

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 22, 2023



# FUNDA Y TIMES



**Playing 'House'**



PAGES 2 = 3

**KEKULU ART  
COMPETITION**  
PAGE 4

**(ONLINE)**



**ANIMALS**  
PAGE 5



PAGES 7 = 8

Follow us on  
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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](mailto: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 No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

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

**Closing date for this week's competitions:**

**November 8, 2023**



**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Animals
- **Page 6** – Young Reporter
- **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.

### Best friend

A friend is a partner and a helper. When we work in society, we meet people and make friends day by day. Usually we have a habit of choosing one friend among them and naming him as 'best friend'. He is the best among our friends and we have a special connection with him.

The connection between friends is called friendship. It is a good and strong understanding between friends and it is a pleasure found in companionship.

According to my thinking, friendship is something that grows strong with love and understanding. It depends on sharing and caring. We must be smart enough to understand who our real friends are because all are not friends as we think.

Whatever others may say or do, I'm sure that having a real friend is a good blessing. So we must keep in mind that, 'A friend in need is a friend indeed'.

**Ruzaiq Junkeer (12 years)**  
Carey College, Colombo 8

### My teacher

My teacher's name is Ayesha. She is 30 years old. She is very kind to us. My teacher teaches us Maths, Sinhala, Dictation, ENV and Tamil. She loves us. We too love her very much.

**Riyal Abdur Rahman (Grade 4)**  
President's College, Kotte

### Solar System

In our Solar System there are eight planets. The planets have their own symbols.



**Fun Fact:**  
Mars symbol is the shield and spear of the god of war.

**Senuth Pinidiyaarachchi (10 years)**  
Polymath College, Nawinna

### A beautiful vase



**Vasanthakumar Anjana (14 years)**  
Hindu Ladies' College

### Night rainbow



**Devanga Perera (6 years)**  
Wycherley Int. School, Colombo

### Night sky



**Aaminah Azmi (15 years)**  
St. Paul's Girls' School, Milagiriya

### A country I would like to visit

A foreign country I would like to visit is Japan. It is a beautiful country with attractive scenery, interesting culture and grand cities. Firstly, I want to go sightseeing Japan's landscapes. I want to see Mount Fuji, which is a mountain covered by snow on the top. It is one of the symbols of Japan. I would like to have a picnic amongst the cherry blossoms, which would be heavenly.

Secondly, I will explore Japan's culture. I would eat as much Japanese food as possible. Their food is attractively decorated and tastes unique. Sushi, Ramen and Dango are some such foods. I would like to try on a kimono, a dress worn by women.

Finally, I would visit Japanese cities. I will visit the Tokyo Disneyland and have fun in the amusement park. I will visit ancient castles such as Nagoya and Osaka castle. I will also visit Tokyo Tower from where I could see the whole city. Japan is the Number 1 country in technology and I would get a chance to witness their advancement.

These are a few reasons why I choose Japan. I plan to visit this country when I am an adult.

**Nivethikaa Yogendran (13 years)**  
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7

**My teacher**



**Sanduli**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**Happy Teachers Day**

Thank you Teacher for teaching us. You not only teach us but you also correct us. You correct us very kindly and lovingly. Teacher we know that you love us. We too love you dear teacher.



God will bless you dear teacher. He loves you because you love us.

**Clara Hettiarachchi (8 years)**  
Holy Family B. V., Kirimatiyagara

**Happy Children's Day**



**Binuka Liyanage (Grade 4)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**My village**

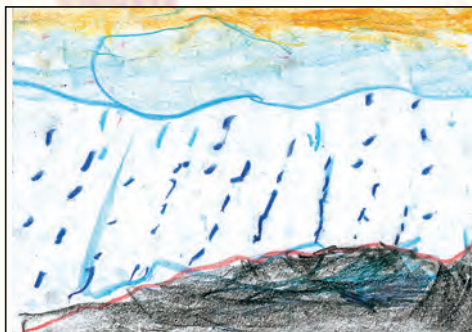
My village is Netolpitiya. It is a very beautiful village. There is a temple, school and post office in my village. It is in the Hambantota district. It is near Tangalle town.

