

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
APRIL 21, 2024



# FUN DAY

## TIMES



***Celebrating Avurudu***

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

**WINNERS**   
**POETRY & ESSAYS**  
PAGES 2 & 5

**EVENTS**   
PAGE 3



**LANDMARKS**  
PAGE 4

**(ONLINE)**



**EARTH DAY**  
PAGE 6

**KIDS NEWS**  
PAGES 7 - 8

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[www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk)



**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.**

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 this week's competitions:**  
**May 8, 2024**

Telephone: 2479337/2479333  
 Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)





**Age groups:**  
**6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years**  
**Word limit: 100 Words**

**6 – 10 years**

**The mysterious jungle**

Deep in the jungle,  
 Is a creepy shadow lake,  
 Over the waters,  
 The creepy mist shakes.

No humans, no animals, no birds to be seen,  
 The vicious frogs 'Scwabble' sound,  
 And the crickets flee the scene.

The owls start hooting,  
 The bats start roaming,  
 While the wolves start howling,  
 So my heart goes pounding.

The trees start swaying,  
 The rains start pouring,  
 The wolves stop howling,  
 The storm starts thrashing.

**Senuri Gunawardana**  
 Methodist College, Colombo

**11 – 15 years**

**Exams Day**

The teacher would say,  
 "The special day is on the way."  
 They try their best to finish,  
 Every chapter as our patience diminish,

Oh, we know. It's the most horrible thing,  
 You could have known,  
 Here it comes,  
 Where it announces,  
 Loud and clear.  
 Exams are nearby.

Where everything pauses,  
 Every student becomes frazzled,  
 Some become tense,  
 Some would not entirely bother,  
 But then no one hears it clear.

Just one day left,  
 Our minds realized,  
 We all cry, "Oh no, Exam Day is here."

**Aizah Ali**  
 Ilma Int. Girls' School

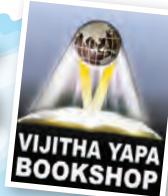
**WINNERS!**

Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.

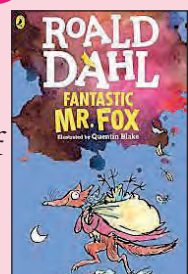
 Or 

**Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.**

**Win super books from**



**Age: 9 years and below**  
**Word Count: 150**  
**Topic: How you celebrated the Sinhala and Tamil New Year**  
**Win: Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl**

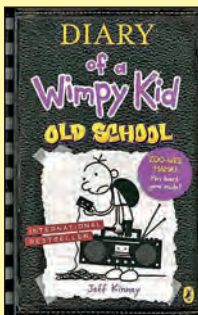


Mr. Fox is so clever that every evening he creeps down into the valley and helps himself to food from the farms.

Now the farmers have hatched a plan to shoot Mr. Fox.

But, just when they think Mr. Fox can't possibly escape, he makes a fantastic plan of his own...

**Age: 10 – 12 years**  
**Word Count: 150 – 200**  
**Topic: The importance of learning English**  
**Win: Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney**




Life was better in the old days... Or was it?

That's the question Greg Heffley is asking himself as his town voluntarily unplugs and goes electronics-free. But modern life has its conveniences and Greg isn't cut out for an old-fashioned world.

Will Greg find a way to survive?

**Age: 13 – 15 years**  
**Word Count: 200 – 250**  
**Topic: What you know about Earth Day**  
**Win: The Black Reckoning by John Stephens**



Emma, Michael and Kate are in a race against time! They must find their parents, defeat the evil Dire Magnus and locate the final Book of Beginning...

When all three books are united their power will be unstoppable.

**Write at the top of your Essay**

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

**NOTE**

Please see Page 5 in the online edition for the Book Competition Winners and essays.

**In our online issue this week:**

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

**Happy Birthday**



**Aflal Ahamed**  
11 years on April 17

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.

