

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MARCH 31, 2024



FUNDA DAY TIMES



A Little Drummer Boy

Pic. by Indika Handuwala



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EASTER

PAGE 4

(ONLINE)



YOUNG REPORTER

PAGE 5



ANIMALS

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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

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 Number 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:

April 17, 2024



In our online issue this week:

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

Our school sportsmeet

We had our annual sportsmeet on Thursday February 22, 2024 at the Somaweera Grounds, Piliyandala. It commenced at 9 a.m. The chief guest was Dr. Paul Perera – Founder of our group of schools.

The chief guest was welcomed by the principal, staff and the school band. The meet commenced after the National Anthem and the School Song sung by the school choir.

Our school has four houses. They are Autumn, Summer, Spring and Winter. Autumn House emerged Champions. Summer House was second, followed by Spring and Winter Houses.

I took part in the Under 10 – 50 m and 75 m races. I came first and won two gold medals. I got a silver medal for the 75 x 4 relay as my house was placed second. I am very proud as I won a trophy for the Best Under 10 Athlete.

Yasham Ibrahim (Grade 3)
Negombo South Int. School,
Piliyandala

Lessons learnt

Daily duty duly done,
Makes you happy, I tell you son.
So is all work and no play,
Makes Jack a dull boy.

Reading maketh a full man
And writing an exact man,
Fools can neither read or write
So are animals who live by might.

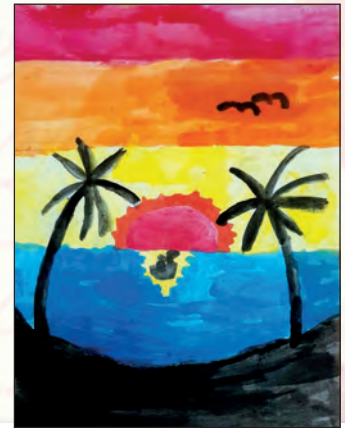
Early to bed and early to rise,
Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
These were taught by my teacher,
To make our future very bright.

Minoya Gardiarachchi (Grade 7)
La Petite Fleur Academy, Dehiwala

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.



Sunset



Vidasna Pilippuhewa (Grade 2)
Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo

Rainbow Rockers



Nithipriya Weerasinghe (Grade 1)
Musaeus College, Colombo

My favourite storybook

Reading books is one of my favourite hobbies. I wish to receive storybooks for not only my birthdays but for other occasions as well. Among the books I read, I found a wonderful story in a book written by Roald Dahl. Even the title of the book takes me to a world of yummy treats. My favourite book is none other than, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

The story revolves around a little boy named Charlie Bucket. His life suddenly shifts into a magical adventure one day,

after receiving a Golden Ticket to enter the Chocolate Factory owned by Mr. Willy Wonka.

His journey with four other kids and family members, takes me to a world covered with chocolates and sweets.

I love the story as it ends with the message that good qualities drive you to a path of good fortune. I still feel that I am part of that adventure.

Esandi Ranasinghe (10 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo

My friends and I



Panchalya Weerasinghe (4 years)
Open University Pre-School, Nawala

Balloon seller



Akain Randira (Grade 2)
Embilipitiya Royal College

School Sportsmeet



Pasindi Gamage (Grade 1)
Vidura College, Kurunegala

Keep the school garden clean



Thisew Thathvidu (Grade 2)
Sri Bodhiraja Int. School, Embilipitiya

Carrots for Bunny



Manusha Gunasinghe (Grade 4)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Beauty of a village

A village is a small settlement that is usually found in a rural setting. It is generally larger than a hamlet but smaller than a town. Village life is different than the life of a town. A village contains lots of trees, more than a town. We can feel the fresh air more in a village.

When I go to my grandma's place, I love to have a bath from the river and play in the river. I like to live in a village. I like to walk under the trees and pluck some fresh fruit. There are many types of birds in the village. It is like a paradise of birds. I like to listen to the sound of birds.