The majority of people living in my village are Sinhalese and they live in peace and happiness. There are many paddy fields in my village. My village is clean.

I love my village very much.

**H.W.S. Dewnuda (Grade 3)**  
Tangalle Primary School

**Rainy day**



**Jayden Dasanayake (Pre Grade 1)**  
Lyceum 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.



**Greenhouse**

Grapes are native to southern countries but grow very well in a greenhouse. The glass in a greenhouse is often very thin and breaks easily.

It's a good idea to gather rain water in a barrel to water the plants in your greenhouse. Tomatoes grow best in a greenhouse. Aubergines are beautiful vegetables grown in a greenhouse.

Some plants need a lot of heat in order to grow and flower. A greenhouse stays hot in the sun.

**Daniel Perera Dixon (Grade 4)**  
Wellington Int. College, Bandarawela

**Children's Garden**



**Rajeevkanth Ashwini (7 years)**  
Vincent Girls' High School, Batticaloa

**A machine I would like to invent**

In today's era, many machines have been invented by man. In that way, I also have a desire to invent a machine. Man has invented machines to make his work easier but what I would like to invent is a machine that can find the inner feelings of every human being.

This machine should be able to work together with the human being. This machine can be like a medicine for anxiety. When a person is worried, it can help relieve fatigue and relieve loneliness. It will also be a machine that can talk with old people when they are lonely in their

old age and chase away their loneliness.

Today, everyone from children to adults are under stress. Data indicates that this makes us prone to various infectious diseases.

So, I think that a machine that can relieve their stress and be their friend would be loved by everyone, from kids to adults. My machine will be not only for entertainment but also a medicine for stress.

**Raja Thambiththurai Sakshmi (11 years)**  
Hindu Central College, Puttalam



# Kekulu Kinder ART COMPETITION - 2023

## Application Form

Child's Full Name : .....

Date of Birth : .....

Permanent Address and Telephone Number : .....

Email Address : .....

Kindergarten Name and Address : .....

Kindergarten Principal's Name : .....

Phone Number : .....

Kindergarten Email : .....

District : .....

Kindergarten Principal's Signature : .....

1. Eligible only for children of 2 ½ to 5 years of age.
  2. Competition topic is 'Our Family'.
  3. Drawing can be submitted only on an A4 sheet using pastels only.
  4. Should be certified by the Kindergarten Principal, that the drawing is done by the child.
  5. It is mandatory to paste the application to the back of drawing.
  6. Certificates are given only for drawings where application form is filled correctly.
  7. The product wrappings and the drawing to be enclosed in an envelope without stapling together and sent to the following address before 30th November 2023.
  8. Address: Hettigoda Industries (Pvt) Ltd., No. 33/3, Sri Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana.
  9. It is important to have filled the application form correctly. If not, the drawing will be rejected.
  10. Any clarifications on the competition, please call Yuresh on 077 244 0442 or Isuru on 077 261 3255.
- It is mandatory to include a product wrapping from any of the following product categories, to partake in the competition.



Kekulu Baby Soap



Kekulu Toothpastes



Kekulu Baby Cologne



Kekulu Toothbrush



FM 95 | 94.8  
THE OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER



OFFICIAL PRINT PARTNER

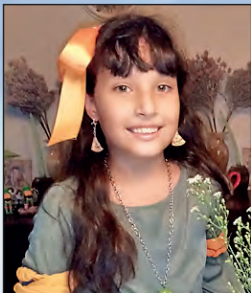


OFFICIAL BANKING PARTNER



Kekulu Baby Soap 5 in 1

\* Important Notice – To all Kindergarten Principals, please ensure that all drawings are submitted with the correct product wrappings to the above address before 30th November, 2023.