**Bookaroo**  
Festival of Children's Literature

**La Petite Fleur Schools**  
PRESENT

INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017

LA PETITE FLEUR  
Education is an aid to life

To celebrate 30 years of service to the child  
**First time in Sri Lanka!**  
Join La Petite Fleur and Bookaroo for a weekend where books come alive

**21 Speakers**  
**5 Countries**  
**50 Sessions**

**Schedule:** May 10, 2024: 9am-2.30pm & May 11, 2024: 10am-3.30pm  
**Venue:** BMICH, Kamatha, Colombo  
**Ages:** 4 to 14

Entry to Bookaroo sessions is free on first-come-first-seated basis  
[www.eurekakidsclub.com](http://www.eurekakidsclub.com) [info@bookaroo.in](mailto:info@bookaroo.in) [www.lpfschools.com](http://www.lpfschools.com)

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**Avurudu celebrations at Little Angels AMI Montessori, Nugegoda**

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara





# Gardens by the Bay

**Gardens by the Bay is a horticultural theme park south of Marina Bay in Singapore. Opened in June 2012, Gardens by the Bay is made up of three waterfront gardens: Bay South (54 hectares), Bay East (32 hectares) and Bay Central (15 hectares). It is a part of Singapore's plan to become a "City in a Garden". Singapore wants to be a leader in Asia in environmental sustainability and landscape architecture.**



In January 2006, Gardens by the Bay began an international master plan design competition to get world-class ideas for the Gardens. The competition attracted more than 70 entries sent by 170 firms, from over 24 countries, including 35 from Singapore. Grant Associates and Gustafson Porter, both from UK, were awarded the master plan design for the Bay South and East Gardens in September 2006.

Gardens by the Bay, a 101 hectare horticultural attraction, contains 250 thousand rare plants in domed conservatories. There are two distinctively different conservatories: the Flower Dome and the Cloud Forest, designed by Wilkinson Eyre Architects. Both are planned for sustainable cycles in energy and water throughout Bay South Garden. The conservatories are the biggest climate-controlled greenhouses in the world and aim at creating cool growing environments in a pair of glasshouses.

The Cloud Forest is a rainforest inside a dome! Stand next to a massive indoor waterfall, check out the carnivorous plants and wind your way down the rainforest past hidden sculptures, crystals and through misty lakes.

The Flower Dome is a hop, skip and jump away, and its awesome flower displays change with the seasons and for cultural festivals in Singapore. Chinese New Year is always super fun here, and it gets even more spectacular when the annual Christmas Wonderland is unveiled at Gardens by the Bay.

The Far East Organisation Children's Garden playground is awesome. Look for the sandpit next to the water play area: there's an awesome obstacle course, and Robinson Crusoe-style hanging bridges leading to a climbing web, other pockets for play and tunnel slides.

Since you've been gazing up at those Supertrees, give in to the urge to do a treetop walk! Grab your tickets to the OCBC Skyway and zoom up in the lift. Once up, you'll find a walkway 22 metres above the ground to enjoy one spectacular view!

Back on land, find your way to the World of Plants to spot some exotic greenery and hop over some toadstools. So simple but so much fun.

In the brilliant water play park back in the FEO Children's Garden there's a splash pad with gently bubbling fish fountains for the little ones.



Bigger kids can run through fountains and dodge the giant flowers. Be quick – they pour a bucketload of water on you if you stay still for too long!

Famished yet? Stroll over to Satay by the Bay outdoor food court, where you can grab satay sticks and prawns straight off the coals and other local treats. After a day like this, you deserve a feast – don't forget the fresh coconuts! At the Supertree Food Hall, you'll find a range of family-friendly eateries. Grab an ice cream and enjoy it on the lawn if it's a lovely day!



Cloud Forest

Source: Kids Encyclopedia Facts

## Famous Landmarks Quiz 48

**Q:** Name the two distinctly different conservatories in the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore.



## Famous Landmarks Quiz 47

Iyaad Ahmed,  
Dehiwela



**9 years and below**
**A Holiday by the Sea**

I went to Unawatuna Beach in Galle to take a sea bath. I planned to go there during my school vacation. Unawatuna Beach is a popular beach among foreigners. I was eagerly waiting for this holiday by the sea. The sun shone like a golden plate. I wore my swimming suit and splashed into the sea. But the water was very cool. After that I swam under the sea to explore the wonderful sea creatures. When I came up to breathe some fresh air, I suddenly saw a big ship with passengers. Then I remembered about the 'IORA Day' ship ride.