I think villagers are very lucky. I wish I could live in a village.

Kithnuli Abeywardhana (Grade 7)
Mahinda Rajapakse College, Matara

Mahaweli River

Deep in Sri Lanka
Hidden among the mountains
Is the Mahaweli River
Flowing like a fountain

Flooding from village to village
Bringing life to our nation
While giving us the privilege
of gaining from this sacred creation

Tinted with green you flow
Cascading through mountains
you roam
While making our crops grow
And helping electricity form

Uthpalaini Thilakahewa (Grade 7)
Galahitiyawa C.C., Ganemulla

A winter swim

As you look at the freezing cold pool, your eyes cannot bear the icy look.

As you turn away, your annoying sister pushes you in.

As you hit the water, you feel like an ice-cube.

The cold water brushes beside you.

Your teeth start to chatter and your arms are freezing now.

You also have a headache.

That's why you should never go swimming in winter.

Eleanor Edwards (7 years)
Maltman's Green School, UK

Love in Life

Love is in Life.

It is Beautiful.

I love Life.

Elizabeth Edwards (5 years)
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School,
Buckinghamshire, UK

My pet

I have a pet dog. Its name is Rex.
Rex can bark loudly. Rex can run fast.
I love my dog.

Jayden Dasanayaka (4 years)
Lyceum Int. School, Kegalle

Avurudu Cover 2024

As the Sinhala and Tamil New Year approaches, it is time once again to think of the Funday Times Avurudu Cover. Would you like to send in a picture for our Avurudu Cover? If so, here's what you have to do.



Paint a picture to depict the traditions of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and send it in to us. The painting should be on A 4 size paper.

You could use any type of paint, crayons or chalk.

Please make your picture bright and colourful.

All entries should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work. Uncertified entries will not be entertained.



The best entry will be used for the cover of the Funday Times Avurudu issue. The winner will also receive a book voucher.

Wish you all happy painting!



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Closing Date:
April 1, 2024

Easter

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Despite the global popularity of Christmas, the most important event in the Christian calendar is Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

According to the Bible, Jesus was crucified on a Friday (which is commemorated as Good Friday) and rose from the dead on the third day, which is Easter Sunday.



When is Easter?

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21 (an approximation of the *calendrical* spring equinox) which is called the Paschal full moon. Therefore, Easter always falls between March 22 and April 25.

Where does the word "Easter" come from?

The widely accepted origin of the name is from the Latin phrase "*in albis*", which was said to be the plural of "*alba*" ("dawn"), which later became "*eostarum*" in Old High German (the precursor to modern English).

Easter traditions around the world

From preparing special food to celebrate the occasion to decorating, Easter traditions around the world are both universal and varied.

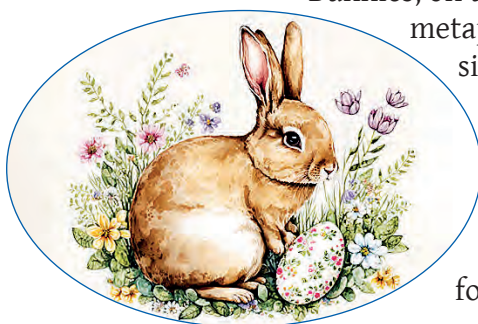
Eggs and Bunnies

Just as Christmas trees and Santa Claus are representative of Christmas, Easter eggs and Easter bunnies are representative of Easter.

But why? The egg has been associated with new life and rebirth for a long time, and because of that, it came to be adopted as a symbol of the Resurrection. Hollowed out shells also ended up being metaphors for the empty tomb of Jesus.



Bunnies, on the other hand, do not have such metaphoric links to Easter, but are simply symbols of spring (which coincides with Easter in the northern hemisphere) due to their fertility. Eventually, the Easter Bunny (or Easter Hare) became the bringer of Easter eggs for children.



