUP

Help the little girl reach her home.



We regret that we are unable to announce winners this week. Take care and stay safe.

Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition Gold Award Winning Essay

Topic - The year is 2050 and you've been asked to write about the coronavirus pandemic for a museum.
What story would you tell?



The Unforgettable Corona

Thirty years ago, in 2020, I was just a little girl in Sri Lanka, a tiny island country in the Indian Ocean. We were having a lovely time; going to school, shopping on weekends, visiting family and friends and going on holidays. One day, after I had a music class, both my parents came to pick me up. I was very happy as usually only one of them comes. When I got into the car I was surprised to see loads of groceries and finding a place to sit was a challenge! I asked them why they bought so many goods. They replied that it was because they had heard rumours that the government was going to lockdown the country since the first COVID-19 patient was discovered from Sri Lanka on that day. At that moment little did I know life was going to be on a roller coaster for the next five years.

We had some idea about the Coronavirus by the time it entered Sri Lanka. This global pandemic originated in the city of Wuhan in China, in December 2019. Then, as the year 2020 ascended the Coronavirus began spreading in every country and caused many people to lose their lives. First, we watched over television many people dying, setting up of huge hospitals and streets of Wuhan becoming deserted due to lockdown in China. Then, we saw thousands of people dying each day in Italy. It was the beginning of one of the greatest disasters in world history.

I went to school on Thursday, March 12, 2020, the day after the first COVID-19 patient in Sri Lanka was reported.

I remember that day exactly because it was our class teacher's birthday. Our teacher got many telephone calls from parents. It was unusual for them to call during school hours. First, we thought they had all called just to wish her a happy birthday. Later on we learnt that they had telephoned to inform about the rumour on school closure and wanted us to bring all our books home.

Finally, we got the official announcement that schools were closed indefinitely. We went home very happily!

Thereafter, our country was placed under police curfew and all offices, shops, supermarkets and restaurants were closed and nobody could go out. We were lucky as we had a lot of food stored in our house. Both my parents were at home. I played Monopoly and Scrabble for hours with my mother and played badminton with my father in our garden.

The government placed new health regulations. Accordingly, everyone began wearing face masks and kept a distance of one metre. Everybody washed and sanitized their hands frequently. In addition, people drank various kinds of indigenous medicines to develop their immunity.

The curfew was lifted temporarily for people to buy food and necessary items. Our gardener came and asked to work but my mother refused because of the fear of Corona. Then only we realized that many daily wage earners had lost their jobs and life was difficult for them.

Hence, we started donating food and money to needy people we knew, to lighten their burden.

We had virtual school lessons as the schools were closed. It was a good experience for us. We learnt a lot about modern technology by doing online studies. Nevertheless, we missed going to school, playing with our friends and all the clubs, games and sports we used to take part in. Some students who did not have facilities for online studies failed to have a proper education. That was a great disadvantage to the society.

Corona too had its fate. Although the number of patients and deaths increased in 2021 and 2022, the numbers gradually decreased in 2023 and 2024 as everyone got the COVID-19 vaccine. Finally, after a long struggle, in 2025 we were able to eliminate the virus. What a relief that was to the world!

Now it is the year 2050 and we have eradicated the virus from the world. We are living happily and peacefully. During those long five years, 2020 to 2025, we were worrying about the Coronavirus from morning till evening.

Though it was a challenge to live during the pandemic, we also gained a lot of experience. The main lesson I learnt was nothing is forever

Therefore, whenever I go through a difficult time in life now, I tell myself that, "This too shall pass!"

Thejini Gamage (11 years)
Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo 5

My favourite sport - Swimming

My favourite sport is swimming. I started swimming when I was 3 years old and have been swimming ever since.

Swimming is a sport for all ages. It's a lifetime activity which brings relaxation to the body and mind. It also helps build muscles, good body shape and confidence. Swimming is also a very competitive sport which takes lots of practice to improve your speed, style and time. There are four main strokes in swimming, they are Freestyle, Backstroke, Butterfly stroke

and Breaststroke. My best stroke is Freestyle.

I daily practice my swimming skills. I love to start my day with swimming practices as it makes me refreshed throughout the day. On school days I practice at 6 a.m. At weekends I start practice at 8 a.m. Sometimes I practice in the evening from 4 p.m., to 6 p.m.

