Anniversary Wishes from Ruzaina & Ruzaiq Junkeer
Our Grade Four excursion

June 14, 2023 was our Grade Four field trip. We were so excited. Our class teacher started giving out information to our parents about the trip. The trip was on a Wednesday and my mom and I spent hours shopping for the trip. Soon it was getting late so mom helped me pack.

On Wednesday, I woke up early and brushed my teeth and dressed quickly. Dad said that he would drop me on time. I arrived at school and assembly started and finished quickly. Our teacher marked the register.

Then it was time to go. We went in a city bus. Our teacher told us that we were going to the Elephant House Factory in Avissawella and the Seethawaka Botanical Garden.

We couldn’t just sit and wait until we reached our destination, so we danced, played and sang. Soon we arrived and once we entered the factory the owner of the factory gave a small speech. The real fun started when we entered the freezing room. After our educational journey was over, it was time for the real fun. We loved the factory visit and the new experience.

Then we went to the Seethawaka Botanical Garden which is a conserved area for plants and animals. It is also located in Avissawella. It is an eco-friendly area.

I asked my teacher whether we could play and she said of course. So we played and made the most of our time there.

We were so tired but we just didn’t want to leave. Soon after, we collapsed onto the bus seats and left. We returned back to school in no time. My father came to pick me up and I told him about the trip. I will never forget this experience.

Senuri Gunawardana (9 years)
Methodist College, Colombo

Water

Water is a substance composed of chemical elements of Hydrogen (H) and Oxygen (O). Water is also simply defined as the liquid that makes life possible on Earth.

There are three states of water. They are; Solid, Liquid and Gas. The percentages of water on earth are; Sea water (salty water) 97%, Ice water (glaciers) 2.33% and Fresh water (usable water) 0.01%.

Water pollution is harmful and toxic waste entering water bodies. There are two ways water pollution can occur. One is natural ways such as volcanic eruptions, animal waste, algae blooms etc., and the other is from human activities such as pesticides used in farming, oil spills, chemical fertilizer, fossil fuel combustion etc.

Many diseases are caused or spread by water pollution such as Hepatitis, Cholera, Malaria and Dengue. Damage to the eco-system, threat to life, the spread of diseases due to contaminated water are some of the damages caused by water pollution. Nearly 5 – 10 million people die each year due to diseases caused by water pollution.

Saving water, fixing broken taps and water leaks, turning off running taps and taking short showers are some preventive measures.

Senuli Rathnasekara (14 years)
St. Bridget’s Convent, Colombo

My pet

My pet is a kitten. Its name is Kimmy. Kimmy eats fish and drinks milk. She plays with me. Kimmy loves me so much.

My pet is very kind and nice. My mom take cares of Kimmy until I come home from school.

I love my pet so much.

Devanya Perera (Grade 1)
Wycherly Int. School, Colombo

Myself

My name is Jevindu Vinmeth. I am a boy. I am six years old. I live in Katuwawala. There are four members in my family. My school is JMC College, Maharagama. I like to eat rice. My ambition is to be a pilot.

Jevindu Vinmeth (Grade 1)
JMC College Int., Maharagama

Do not pollute our Motherland

Senuth Pinidiyaarachchi (Grade 5)
Polymath College, Nawinna
**Dancing time**

Gawri Madhushika (Grade 2)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**Fun Craft**

Mohamed Reemas (Grade 3)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**Solar System**

There are eight planets in the Solar System. All the planets are around the Sun. The planet names are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. The smallest planet is Mercury. The largest planet is Jupiter. Uranus planet has rings. The brightest planet is Venus.

Vishaka Ariyarathna (Grade 2)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**Natural beauty of the Earth**

Minuthi Peiris (8 years)
St. John’s Girls’ School, Panadura

**Great Hunters**

The largest meat eating animal was the dinosaur. The biggest dinosaurs were the Carnosaurs. They have lots of teeth as sharp as daggers. Carnosaurus was discovered in Argentina. A heavy tail is held out, straight behind the body of these creatures. Their body weight is supported by thick back legs. The Carnosaur’s skull was 1.6 m long.

Tiago Perera (Grade 3)
Wellington Int. College, Bandarawela

**How I spent my vacation**

On my vacation days I went to Seethawaka Botanical Garden. We went on the ‘Seethawaka Odyssey’ train with my family members.

On that day we went to Ramnudu Ella to have a bath. After that we went to the Botanical Garden. There are so many attractive flowers and a spring coming from the forest.

I am very thankful to have seen Seethawaka Botanical Garden.

Bivon Denith (Grade 6)
Siri Piyarathana C.C., Padukka

**My favourite cartoon**

My favourite cartoon is Butterbean’s Café. The main character of this cartoon is Butterbean. She is a fairy and has a café. She has three fairy friends. They are Dazzle, Poppy and Jasper. Butterbean has a sister. Her name is Cricket. She is seven years old. They all together have a café. It’s Butterbean’s Café.