The Easter Egg Tree

Known as *Ostereierbaum*, the Easter Egg Tree is a centuries old, but little known, German tradition of decorating trees or bushes with Easter eggs.



Easter Flowers

An Easter tradition that is universal, but often overlooked as a tradition, is flowers.

Similar to eggs and bunnies, flowers are a symbol of fertility, new beginnings and rebirth. And similar to bunnies, they are also a symbol of spring.

Flowers are used for decorations, and certain Easter flowers even



Easter Lilies

have meanings behind them. For example, white lilies are seen as a traditional Easter flower due to their ancient status as a symbol of the Resurrection and association with purity and hope.

A common herald of spring across the world is the daffodil, and in Germany they are known as the "Easter bells." Other symbols of Easter include tulips, daisies and azaleas.



From a Funday Times Young Reporter

A memorable family vacation to Sigiriya

Embarking on a family vacation is a cherished experience, filled with laughter, adventure and the creation of lasting memories.

My family and I set out on a remarkable journey to Sigiriya, a destination known for its rich history, breathtaking landscapes and vibrant wildlife. From January 28 – 31, our days were filled with exploration, relaxation and an array of delightful experiences.

Our vacation began on January 28, with an early morning departure at 6:50 a.m. The anticipation was exciting as we eagerly ventured towards Sigiriya, our destination for the next four days. The journey was scenic and comfortable, setting the stage for the adventures that awaited.

En-route, we made a pit-stop at Arachchila Restaurant for a hearty breakfast. The restaurant, known for its local flavours, offered a delectable spread that tantalized

our taste buds. The flavoursome meal provided us with the energy needed for the rest of our journey.

Upon reaching Sigiriya, we were greeted by the breathtaking Aliya

Resort and Spa. Perched in a prime location, the resort offered panoramic views of the iconic Sigiriya rock. The resort ensured that every aspect of our stay was seamlessly taken care of.

There were peacocks and monkeys in vicinity of the hotel. We stayed in a suite room which had its own pool.

The hotel not only captivated us with its splendid views but also impressed us with its culinary offerings.

The sumptuous meals provided by the hotel showcased the richness of cuisines, leaving us with a delightful and delicious experience. The staff's exceptional service added an extra layer of warmth and hospitality to our stay, making us feel truly pampered and relaxed.

One of the highlights of our trip was the thrilling safari we embarked on at the Eco Park. Surrounded by nature's wonders, we witnessed a diverse range of wildlife, including majestic elephants, colourful peacocks, soaring eagles and a myriad of birds.

The picturesque landscape, adorned with streams and lush greenery, made the safari a memorable and awe-inspiring experience for the entire family.

No trip to Sigiriya is complete without a visit to the iconic Sigiriya rock and its accompanying museum.

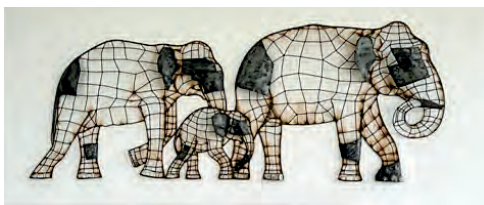
The ascent to the rock offered breathtaking views, and the rich history unfolded through the artifacts displayed in the museum left us in awe. The intricate details of the ancient civilization and the majestic presence of the rock created an immersive experience, allowing us to connect with the historical significance of the site.

Our family vacation to Sigiriya was a harmonious blend of adventure, relaxation and cultural exploration. From the captivating landscapes to the delightful culinary experiences and the awe-inspiring wildlife encounters, every moment etched itself into our collective memory.

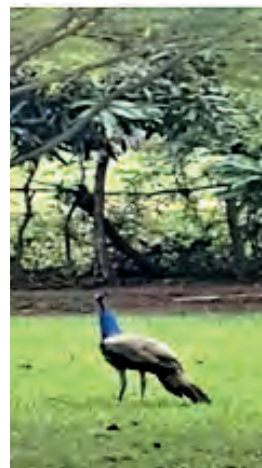
Sigiriya, with its rich history and natural beauty, provided the perfect backdrop for a truly unforgettable family getaway. I really enjoyed it.