After swimming, I went to make sandcastles in the sand. When I finished making it, my tummy wobbled saying that I was hungry. So I ate some fried fish and drank king coconut. After eating all that I felt butterflies were in my stomach. So I rested under the hot sun. Then my skin burned and I became very dark.

Suddenly, the sky was getting dark and then a heavy rain came pouring down. I quickly ran to find shelter. That's how my holiday by the sea ended.

**Seja Abeywickrama**  
Southlands College, Galle

**Book Competition**

**10 – 12 years**
**IORA Day 2024**

In 1997, Sri Lanka and some other parts of Asia, decided to organize something known as 'IORA'. IORA stands for Indian Ocean Rim Association. It is an international organization of 23 states that border the Indian Ocean. The reason to create IORA Day was to improve sustainable impacts and balanced developments of the IORA member states.

IORA Day is annually celebrated on March 7, alternatively in the member states, along with the 11 dialogue partners too. Our President, Ranil Wickremesinghe participated in the IORA Day 2024 held in Galle Face Green recently. This year's theme focused on inculcating in children the importance of ocean conservation and sustainable practices to preserve the ocean for the future.

On this particular day people are educated about the principles of oceans. They work to clean up beaches by removing plastic and other waste. Schools encourage kids to bring about a sustainable Indian Ocean for future generations. The municipality of Colombo is also working intensively to conserve our ocean.

In conclusion, IORA Day helps us be aware of preserving the oceans for the future.

**Aksharran Ketheeswaran**  
Gateway College, Colombo

**Book Competition**
**March 10**
**9 years and below**
*A holiday by the sea*
**Seja Abeywickrama**

Southlands College, Galle


**10 – 12 years**
*IORA Day 2024*
**Aksharran Ketheeswaran**

Gateway College, Colombo

**13 – 15 years**
*A famous woman who has impressed me*
**Sanadee Wickramasinghe**

Sujatha Vidyalaya, Matara

**February 11**
**9 years and below**
*Back to School*
**Seja Abeywickrama**

Southlands College, Galle

**10 – 12 years**
*A spectacular Independence Parade*
**Thurupathan Hamsaraj**

Apple Int. School

**13 – 15 years**
*A famous woman scientist you have read about*
**Aysha Manaal**

Ilma Int. Girls' School

**13 – 15 years**
**A famous woman who has impressed me**

A famous woman who has impressed me is J.K. Rowling. She is the author of the world-famous, multi-award winning Harry Potter books.

Joanne Rowling was born on July 31, 1965. Her sister, Dianne was born two years later. Joanne grew up surrounded by books as her parents loved reading. Joanne had wanted to become a writer since she was small. Joanne wrote her first book ('Rabbit') when she was six years old.

J.K. Rowling first had the idea for Harry Potter while delayed on a train travelling from Manchester to London King's Cross in 1990. In the next five years she started planning out the story.

J.K. Rowling faced many challenges while writing 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. Her mother died and she got divorced from her husband. She had a baby daughter named Jessica and it was hard for her to be a single parent. Despite this, Joanne continued writing in every spare moment she had. She even suffered from depression but that didn't stop her.

J.K. Rowling sent the Harry Potter book to 12 publishers, all of whom rejected it. But she kept trying and her book was accepted for publication by Bloomsbury. Harry Potter soon became famous all over Britain. The next six books were published in the time period of 1998 – 2007.

J.K. Rowling, a girl who had a huge dream, worked hard and achieved her goal. The reason she impresses me is that she never gave up, no matter what obstacles came in her path. She worked hard to reach her aims and goals. She became a role model for children all over the world.

**Sanadee Wickramasinghe**  
Sujatha Vidyalaya, Matara



Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

**E**arth Day is observed annually on April 22 to raise awareness of the threats faced by the planet and the increasingly urgent need to protect it and its resources for future generations.

