

FUN DAY TIMES



Up in the air at British School

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

WINNERS

BOOKS

PAGE 2



FAMOUS PEOPLE

PAGE 3



MATHS

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(ONLINE)



EDUCATION

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PAGE 6



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.

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:

February 15, 2023

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Education Day
- **Page 6** – Book Winners Essays
- **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.

Storytelling at British Council, Kandy



An interactive storytelling session was conducted by Orlando Edwards, Country Director British Council Sri Lanka, at the British Council Library in Kandy. The kids enjoyed the session giving loud cheers.



Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: Sri Lanka's Independence Day

Win: Winnie-the-Pooh's 50 things to do on rainy days by A.A. Milne & E.H. Shepard

The friends of the Hundred Acre Wood have 50 things to try on rainy days.

Join Winnie-the-Pooh, Piglet, Tigger and Owl as they build a rain gauge, find Eeyore's tail and take part in a scavenger hunt.



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: An Independence parade I have seen

Win: Five Go off to Camp by Enid Blyton

The Five are on a camping trip when they discover an old railway yard and a tunnel. Is there really a spook-train and where does it go?

The gang follow the tracks and discover a most unusual underground destination.



Age: 13 – 15 years

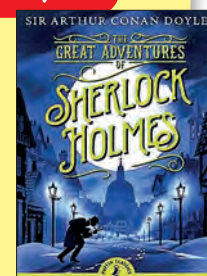
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: Seventy-five years of Independence in Sri Lanka

Win: The Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

From the strange case of 'The Red-Headed League' to the extraordinary case of 'The Engineer's Thumb,' Sherlock Holmes and his assistant, Dr. Watson, grapple with treachery, murder and ingenious crimes of all kinds.

But no case is too challenging, no mystery insoluble, for the legendary detective's unique powers of deduction.



Book Competition

9 years and below

A fun Christmas party
Samadhi Herath
Matale Int. School

10 – 12 years

What I wish for Christmas
Nethmi Batuwita
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7



NOTE

Please see Page 6 in the online edition for the winning essays.

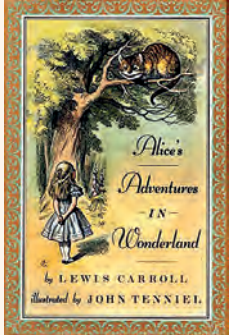
Write at the top of your Essay

■ **Book Competition** ■ **Essay Topic**



Lewis Carroll

British author, mathematician, logician and photographer Charles Dodgson is best known by his pen name of Lewis Carroll. He is renowned for writing two of the most famous and admired children's books in the world: 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' (1865) and its sequel, 'Through the Looking-Glass' (1871). Dodgson also wrote poetry for children, including the famous nonsense poem 'The Hunting of the Snark' (1876), as well as mathematical treatises.



Carroll was born in Daresbury, England, on January 27, 1832. His real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. He studied mathematics at Oxford University in England. For most of his life he lived at Oxford while teaching mathematics. He wrote books on mathematics and logic.

Dodgson loved to spend time with children.

One day in 1862, he rowed

up the Thames River together with his friend Reverend Duckworth, accompanied by three young girls who were the daughters of another friend Henry Liddell. One of the girls was named Alice. The journey on a river in Oxford was five miles long, and during the trip, Dodgson told the girls' tales about a child named Alice who goes looking for an adventure.

Later he used the tales to write 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'. It was published as a book in 1865. In the story Alice crawls into a rabbit hole and meets all sorts of interesting creatures.

Another book about Alice, 'Through the Looking-Glass', appeared in 1871. Dodgson wrote the books under the name Lewis Carroll. They were very popular.

Dodgson also used the name Lewis Carroll to write books of poetry for children. In 1876 he published a famous nonsense poem, 'The Hunting of the Snark'.

He died in Guildford, England, on January 14, 1898.



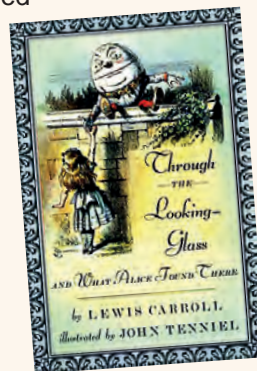
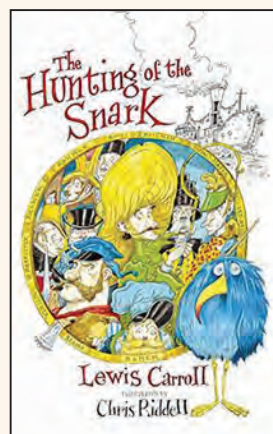
Fun Facts