I hope you will visit Sigiriya and create memorable memories.

Anjana Vasanthakumar (15 years)
Saiva Mangaiyar Vidyalayam



Elephant mural and wall craft at Aliya Resort



Images taken at the museum



'Mahameru' symbolizes the cosmic mountain at the centre of the universe. ▲



Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

The sun sets over a quiet backyard garden. A red fox sneaks into the yard, its nose in the air, sniffing loudly — it smells something. It pads over to the bushes when a streak of brown flashes in the greenery. An eastern cottontail rabbit darts out of the bushes, zigging and zagging to throw the surprised fox off of its trail. The speedy rabbit zooms into the nearby woods, easily escaping the potential predator.

Got room in your garden?

Eastern cottontail rabbits — named for their short, cotton-ball-like tails — are the most common species of cottontail rabbits. They can be found from Canada to South America; in the United States, their range stretches from the East Coast to the Midwest.

These rabbits often live on the edges of fields, farms and other open spaces far from highly populated areas. But sometimes they make their nests

in yards and parks near more people.

Eastern cottontails stay mostly hidden during the day but come out at night to eat. They snack on grass and love garden greens like peas and lettuce. (That's why farmers and gardeners don't like them very much!) During the winter, these rabbits prefer to eat bark and twigs.

Catch them if you can

When an eastern cottontail faces a predator — which include hawks, owls, foxes, snakes and even dogs and cats — it uses its speed to keep it safe, sometimes hopping up to 18 miles an hour. All the zigging and zagging they do makes it harder for other animals to catch them.

Rabbits don't always leap away from danger, though. Sometimes they freeze in place to blend in with their environment so predators can't see them. If these don't work, rabbits will try to fight off a predator by biting and kicking with their powerful back legs.

Their excellent sense of smell helps them stay safe too. They have about 100 million scent receptors

in their noses, which they twitch to expose as many of the scent receptors as possible to sniff out danger. An eastern cottontail rabbit can twitch its nose between 20 to 120 times a minute.

Aw, Babies!

Even with their sniffing skills and impressive speed, many rabbits are still snatched by predators. But the eastern cottontail population remains stable since these rabbits breed several times a year and have plenty of babies, called kits, in each litter.

National Geographic Kids



COMMON NAME:

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Sylvilagus floridanus

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivore

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN

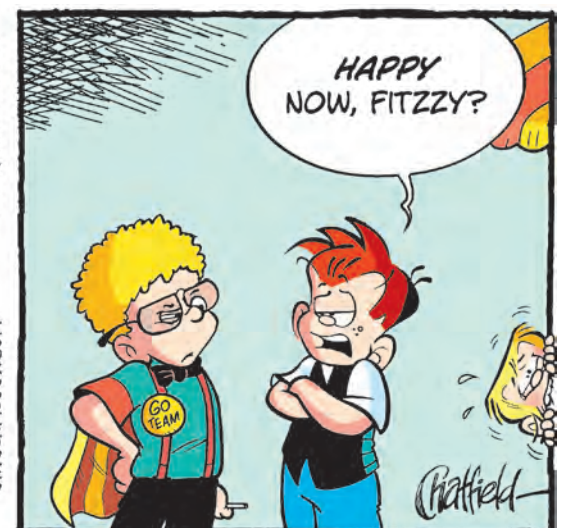
IN THE WILD: Up to 3 years

SIZE: 15.5 to 18.75 inches

WEIGHT: 28 to 54 ounces



Ginger Meggs



Earth Hour: The world's most famous landmarks in darkness

March 25, 2024

Landmarks all over the world were temporarily plunged into darkness on Saturday evening to mark Earth Hour.