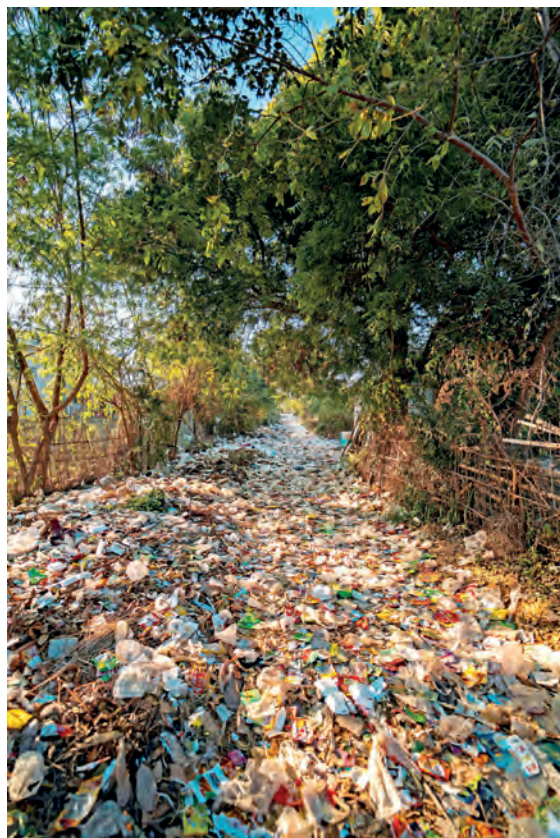
This year's theme is Planet vs. Plastics to raise awareness on the health risk of plastics, for both humans and the environment, while also calling for a United Nations Treaty on Plastic Pollution, the phasing out of single use plastics, and a halt to fast fashion.



According to a University of California article, over 9.1 billion tons of plastic has been created since the early 1950s, when the large-scale production of synthetic materials started. By 2015, around 6.3 billion tons of plastic waste has been produced by humans, of which 79% has ended up in landfills or in nature and 12% has been incinerated, while only 9% has been recycled.

Plastics are not biodegradable (i.e., they cannot disintegrate); they merely break down into smaller and smaller pieces, called microplastics. Therefore, they can last for hundreds of years in the environment, even if they are not visible to the human eye.

Due to their tiny size, microplastics can have detrimental (and sometimes fatal) effects on animals as well as humans, when ingested or breathed in.



## Garbage Patches



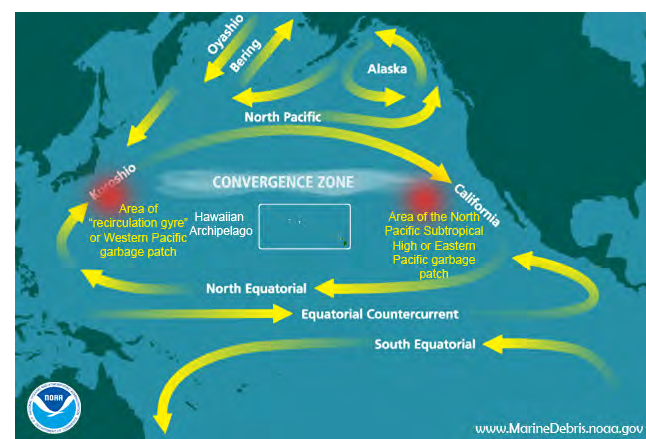
Garbage patches are the name given to areas in the open ocean where marine debris has accumulated. These accumulations generally occur in the calm centres of ocean gyres (large systems of rotating current), but they are also forming in smaller bodies of water, such as the Mediterranean and North Seas, along busy shipping routes.

Marine debris, as defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes.

In simpler terms, anything that is made by humans can become marine debris. The most common and harmful types of marine debris include plastic (e.g., plastic bags, food wrappers) and fishing gear. The size of marine debris can vary from microplastics to large abandoned vessels, construction debris, and even household appliances.

Human trash has been found in every corner of the ocean, from the farthest shorelines to the deepest areas of the sea floor, and even the ice in the Arctic.

The largest garbage patch is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (also known as the Eastern Pacific Garbage Patch), which lies between Hawaii and California, USA.