- Lewis Carroll was one of eleven children. When he was growing up, he often spent time playing literary games with his brothers and sisters.
- He was also very keen on drawing as a child.
- Lewis Carroll often used to take the three daughters of his friend, Dean Henry Liddell, for days out and boat trips on the river. It was on one of these trips that he first told the story that became 'Alice in Wonderland'.
- As well as writing children's books, Lewis Carroll also enjoyed writing poetry, and he was a keen letter writer.
- Lewis Carroll produced several works about mathematics when he was working at Oxford University, and he invented the Carroll Diagram (sometimes known as the Lewis Carroll Square), a method of grouping data which is still taught in maths lessons to today.
- Lewis Carroll loved puzzles and games. He was a very keen chess player, and there are lots of references to chess (and other games) in his books for children.

Britannica Kids & Primary Facts



One of Carroll's own illustrations



*L. Dodgson
[alias "Lewis Carroll"]*





Maths Pythagoras – The Father of Numbers

Maths in Action 71

By R. N. A. de Silva

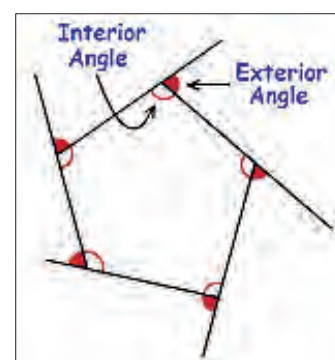
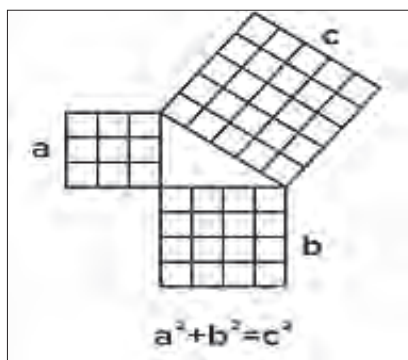
Pythagoras was a Greek mathematician and philosopher who lived around 570 BC on an island called Samos in Greece. Later Pythagoras moved to Croton in Southern Italy, where he started his school. His followers were known as Pythagorean scholars.

As a mathematician, he is known as the 'father of numbers' or as the first pure mathematician. He is best known for his Pythagorean Theorem on the relation between the sides of a right triangle, where the area of the square whose side is the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the areas of the squares on the other two sides.

Besides Pythagoras Theorem, there are many other contributions made by Pythagoras. He reflected more on the mystical study of mathematics rather than its practical application. Pythagoras started the idea of a numerical system, and therefore the beginning of mathematics.

The basic idea of Pythagorean School was "All is number". They believed that each number has its meaning and character. Odd numbers were considered as female and even numbers as male.

He can also be considered as the 'father of harmony' considering his contributions to the field of music. One day, he was passing by a blacksmith and found the sound of a hammer to be musical. He went inside and started beating hammers of different sizes on a table and observed that the tune played by the hammer was directly proportional to the size of the hammer. Pythagoras and his followers later found that a string of a particular thickness and length makes a particular sound,



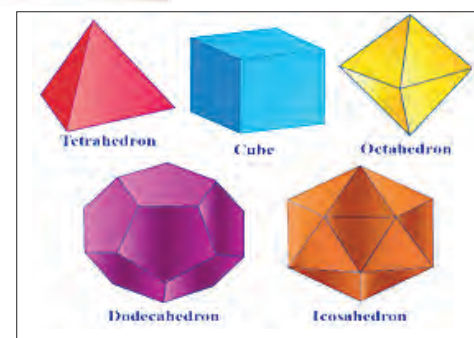
whereas a string of half of its length will make the same sound but on a higher note. They used ratio 1:2 for octave, 2:3 for perfect fifth and 3:4 for perfect fourth.

In addition to the famous Pythagoras Theorem, Pythagoreans also made many other contributions in geometry some of which are stated below.

- The sum of the internal angles of a triangle equals two right angles.
- The sum of the external angles of a triangle equals four right angles.
- The sum of the interior angles of any polygon is $(2n - 4)$ right angles, where n is the number of sides.
- The sum of the exterior angles of a polygon equals four right angles, however many sides.
- The three polygons, the triangle, hexagon and square, completely fill the space around a point on a plane. You can tile an area with these three shapes, without leaving gaps or having overlaps.

Pythagoras is also credited with the discovery of five regular solids: cube, triangle, octahedron, dodecahedron and icosahedron.

Properties of these solids were further elaborated by Plato and hence these are named after him as Platonic solids.



Pythagoreans were the first to identify the perfect numbers.