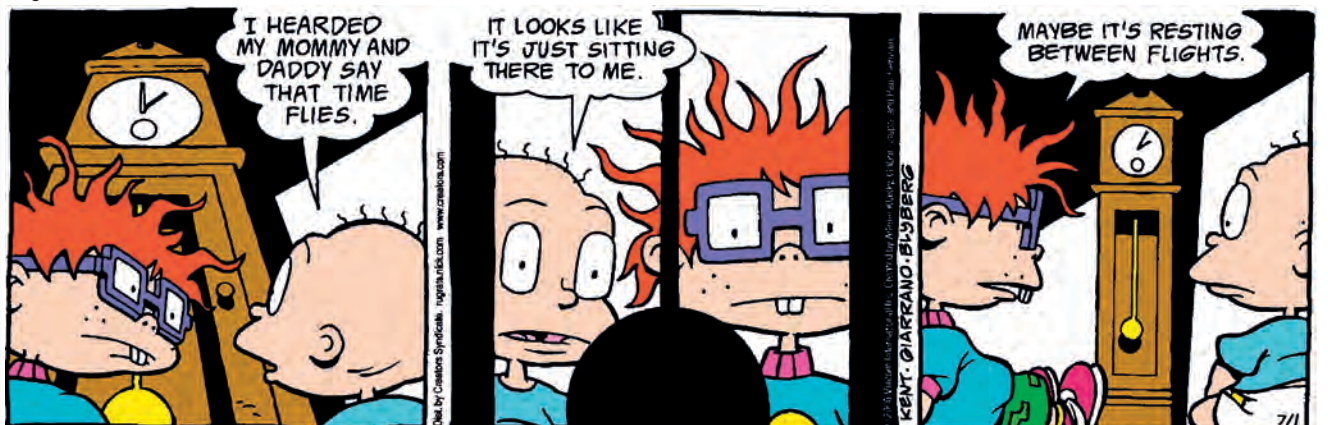
Kayley Wijesuriya  
10 years on October 7



Children's Day celebrations at the Pre-School section of OKI International School, Wattala

Photographs of members and non-members between 4 – 15 years, for the birthday page, should reach us at least ten days before the birthday, along with a letter from a parent giving full details.

Rugrats



# Amur Leopard

*Slowly stalking down the snowy hillside, the Amur leopard watches its prey through the trees. In the clearing below, a sika deer munches on tree bark, one of its few remaining food sources during the cold Russian winter.*

*The leopard crouches, its body so low to the ground that its belly fur brushes the snow. Suddenly it bounds and springs forward, tackling the deer from 10 feet away. It's dinnertime...*



## Cool Cats

Most people think of leopards prowling the savannas of Africa, but these spotted predators thrive in many different countries and habitats.

Amur leopards can be found in the mountainous forests of eastern Russia

and northern China. Named after the Amur River, a body of water that runs along the border of both countries, these cats are well adapted to this harsh environment. Their soft, dense fur keeps them warm in the bitter cold, and their large paws work like snowshoes to let them walk on snow without sinking.



Amur leopards weigh about 80 pounds, some 30 pounds less than the average African leopard. But these cats can still take down prey up to three times their size. They prefer to feast on deer and boar, but will eat rabbits and mice if they can't find bigger game. Scientists sometimes call Amur leopards the 'silent killer' since they're so good at sneaking up on prey.

## Bouncing Back

Loss of habitat and poaching, have made Amur leopards one of the rarest wild cats on Earth — and the world's rarest leopard.

Thanks in part to a newly established national park along the Russian and Chinese border, however, Amur leopards are clawing their way back.

<b>Common Name</b>	: Amur leopard
<b>Scientific Name</b>	: <i>Panthera pardus orientalis</i>
<b>Type</b>	: Mammal
<b>Diet</b>	: Carnivore
<b>Average life span in the wild</b>	: 10 to 15 years
<b>Size</b>	: 6 to 7 feet
<b>Weight</b>	: 70 to 105 pounds



Since the 647,400-acre refuge dubbed Land of the Leopard National Park was created in 2012, the Amur leopard population has jumped to about 80 individuals in 2018, up from only about 30 in the early 2000s. Officials believe that effective law enforcement in the park will help keep the population climbing. So hopefully, even more of these leopards will be spotted soon.

