



FUNDAY TIMES



Celebrating Thai Pongal

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

KIDS' WORLD
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ONLINE



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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 weekly competitions:

February 11, 2026



A television programme I like

One of my favourite television programmes is 'Wednesday'. It is a mystery television series that revolves around the protagonist, Wednesday Addams, a sharp-witted teenager who is intelligent and independent. Set in the gothic halls of Nevermore Academy, the series delves into the life of Wednesday, her friendship with the optimistic werewolf, Enid Sinclair, and uncovers a series of crimes.

From the very first episode, I was immersed in the world of Nevermore and loved the fantastical setting created throughout the series. I could not stop watching because of the suspenseful mysteries that keep unfolding in every episode.

I like the series because Wednesday Addams is a confident and intelligent character, inspiring me. I also enjoy the humorous, ironical conversations between Enid and Wednesday and the bond that blossoms between them.

For these reasons, 'Wednesday' is a television programme I truly enjoy and would happily recommend to anyone.

Aysha Manaal (15 years)
Ilma Int. Girls' School

An inspiring person

The most inspiring person in my life is my grandmother. She is the one who made me what I am today. She taught me how to read and write. She cooked delicious food and she brought me through lots of difficult times.

She wakes me up to get me ready for school. She irons my clothes. She puts my lunch in my bag and fills my bottle. She helps me to do my homework. She always plays with me and does art with me. She is an artist.

Shopping with my mother

On Thursdays, I go shopping with my Amma. We go to the supermarket. The smell of fresh fruit lightens up my mood. I run to the stationery section. "Amma, can we get this?" I ask. "No." she replies. Amma always says to only buy things you really need. I follow Amma to the pharmacy section. She buys mint-flavoured lozenges just for me. Amma and I head to the counter.

After going to the supermarket, it's time to go to the Pola. I like looking at the blazing-red piles of tomatoes and the bright orange boxes of mandarins. We head to the place where fish is sold. I usually avoid the fish section because of its fishy smells.

Candies are stored in ancient-looking jars. Sometimes Amma buys candy for me. We both enjoy going shopping together.

Even though Amma can say no to some things, I love her and she loves me.

Nidhyathi Weerasinghe (9 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo

She cleans the house and cooks delicious food. She loves to eat sweets. She is always in the kitchen. She always sleeps when she is tired of doing work.

She loves to talk to people. She loves to talk with her sister. She always plays with the cats. She never likes to go out unless it is an emergency. She has diabetes.

Sadly, she passed away because of a heart attack.

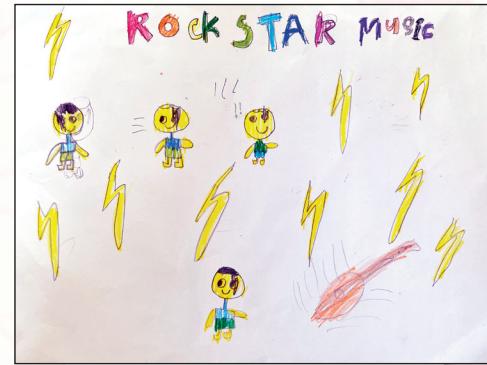
Aqmal Hisham (10 years)
Hejaaz Int. School

A Fashion Show



Yuhasma Thilakarathne (11 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo

Rock Music Concert



Sehas Thilakarathne (6 years)
Polymath College, Nawinna

Flying Jellyfish Event



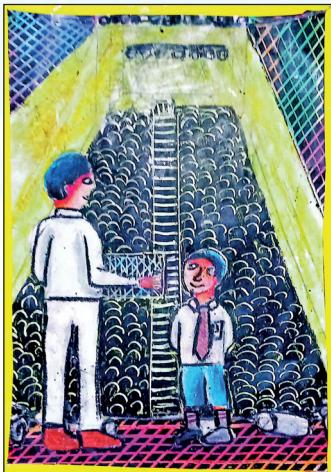
Suehana Weerasinghe (11 years)
Battaramulla

Birthday Party



Aaron Matthew De Sylva (6 years)
St. Peter's College, Colombo

Prize-giving Day



Chithnada Pathirana (12 years)
Vidyaloka College, Galle

Cricket Tournament at School



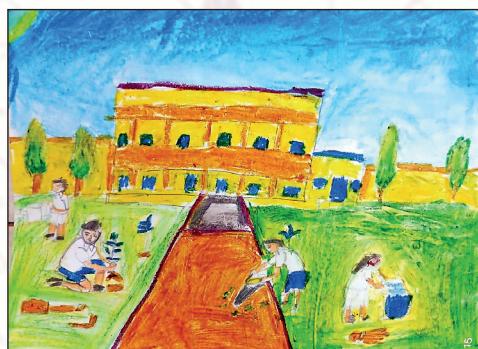
Devendra Sithumina (11 years)
Homagama Maha Vidyalaya

Riding a bicycle



Nuthara Kulasooriya (14 years)
Kegalu B. V.

Environment Day at our School



Mohamed Imran Shayaan (8 years)
Tamil M. M. V., Vavuniya

A school outing

World Children's Day was bright and sunny. Therefore, our school leaders planned to take us on an outing to the National Maritime Archaeology Museum in Galle Fort. It showcased shipwrecks found deep under the sea around Sri Lanka. When I heard that, I was happy as a lark.