In London, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and Piccadilly Circus all turned off non-essential lights at 20:30 as part of the environmental awareness campaign.

Earth Hour is organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and it encourages people to turn off their lights for 60 minutes to raise awareness of environmental issues.

It's the biggest global switch off of its kind.

The organisers, which include wildlife charity WWF, say they want to draw attention to the climate crisis and the damage being done to the natural world.

Now, more than 190 countries take part in switch-off events and activities, to show their support for protecting our planet.



Buckingham Palace switched off all illuminations which usually dapple the building in colourful lights.



The world famous Eiffel Tower in France's capital Paris, which is usually a twinkling spectacle at night, was only signified by the beacon at the top.



In the German city of Cologne, the stunning gothic cathedral went dark in support of the cause.

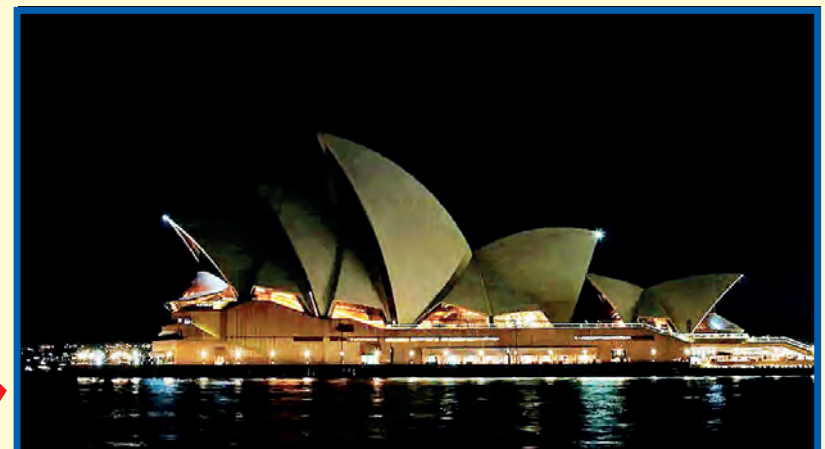


Often named "The city that never sleeps", New York's Empire State Building took its own 'power nap' and switched off the lights for 60 minutes.



The world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, switched off its lights during the hour.

Down Under, the Sydney Opera House in Australia switched off the lights of its iconic sail-like roof, in support of the cause.



Source : CBBC Newsround

March 26

News in Pictures



Jerusalem
A Palestinian family enjoy an Iftar meal at the Dome of the Rock, known to Jews as Temple Mount, during Ramadan.



Gaza Strip
Humanitarian aid is dropped from an RAF A400M aircraft, the first time the UK's Royal Air Force has conducted such airdrops.

March 25



Shanghai, China
Models walk animals on the catwalk during Petjoy Fashion Week, Yangpu district.

Baltimore, Maryland, USA

The collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge after a container ship ran into it. A diving team was trying to locate at least seven people believed to have fallen into the Patapsco River as a result of the collapse.



Hyderabad, Pakistan
Revellers try to form a human pyramid from which they will break earthen pots as part of Holi Festival celebrations.



Jerusalem
People in costumes mark Purim. The carnivalesque holiday is celebrated with parades and parties to commemorate the deliverance of the Jewish people from a plot to exterminate them during the Persian empire 2,500 years ago, as recorded in the Book of Esther.

March 24

Vatican City, Italy
Bishops carry palm fronds during the Palm Sunday mass at St. Peter's Square.



Moscow, Russia
People lay flowers at a makeshift memorial in front of the Crocus City Hall in Krasnogorsk, as Russia observes a national day of mourning after a massacre of more than 130 people at the venue.



Paris, France
Writers carry their trays as they compete in the Course des Cafes. About 200 waiters took part in the traditional race, which involves taking a tray holding a glass of water, coffee and a croissant around a 2 km route without spilling anything.

Source: The Guardian