I'm an Under 11 swimming team member in my school. I have achieved many medals and certificates in swimming.

My most recent best achievement was winning 3rd Place in the Individual Medley at the Rinuhi Swimming Meet 2020.

Due to quarantine, I miss swimming a lot but I try my best to keep up my speed, by doing land training exercises. I want to be a swimmer like Michael Phelps one day and bring honour to my country Sri Lanka and my school.

Umar Shamroz (Grade 5)
Zahira College, Colombo 10

October 12

Lego: Toymaker to remove 'harmful gender stereotypes'



Lego say they will remove any hints of gender stereotypes from their products. It comes after new research has found children may still be experiencing harmful attitudes if they want to play with certain toys.

The research, that has been published in The Guardian newspaper, showed that while girls are becoming more confident playing with a wide range of toys, boys were still facing negative attitudes if they engage with what could be described as a "girls toy".

Gender stereotypes are when something is assumed to be only suitable for either a boy or a girl.

Aurora Borealis: Huge space storm could make Northern Lights visible over UK

Stargazers in Scotland, the north of England and Northern Ireland could be treated to a spectacular Northern Lights display on Tuesday, thanks to a huge solar storm.

The Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, is a phenomenon that appears as shimmering waves of stunning colour in the sky.

It may be visible in UK skies because a Coronal Mass Ejection is expected – this is when a giant burst of gas – or plasma – shoots out from the sun and causes something called a geomagnetic storm.

According to the US Space Weather Prediction Centre, the storm could also cause some disruptions for spacecraft.

The skies will need to be clear for nature's light show to be truly enjoyed, but the Met Office has said cloud is likely to block the view for some.

While the light show could be visible across much of Scotland, "cloud amounts are increasing, meaning sightings are unlikely for most," the Met Office said.

"There is a slight chance of aurora reaching the far north of England and Northern Ireland tonight, but cloud breaks and therefore sightings are more likely in Northern Ireland."

But, despite the weather, Tom Keress, astronomer and author of Northern Lights: The definitive guide to auroras, has still encouraged people to try and see them.



Royal family: New Henry VIII coins to celebrate royal beasts

The Royal Mint has worked with the Royal Palaces to design some special coins that tell us more about King Henry VIII.

The collectable coins have been inspired by the beasts that feature on the famous Tudor king's crests.

They'll be issued over five years and the first one – the Seymour Panther coin – was launched at the monarch's former palace, Hampton Court, where carvings of the beasts are still on display for visitors.

The £5 coin features an image of the Queen on one side and the animal on the reverse.

The collection has been designed by artist David Lawrence, who described the commission as an "honour" and a "huge challenge".

He added: "Each royal beast comes down to us with centuries of heritage and meaning attached to them, so my task was to find a new vision that is still true to the past."

The collection will also feature lions, bull, greyhounds and a unicorn – chosen by Henry VIII to line the moat bridge of Hampton Court Palace in south-west London.

What are heraldic beasts?

Heraldic means relating to coats of arms – which could



The Seymour Panther holds a shield bearing the Seymour Wing – the wings symbolise peace, flight, freedom and spiritual transport, as well as denoting protection.

be special shields or shield-shaped patterns that are the sign of a family or city and represent the history of those that they belong to.

The beast are the animals you see on them like lions, unicorns or griffins.

They aren't just ancient symbols either – you'll have seen one every time that England play football – the Three Lions on a badge.



Source: CBBC Newsround

October 12

News in Pictures



Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2021 – Winner of the photojournalism section: 'Elephant in the room', by Adam Oswell, Australia.



Mexico City, Mexico
Volunteers pose during a press conference to announce the International Day of the Dead parade at the Museum of Mexico City. More than 1,000 people are expected to take part including musicians, acrobats & 10 allegorical floats along a 5.5 mile (9 km) route from El Zócalo to Campo Marte.



Gonzaga Town, Philippines
A resident is pulled along a rope as rescuers wait on the other side of a swollen river in Cagayan province. At least nine people were killed and 11 others reported missing after landslides and flash flooding set off by Tropical Storm Kompasu, which barreled through the northern tip of the country overnight.