*National Geographic Kids*

## 2023 Wildlife Photographer of the Year Awards

October 12, 2023

The Natural History Museum in London holds a yearly contest for the Wildlife Photographer of the Year. This year, the contest had 49,957 entries from around the world.

### Young Competition

The Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year is a separate contest for people under 18. The pictures are judged in three separate age groups: 10 and Under, 11 - 14, and 15 - 17.

Ten-year-old Vihaan Talya Vikas of India won the 10 and Under prize for Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

Vihaan was at a temple near Bangalore, when he spotted this ornamental tree trunk spider trapping its prey. The spider was on a wall that had a sculpture of the Hindu god Krishna playing a flute. Vihaan liked the way the spider seemed to be listening to the flute.



*News For Kids*

From a Young Reporter

## Visit to the Colombo International Book Fair 2023

The Colombo International Book Fair took place at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall. It started on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and was supposed to end on October 1. The opening hours were 9 a.m., to 9 p.m.

I'm a person who loves to read books and that is why I wanted to go to the Book Fair. My mother and I thought there would be less crowds but I guess other people thought the same thing. There was an enormous crowd, even bigger than I expected.

It was raining super hard, so I made the wrong decision by wearing white colour shoes. Luckily my mom and I had a big umbrella which could shelter us. My mom told me to participate in the Gunasena Bookshop Quiz. I got the answer correct and they gave me an envelope with a voucher. I bought 11 books.

Due to the heavy rain, everybody got soaked. The rain was so heavy that it was really hard for my mom and me to find our way to the foreign publications section. We got to watch an oriental dancing performance of well-trained dancers and there was a great drum performance as well.

Atlas provided us with a very fun photo-shoot which I also took part in. They even had a wall which was full of pictures



that children could colour. I coloured a beautiful flower. I coloured the flower with purple, pink, white and yellow chalk and of course the chalk was from our dear friends - Atlas.

There were many food stalls such as Elephant House, Kottu Mee, Maggi and Keells Krest. I was very hungry so my mum said she would buy something for me and she did.

Going to the BMICH Book Fair was an amazing and unforgettable experience for me.



Senuri Gunawardana (9 years)  
Methodist College, Colombo



### 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.

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 : .....

mail to Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



### Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given below and send it in to us along with a recent 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.

mail to Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

## Artificial Intelligence helps to read ancient burned scroll

October 16, 2023

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is used for a whole host of things in modern day life from creating cool images to operating driverless cars.

Now computer scientists from the University of Kentucky have used the tech to read an ancient scroll that was burned in a volcanic eruption nearly two thousand years ago.

The papyrus scrolls, which are still rolled up, were essentially turned into charcoal when Mount Vesuvius erupted and reached the Roman town of Herculaneum in 79 AD.

But despite historians thinking we would never know what was written on that paper, the first word – purple – has been found.

The scrolls are so fragile that if you were to try and unroll them, they would turn to dust and that's why no one has been able to read anything from them

until now.

The discovery came about after a competition called the Vesuvius Challenge was launched back in March.

Thousands of 3D X-ray images of two rolled up scrolls and three fragments of papyrus were released, as well as AI programmes that could be used to help decipher the ancient Greek writing.

A \$40,000 prize was awarded to 21-year-old computer scientist, Luke Farritor, for finding those first letters.