### What can we do to help?

- ◆ Dispose of trash responsibly.
- ◆ Reuse items whenever possible, and choose reusable items over disposable/single-use ones.
- ◆ Reduce the amount of waste you create.
- ◆ Recycle as much as possible. Many items such as bags, bottles, caps, cans, phones and ink cartridges, can be recycled.
- ◆ Participate in local cleanups.

Sources: earthday.org / National Geographic / UNESCO / NOAA / universityofcalifornia.edu

# Fourth global mass coral bleaching confirmed

April 16, 2024

**C**oral around the world is turning white and dying due to rising ocean temperatures.

Climate change has led to a fourth global mass coral bleaching event, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Bleaching happens when coral turns white because the water it lives in is too hot.

NOAA confirmed coral bleaching was happening in all oceans where coral is present, after weeks of receiving reports from scientists across the world.

## What is coral?

Coral might look like plants, but they are in fact a kind of animal.

Coral, or polyps as they're also called, are closely related to creatures like sea anemones and jellyfish.

They have a hard, protective limestone skeleton called a calicle, which they use to help anchor them to the sea floor.

They often live in groups called colonies, and can form reefs when lots of colonies join together.

Coral is important for ocean life and is home to 25% of all marine species.

## What causes coral bleaching?

Many types of coral have a special relationship with a tiny plant algae called zooxanthellae – that live in the coral.

These tiny algae produce about 90% of the food the coral needs to grow.

A change in environment can cause the algae to get 'stressed out' and leave the coral.

This then turns the coral white and, with its main source of food gone, it is left very vulnerable.

The last mass global bleaching happened between 2014 and 2016.

Coral bleaching can be triggered by an increase or decrease in sea temperature, or a change in the ocean where it becomes acidic – called acidification.

An increase of just one degree Celsius for four weeks can cause bleaching. If this continues for more than eight weeks, the coral can die.

Coral reefs can survive bleaching, but they need time – often decades – to recover.

As the Earth's temperature changes due to global warming – so does the risk of mass bleaching – because sea temperatures are increasing.



"If given a chance, coral are actually resilient and can recover. But as bleaching becomes more frequent and stronger in intensity, we're really narrowing that window," says Dr. Emma Camp at the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia.

## What can be done to help coral?

Research shows that deeper water coral – at between 30 – 50 m depth – could survive global warming of up to 3°C.

Some countries are also making coral nurseries, where they are trying to re-grow damaged reefs.

Dr. David Obura an environment scientist from Kenya, explained that coral reefs provide an early warning system for the impacts of a warming planet.

"We need to learn from this to not do this to other ecosystems," he said.

CBBC Newsround

April 16

# News in Pictures



**Svartsengi, Iceland**  
A drone view of a volcanic eruption at Sundhnukagigar in the south-west of the country.



**Jerusalem**  
Paper notes scribbled with prayers addressed to God are stuffed between the cracks at the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews are allowed to worship, in the Old City.



**Valparaíso, Chile**  
Karol Cariola waves after her election at the Congress headquarters. It is the first time in the country's 112-year history that a member of the Communist party has been elected as president.



**Sydney, Australia**  
Police investigate at the Assyrian Christ the Good Shepherd church in Wakeley after a knife attack during a service the night before.

April 15

**Athens, Greece**  
Performers who will take part in the flame-lighting ceremony for the Paris Olympics join a rehearsal at the ancient Olympia site.



**Paris, France**  
Soldiers patrol on the Trocadero Esplanade near the Eiffel Tower. Emmanuel Macron has indicated the Olympic Games opening ceremony could be moved in the event of a major terrorist threat.



**Khon Kaen, Thailand**  
Participants prepare to perform at Wat Chai Sri during celebrations for Songkran, the Thai New Year.



**London UK,**  
This year's Olivier Awards were packed to the rafters. The Laurence Olivier Awards, or simply The Olivier Awards, are presented annually by the Society of London Theatre to recognise excellence in professional theatre in London. The awards were originally known as the Society of West End Theatre Awards, but they were renamed in honour of the British actor of the same name in 1984.

**Khan Younis, Gaza**  
Children queue for food distributed by charities.



Source: The Guardian