Perfect numbers are those numbers that are equal to the sum of their proper divisors. 6 is a perfect number because $6 = 1 + 2 + 3$ and 28 is a perfect number as $28 = 1 + 2 + 4 + 7 + 14$. Later Euclid proved that $2^{p-1}(2^p - 1)$ is an even perfect number whenever $2^p - 1$ is prime.

The first three perfect numbers generated by the formula $2^{p-1}(2^p - 1)$, with p as a prime number are:

$$\text{For } p = 2: 2^1(2^2 - 1) = 2 \times 3 = 6$$

$$\text{For } p = 3: 2^2(2^3 - 1) = 4 \times 7 = 28$$

$$\text{For } p = 5: 2^4(2^5 - 1) = 16 \times 31 = 496$$

Can you find the next perfect number?

Math Plot - 71

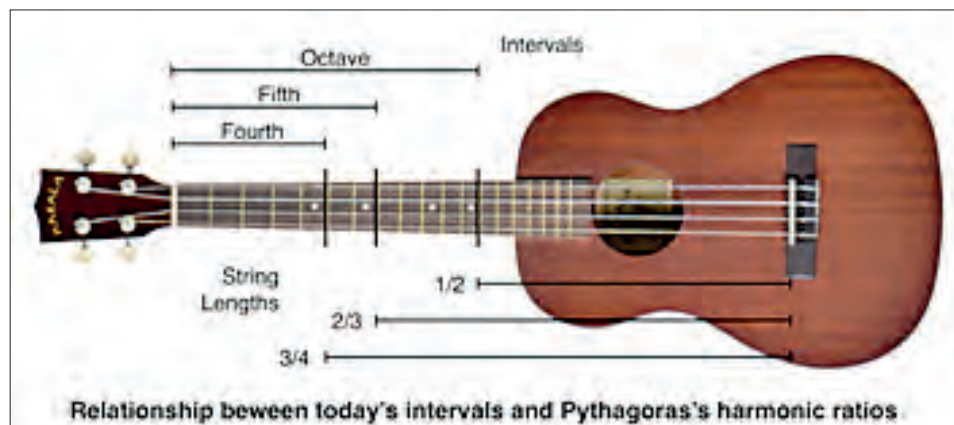
Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to ndesilva@osc.lk within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

How many times do the two hands of a clock cross each other in a day of 24 hours?

Math Plot 70 – Solution

The answer is 'SEVEN'.

The winner is **Senuli Rathnasekara** of **St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7**. Congratulations!



Relationship between today's intervals and Pythagoras's harmonic ratios

Trailblazing Women in Education

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

International Day of Education is celebrated annually on January 24, in order to remind the world of the important role education plays in the achievement of peace and development. This year's theme is "to invest in people, prioritise education".

In light of that, it seems fitting to go back in time and look at a few trailblazing female educators.

The fifth edition of International Day of Education is marked in 2023 and UNESCO has dedicated it to all girls and women in Afghanistan, who have been denied their human right to education.



Savitribai Phule

The first female teacher in India, Savitribai Phule (1831-1897) was born in the state of Maharashtra.

In 1848, she co-founded the Indigenous Library (one of the first schools for girls in India) along with her husband Jyotirao Phule and Fatima Sheikh.

Savitribai is also referred to as the mother of Indian feminism.



Fatima Sheikh

Widely considered to be the first female Muslim teacher in India (1848), Fatima Sheikh (1831-1900) was born in Pune. She and her brother, Usman Sheikh, gave shelter to the Phules after they were evicted from their home for trying to educate people of lower castes.

During this time, the Indigenous Library was started in their premises in 1848, and she and Savitribai began teaching women and children who were denied an education because of their class, religion or gender.



Maria Montessori



Maria Montessori (1870 - 1952) was an Italian educator responsible for creating the Montessori system of education, which is based upon the view that each child should be treated as an individual, that they have an innate curiosity to learn and that they have a lot of creative potential.


She was the first woman to graduate in medicine from the University of Rome, after which she took an interest in the educational problems of children with learning difficulties. Her teaching methods proved successful when applied to children of normal intelligence and resulted in the opening of many Montessori schools around the world.

Fanny Jackson Coppin

Fanny Jackson Coppin (1837-1913) was born in the United States as a slave, gained her freedom at a young age and made up her mind to get an education. So, while working as a domestic servant, she studied to enter a school.

After graduating, she started teaching Latin, Greek and Mathematics at the Institute for Coloured Youth in Philadelphia, where she went on to become the principal - the first African American woman to rise to that position in the United States.




EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT



TO CHANGE THE WORLD

#EducationDay

UN Photo/Mark Garten

'One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world.' UN Messenger of Peace Malala Yousafzai.

9 years and below**A fun Christmas party**

I looked at my calendar. Christmas was coming up. I had an idea of having a Christmas party. I also got my permission from my mother. First my sister and I made a plan. Then we arranged our house by decorating the Christmas tree and blowing balloons etc.

Next we made invitation cards for our friends. Then our father posted the cards. It was 8.30 p.m., so we slept and woke up early the next morning. Then we had our breakfast. After that we opened our gifts. My sister and I got two dolls. We wore our beautiful Christmas dresses. We played and had fun. Our mother baked a cake and we helped her. Then it was lunch time so we had lunch.

I looked at the time, it was 4 p.m. After a minute or two our friends arrived. We sang Christmas carols, played games etc. Then we ate cake. Suddenly the doorbell rang. I opened the door. It was dad who was dressed as Santa Claus. He threw candy at us. We caught them. It was 6 p.m., when all our friends left. We had lots of fun. I love fun Christmas parties.

Samadhi Herath (8 years)
Matale International School

Book Competition**10 – 12 years****What I wish for Christmas**

Christmas is a great season to give gifts and receive ones. My dream is to get a pair of roller skates. They must be pink in colour and decorated with pictures of butterflies. There should be four wheels on each boot, fixed in a single line along the sole. It's also called inline roller skates.

I will have great fun learning to roller skate. It will take some time and effort to skate gracefully. I will practice my new skill at the Diyatha Uyana park since there is a smooth road specially designed for cycling and roller skating.

I will wear elbow and knee guards along with a helmet to protect myself from injuries when falling.

Nowadays roller skating is becoming more popular in the world. There are different types of world class competitions in roller skating such as artistic, speed skating and even roller hockey.

I wish that one day competitors from Sri Lanka will participate and win medals in these events.

Nethmi Batuwita (12 years)
St. Bridget's Convent,
Colombo 7

Gupshup Goes to Prison by Arefa Tehsin

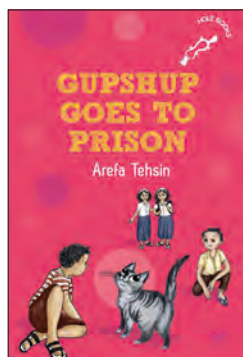
"Khalid's cat Gupshup has run away to the grounds of a prison.

An open prison, it is called, but everyone knows that prisons are full of horrible people. Or are they? How on earth will Khalid get Gupshup home?"

Usually, a prison is a place where criminals are locked up. This story is about an open prison where prisoners are not locked but free to move in and out.

The Pallekelle Open Prison Camp in Sri Lanka is one such open prison. It prepares prisoners for day-to-day existence in the community.

Over the years it has grown into a sprawling rural village, where there are no boundary walls or cells. Residents work and participate in leisure time activities. Many cultivate private plots of land and sell their produce.

**Competition**

Win a copy of 'Gupshup Goes to Prison'.

Write a short story or essay about your pet or an animal you like.

Age group: 7 – 10 years **Word count:** Maximum of 300 words

Please include the following details:

*Full Name (including Surname), Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone Number and School.*

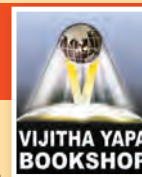
All competition entries should be certified as your own work.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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

Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it. What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book.

The best account in the three age groups will be awarded book vouchers of Rs. 500 each from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop.

Three winners will be selected each month.

Your account should not exceed 200 words.

Please indicate word count on entry. Please fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Large iceberg breaks off Antarctica's Brunt Ice Shelf

January 24

An iceberg nearly as big as Greater London has broken off the thick Brunt Ice Shelf in Antarctica. Scientists who monitor the cracks in the ice there have been expecting it to happen, but they couldn't predict exactly when. The good news is that it's not related to climate change.

So how and why has this happened? The Brunt Ice Shelf is one of many ice shelves attached to the coastline of Antarctica. The biggest is called the Ross Ice Shelf and is almost twice the size of the UK. Ice shelves are permanent floating sheets of ice that act as a kind of barrier between the

land and sea. They are usually around 150 – 200 metres thick.

Every year ice shelves can grow or shrink up to a mile, before eventually a crack will begin to form in the ice, and a chunk may break off. This is part of a natural cycle called 'calving' that all ice shelves go through, and can take many years.

Scientists monitor any major cracks in the Brunt and noticed one – called Chasm One – was starting to open up again even though

it hadn't been active for decades. The discovery was made by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) whose base – the Halley Research Station – is located nearby.