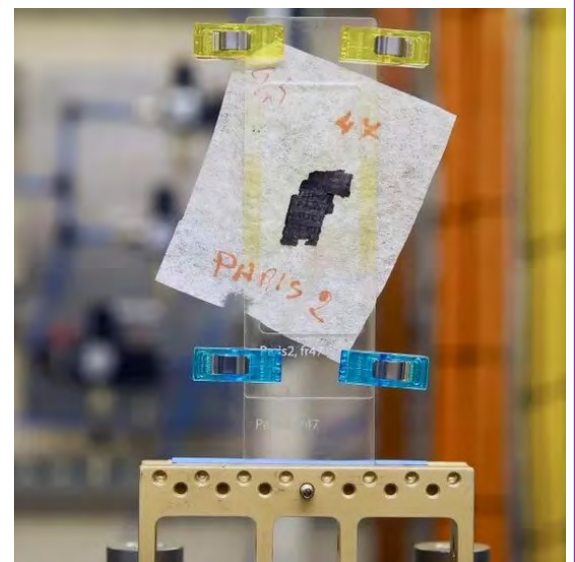
There are more cash prizes on offer for researchers who manage to extract

words from the scrolls which were taken from the library of a luxury villa that was buried in the Roman town all those years ago.

More words are being found by researchers around the world, and the race is on to read as much of the scroll as possible.



A 3D x-ray was taken of the burned scroll to create a process called 'virtual unwrapping'.



A piece of Herculaneum scroll.



The letters spell out the word 'purple' in Ancient Greek.

It's still a mystery as to what will be in these scrolls but thanks to advances in technology, experts are closer than ever to finding out.

## Thousands view rare 'ring of fire' solar eclipse

October 17, 2023



Thousands of people saw a rare annular solar eclipse. It was viewable in the US and parts of Central and South America on October 14. It's called a 'ring of fire' because the Moon doesn't completely block the Sun.



This type of eclipse happens when the Moon is at its furthest point from Earth. The Moon blocks the light coming from the Sun making it go dark but some light is still visible.



Lots of people wanted to witness the rare event.

People wore special protective glasses so that the light wouldn't damage their eyes.

October 17

# News in Pictures



**Denpasar, Indonesia**  
Helpers move a green turtle, among other turtles rescued by Indonesian marine police on Bali after they thwarted the smuggling of 11 green turtles in the West Bali national park area.



**Manaus, Brazil**  
Boats are stranded at David's Marina as the water level in Brazil's Amazon rainforest hit its lowest point in at least 121 years.

October 16

**Disney turns 100**  
On October 16, 1923, 100 years ago Walt and his brother Roy officially founded the Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio. Five years later they introduced Mickey and Minnie Mouse to the world, in the black and white film, 'Steamboat Willie'.



**Eskisehir, Turkey**  
The Belgian malinois search and rescue dog 'Maca' takes part in skydiving training at Sivrihisar Aviation Center.

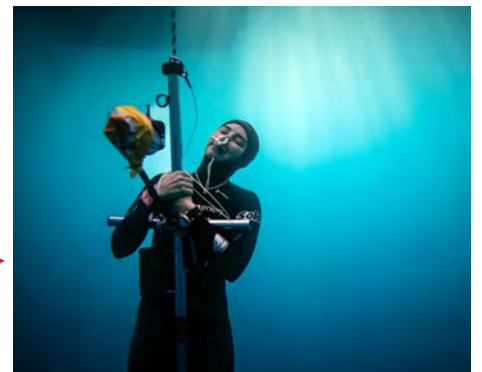


**Seongnam, South Korea**  
Members of South Korea's Black Eagle aerobics team perform a display at the Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition.

**Tuna el-Gebel, Egypt**  
A mummy coffin inside a rock-cut tomb at a cemetery dating back to the New Kingdom of ancient Egypt has been unearthed at Tuna el-Gebel necropolis.



**Karamagara Bay, Turkey**  
Sahika Ercumen prepares for a dive, attempting to break the 105-metre world record in the variable weight category without fins.



October 15

**Nhlangano, Swaziland**  
Swati girls and young women gather at the arena during the 2023 Umhlanga reed dance ceremony at the Mbangweni Royal Residence.



**New Jersey, USA**  
People wearing witch costumes line up on stand-up paddleboards to take part in a Halloween flotilla in Spring Lake.

Source: The Guardian