Bordeaux, France
Firefighters protect a painting with a flameproof blanket during a drill aimed at preserving artworks displayed in St. Andrew's Cathedral.

London, UK
Red paint covers a statue of Christopher Columbus in Belgrave Square Gardens. The defacing of the sculpture appears to have been triggered by the Columbus Day holiday, which many countries in the Americas celebrate on October 12. The holiday is observed on the second Monday in October in the US.



Munich, Germany
The installation 'Traffic Light Flower' by artists Johannes Brunner and Raimund Ritz.



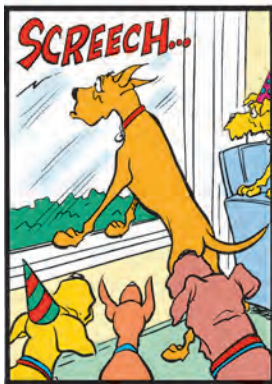
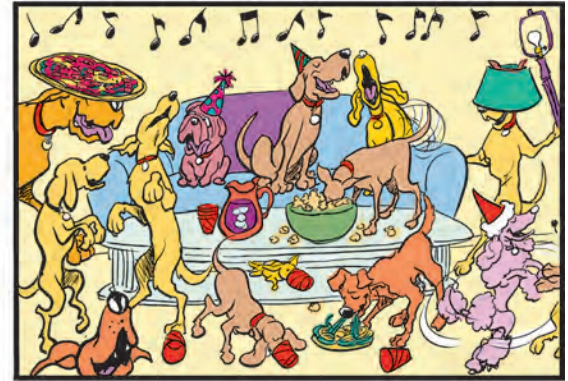
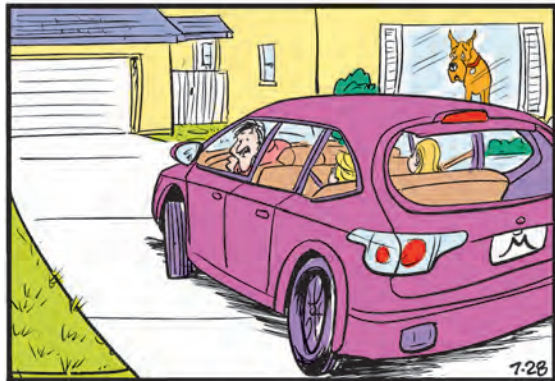
Izmir, Turkey
A 1,800-year-old mosaic is being restored at Metropolis ancient city in Torbalı district. After using modern techniques that ensure the preservation of colours and grains for a longer time, mosaics resembling paintings of Eros, Dionysus and his wife Ariadne were visible again.



Massachusetts, USA
A two-headed diamondback terrapin is weighed at the Birdsey Cape Wildlife Centre in Barnstable where the two-week old animal is being treated.

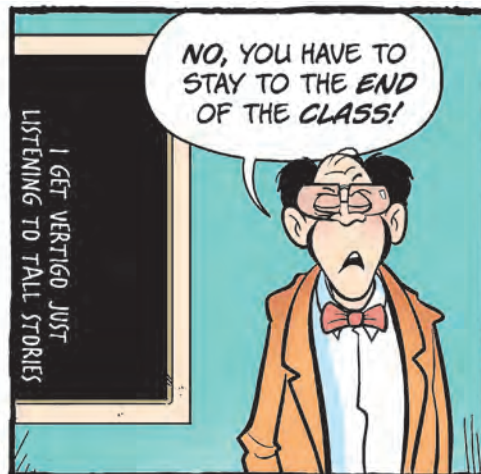


La Palma, Spain
The Cumbre Vieja volcano spews lava and plumes of thick smoke as it continues to erupt on the Canary Island, as seen from Tacande.



DOG GONE FUNNY APPLE VALLEY, MN
ELIZABETH BORRESEN AGREED TO **BABYSIT** HER DAUGHTER'S DOGS, A GREAT DANE AND A LAB/BEAGLE MIX. WHEN THEY ARRIVED, SHE SAW **SQUIRT**, HER POMERANIAN, **RUNNING** BACK AND FORTH FROM THE LIVING ROOM TO THE BEDROOM CLOSET. SQUIRT WAS **HIDING** ALL HIS TOYS **UNDERNEATH** HER CLOTHES!

Ginger Meggs



Rugrats