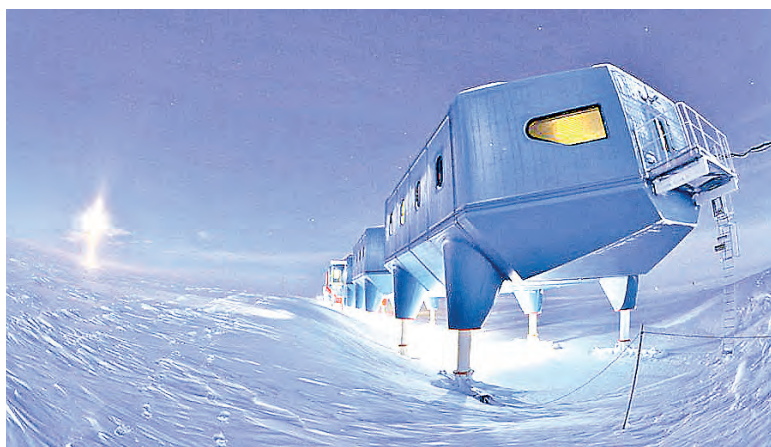
You can see from this graphic just how big the new iceberg is.



This is what Chasm One looked like before the iceberg broke off.

The next step is for scientists to look at the satellite images from before and after the calving to make sure there are no threats to the research station. They'll also keep an eye on where the new iceberg is heading.

CBBC Newsround



The UK has had a research station on the Brunt Ice Shelf since 1957.

Young fossil hunter discovers massive Megalodon tooth

January 23

Nine-year-old Molly Sampson and her 17-year-old sister Natalie had only one item on their Christmas list last year. They wanted chest-high waterproof overalls to "go shark's-tooth hunting like professionals." Their wish was granted. On Christmas morning, the sisters set out to Maryland's Calvert Beach with their father to put their new equipment to use.

The tide was particularly low, and Molly fearlessly walked through the ocean water in frigid 10° F (-12° C) weather. In less than half an hour, she noticed "something big" beneath the water's surface. To her delight, it was exactly what she had hoped to find: a Megalodon Shark tooth.

"We went out shark's tooth hunting around 9:30 because it was a low tide," Molly said. "And we're wading out in

the water, and I looked over, and I looked down in the water, and I saw it, and I reached in and grabbed it."

The Sampsons took Molly's exciting find to the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland, USA. Here, Dr. Stephen Godfrey, the Curator of Paleontology, confirmed that the massive five-inch tooth was indeed that of a Megalodon.

Molly estimates that its former owner was about 50 feet long. The Otodus Megalodon ("giant tooth") is a species of mackerel shark that went extinct about 3.6 million years ago. The monstrous fish grew between 60 to 70 feet (18 to 21 metres) long.



The waters off Calvert Cliffs in the USA were once home to whales and dolphins that would have attracted hungry Megalodons and other shark species.

Sharks frequently lose their teeth and replace them with new ones. While over a hundred are found annually, few are as large as the one Molly found.

Over the years, Molly has collected over 400 shark teeth along Maryland's coast. She suspects at least six of them once belonged to Megalodons!

DOGO News

January 24

News in Pictures

**Paris, France**

Models walk the runway during the Chanel haute couture spring/summer 2023 show as part of Paris Fashion Week.

**Trabzon, Turkey**

Sumela Monastery is illuminated at night during the winter season in Trabzon. The monastery, which is included in UNESCO's temporary list of World Heritage Sites, was reopened for religious practice in 2010 after an 88-year hiatus.

**Whanganui, New Zealand**

Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, and incoming Labour leader and Prime Minister, Chris Hipkins, arrive to attend Ratana celebrations.

Gaza City, Gaza Strip

A Palestinian schoolgirl holds a copy of the Qur'an during a protest against the burning of the book in Sweden. The leader of the far-right Danish political party Stram Kurs, Rasmus Paludan, burned a copy during a protest in front of the Turkish embassy in Stockholm on January 21.



January 23

New Delhi, India

Border security force soldiers ride camels during the full dress rehearsal for the upcoming Republic Day parade.

**Kars, Turkey**

Short-track speed skating child-athletes practise on the frozen surface of Lake Çıldır.

**Hawaii, USA**

Mark Healy rides a wave during the Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational surfing contest at Waimea Bay on the North Shore of Oahu in Hawaii.

**Tokyo, Japan**

Emperor Naruhito (centre) takes part in the opening ceremony of an ordinary session of the Diet, the country's parliament, at the National Diet building.

**Zakopane, Poland**

Visitors try to find the exit from the Snowlandia winter theme park's labyrinth.

Source : The Guardian