Butterbean is boss of the café. She plans all the activities and the food menus in the café. Dazzle is the receptionist. She takes care of the customers and serves them. Poppy is the head chef. She cooks delicious dishes. Jasper is the delivery boy. He delivers to customers and also does the groceries for the café. But sometimes, Butterbean goes on deliveries too in the café truck which is called ‘Sweet Ride.’

Cricket helps the team and sometimes enjoys playing and running inside and round the café with her pet kitten Cookie.

Together they make a great team. Their team is called the Bean Team. They give a great service to the customers.

I like watching this cartoon.

Aaysha Ramshad (11 years)
Swansea Int. School, Matale

**My favourite vehicle**

Tiago Pereira Dixon (9 years)
Wellington Int. College, Bandarawela

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.

In our online issue this week:

- Page 5 – Animals
- Page 6 – Fun Craft
- Page 7 – Kids News
- Page 8 – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times ePaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week’s Funday Times.
Lord Macartney’s aims

1. British envoy John Pybus did not have a good impression of the palace behaviour in Kandy. The nilames of the palace did not pay attention to protocols and did not act respectfully. All of this disappointed and displeased Pybus and so he did not come to an agreement with the Kandyan King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe.

Meanwhile, during the American War of Independence, the rights to the neutral inspection of ships’ became an issue between England and Holland. A war broke out in December 1780, between these two nations because of this problem.

2. In 1781, British Lord Macartney, was appointed as the Governor of Madras. He mobilized troops to gain control of trade camps close to areas that were owned by the Dutch. He used a fleet of British ships to block the Dutch battalions from entering Nagapatnam, which was considered the gateway to Tanjore.

Another British battalion was sent to guard Trincomalee. Army troops were dispatched by road to Nagapatnam and on November 11, 1781 surrounded the city. A fleet of ships commanded by Sir. Edward Hughes also arrived.

3. On January 5, 1782, Trincomalee was captured by the British. Upon the capture of Trincomalee Fort, within six days, Fort Ostenburg was also taken over by the British. Macartney did not want to stop there, his aim was to capture Colombo.

Before attempting to capture Colombo, Lord Macartney decided to come to an agreement with the King of Kandy. His idea was not only to negotiate for food and support for his army in Trincomalee. He had an even bigger motive.

4. Macartney believed that if the war between the British and the Dutch was resolved, then soon the Dutch areas his army had captured, would be returned back to the Dutch. His aim was to negotiate an agreement with the King of Kandy whereby the king would gift Trincomalee harbour to the British.

To obtain permanent rights, Lord Macartney sent his Secretary Hugh Boyd in secret, with gifts and a message for the King of Kandy, to negotiate a treaty. As they had planned to siege Colombo in April that year, Boyd was very eager to meet the King of Kandy.

To be continued....

History Quiz - 4

Q: Who was Lord Macartney and what were his aims?

History Quiz - 3

Videw Weeraratne, Kiribathgoda

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.

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

Closing date for this week’s competitions: September 13, 2023

Competition entries without the full details requested will be disqualified.

Sinhala text by Halaliye Karunathilaka
Illustrated by Saman Kalubowila

This article is part of a continuing series on the history of Sri Lanka

AUGUST 27, 2023
Sea Star

You probably know sea stars as starfish, the name sea stars are commonly known by. But sea stars aren’t really fish. Sea stars, like sea urchins and sand dollars, do not have backbones, which makes them part of a group called invertebrates. Fish have backbones, which makes them vertebrates.

Most sea stars sport spiny skin and five arms, although some can grow as many as 50 arms. The arms are covered with pincerlike organs and suckers that allow the animal to slowly creep along the ocean floor.

Light-sensitive eyespots on the tips of the arms help the sea star find food.

Favourites on the menu include mollusks such as clams, oysters and snails. The sea star eats by attaching to prey and extending its stomach out through its mouth. Enzymes from the sea star’s stomach digest the prey. The digested material enters the sea star’s stomach.

Tiny organisms can be swallowed whole.

Sea stars occupy every type of habitat, including tidal pools, rocky shores, sea grass, kelp beds and coral reefs. Some sea stars even live in sands as deep as 20,530 feet (9,000 metres).

Sea stars aren’t social creatures, but they will congregate in large groups during certain times of the year to feed.

National Geographic Kids

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**Cartoon Time!**

Hey Kids!

We plan to put in more cartoons in the Funday Times and what’s more they will be your own cartoons. So, here’s a chance for you to try your hand at producing your own original cartoons.

Draw a little cartoon with a caption. It could even be a small cartoon story in a strip (not more than three boxes).

The best cartoons you send will be published in the Funday Times. So good luck to all you cartoon fans!

Please remember that the cartoons you send in should be your original work and not copied or traced from anything. They should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher.
**Paper Plate Bear Mask**

**What you need:**
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Colour paper (yellow, green, light and dark brown)
- Paper plate
- Tape
- Acrylic paint (bear: brown)
- Paintbrush
- Craft stick

**Method:**

Cut the paper plate in half and paint it with brown acrylic paint.

Draw ears on brown paper, and cut them out. Draw inner ears on light brown. Cut out the inner ears and glue them into the outer ears.

Draw the face on body-coloured paper. Continue by drawing a nose and mouth with black marker.

Draw the eyes on the mask, then cut them out. Glue the eyes onto the head. You can make the ears as close together or as far apart as you’d like.

Glue the nose and mouth onto the head of the bear. Draw eyebrows with a black marker. You can get a little more creative with the eyebrows if you want.

Glue the craft stick with tape. You can also tape the stick to the back of the mask.

Now, this Paper Plate Mask is ready to be put to good use with your imagination.
A new £2 coin has been created by the Royal Mint to celebrate the life and work of the famous British author JRR Tolkien.

Tolkien is most famous for writing ‘The Hobbit’ and ‘The Lord of the Rings’ — hugely popular fantasy series — selling more than 100 million copies worldwide that were later adapted into blockbuster films.

Rebecca Morgan at The Royal Mint said: “Our master craftspeople have worked carefully to create a coin which is a testament to arguably one of the greatest authors, poets, scholars and philologists in our history.”

The special coins celebrate the author’s life, marking 50 years since he died.

What do the Tolkien coins look like?
The Royal Mint has made four Tolkien-themed coins to celebrate. The first is made of gold (and costs £1,250), there are two in silver (that cost £77.50 and £127.50), and one of nickel and brass (that costs £12). They all feature Tolkien’s special monogram symbol, made from the letters of his name: J, R, R and T — John Ronald Reuel Tolkien. They also feature a quote from his book, ‘The Fellowship of the Ring’, first in the ‘Lord of the Rings’ series - which says: “Not all those who wander are lost”.

Can you spend commemorative coins?
All of the coins are uncirculated — which means they are for collecting only and can’t be spent in shops like regular money.

The coins were designed by specialist artist David Lawrence.

2023 is on track to be the planet’s hottest year on record

The global temperatures in June 2023 far exceeded the previous record set in June 2019. The sweltering weather intensified in July.

On August 14, 2023, NASA reported that it was the hottest month since global temperature record-keeping began in 1880. Some experts believe July may have been the hottest month in 120,000 years. If the trend continues into the fall and winter, 2023 may surpass 2016 as the hottest year on record.

What is causing the extreme weather?
Climate scientists attribute the extreme temperatures to global warming caused by rising carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and the return of El Niño.

Carbon dioxide emissions
Global CO₂ emissions from burning oil, gas and coal set a new record in 2022. Even worse, the world’s two largest economies, China and the US, are showing no signs of cutting back. China’s CO₂ emissions hit a new high in the first quarter of 2023. US energy-related emissions are also expected to rise this year.

El Niño
El Niño means ‘little boy’ in Spanish. It is a climate pattern that describes above-average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. El Niño events typically last nine to 12 months. They usually result in warmer weather around the world.

July was the warmest month on record across the world

Extreme weather impact on the planet
This summer’s sweltering temperatures have affected countries worldwide. Canada has been battling hundreds of wildfires since early June. Uncontrollable blazes have burned through millions of acres and caused mass evacuations.

In Europe, firefighters are combating fires across the continent, from Portugal to Greece to Italy. The US is not immune either. The windswept wildfires that scorched Maui, Hawaii, on August 8, 2023, are believed to be the deadliest in the nation’s history. So far, 114 people have been confirmed dead and over 800 are still missing.

Meanwhile, heavy rainfall has caused massive floods in South Korea, Japan, India and Pakistan. Even the coldest place on Earth — Antarctica — has been impacted. The continent’s sea ice usually reaches its maximum extent during the winter months (March to October). However, it is currently almost a million square miles (2.6 million km²) smaller than the expected annual average.
News in Pictures

August 22

Outer space
An image from the James Webb telescope shows the Ring Nebula in unprecedented detail.

Thrace, Greece
Firefighters and volunteers tackle a wildfire near the village of Palagia.

Scotland, UK
The cast of ‘HOME’ during a photocall in the Water of Leith, Edinburgh. The show highlights the climate crisis and how flooding is affecting the Fens in East Anglia and is being performed at the Edinburgh festival fringe.

Chennai, India
Students with their faces painted as the moon gather to celebrate the country’s first attempt to land on Earth’s satellite.

August 21

Santa Catarina State, Brazil
An aerial view of hundreds of drummers as they perform at the Florianópolis Drum Orchestra event, which is considered the largest meeting of drummers in the Americas.

Paris, France
A model of the reconstruction of the spire of Notre Dame Cathedral.

Birmingham, UK
Sweden play India in a women’s blind football match at the IBSA World Games.

Auburn, USA
Competitors leave the gates during the T-Rex World Championship Races at Emerald Downs.

Bhaktapur Nepal
Devotees carry a golden statue at Snake Pond. Nepal observes the Nagpanchami (Snake Festival) to pray for protection from rain, landslides, floods and other natural calamities that sometimes occur during the monsoon season.

Source: The Guardian