After taking our snack, we packed our stuff and pitter, patter, walked across the road.

When we reached the museum we had to enter through a huge door. I felt butterflies in my stomach. First we saw some old coins, treasure boxes and glass bottles which were used to exchange messages during the Dutch ruling period in Sri Lanka. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the shipwrecks.

After looking in every nook and corner of the museum, we gathered in a big hall. Then one of the staff members described the 'Nelson's Ship Format' which was inside a transparent glass bottle.

Suddenly I saw that I had been stuck in a ship and it began to move from side to side due to a storm. Meantime I heard somebody saying, "Wake up without moving your head backward to forward." "Oh! It was a terrible dream," I replied. Anyhow I missed the Nelson Ship story. But that school outing inspired me a lot. That's how I ended my school outing to the museum.

Seja Abeywickrama (11 years)
Southlands College, Galle

My favourite hobby

Stamp collecting is one of the best hobbies in the world. It is not only fun but also helps us relax and keep our minds fresh. I have a big collection of about two lakhs of stamps. These stamps are from many countries such as India, USA, Canada, Japan etc.

Each stamp tells us a story about its country's history, culture or famous people.

When I look at my collection I feel happy and proud. This hobby teaches us patience, care and knowledge about the world and other things in the Solar System. It is exciting to find new and rare stamps and add them to the album.

Stamp collecting is like a treasure hunt where every stamp is a small piece of history. That is why I like collecting stamps so much.

Bihandu Keerthisena (Grade 8)
Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala

Our Environment

Our environment is the natural world that surrounds us. It includes everything from the air we breathe to the water we drink.



The environment plays a crucial role on sustaining life on Earth. It provides us with resources like food, water and shelter. Plants and trees play crucial role in maintaining the balance of our environment.

Pollution is a major threat. Deforestation has a detrimental effect on our environment.

Maintaining a clean and healthy environment is essential for our overall well-being. Education and awareness are crucial for promoting a sustainable environment.

Every individual has a role to play in protecting our environment. By taking steps to preserve our environment, we ensure a better future for ourselves and generations to come.

So, let's save our environment and live a better and healthy life.

J. Pravashthi (Grade 5)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Water

Water is very essential to living things because there will be no life on Earth without water. Our planet Earth is 71% covered in water.

The main source of water is rain. The collection of water can be seen in rivers, seas, lakes, ponds, waterfalls etc. Humans use water for drinking, bathing, washing and cooking.

It is our duty to protect water as it is needed for the survival of the Earth.

Shane Madrasinya (Grade 5)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

**In our online issue
this week:**

- **Page 5** – Funday Times Club
- **Pages 6 – 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.

KIDS IN COLOUR with **Richard**

Funday Times together with Richard is happy to launch a new Art Competition for our readers, starting from January 2026.

A topic will be given each month. The paintings should be on **A4 size paper** and you could use any medium of your choice.

Three winners from two age groups will be selected each month. Winners will receive an attractive gift pack from Richard.

All paintings should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work.

Please write your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School and paste it on the back of your entry.



Age Groups: 4 – 6 and 7 – 10 years

Topic for January: **Back to School**

Closing Date: February 5, 2026

Or  fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Maple Kids International celebrated Thai Pongal Day on January 14, 2026.

Pix. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

The Northern Province programme of the Nation United (*Ratama Ekata*) National Operation to eliminate the drug menace was held at the Jaffna Technical College Playground recently.



Calling Funday Times Readers

We are updating the Funday Times Club memberships.

If you are interested in joining the club, please send in the coupon given here, with a photograph.

If you are already a member, please resend your details along with a photograph, so that we could update our database.



Or



FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Kids,

Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.

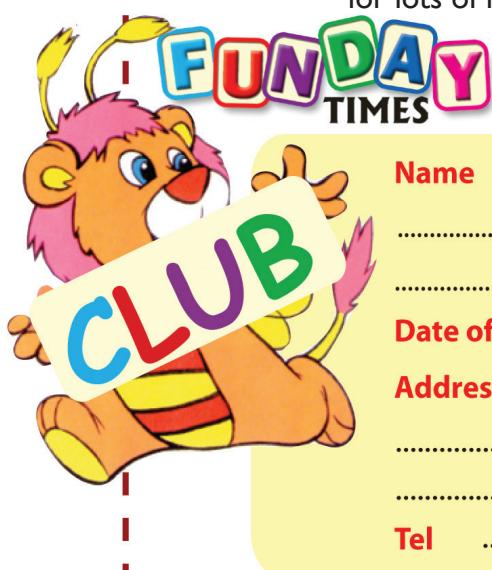


Or



Come and join the Funday Times Club. Fill in the coupon below neatly and send it in to **Funday Times Club, C/O The Sunday Times, No.8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2.**

Remember to include a fun photograph of yourself too! Members must be between 4 – 15 years old. Once you become a member, you can join us for lots of fun events during the year.



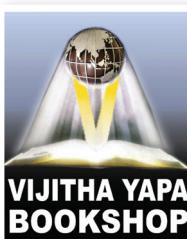
Name

Date of Birth

Address

Tel

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. 1000 each from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop.

Three winners will be selected each month.

Your account should not exceed 200 words.

Please indicate word count, 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



Rare Superman Comic found in attic, sets new auction record

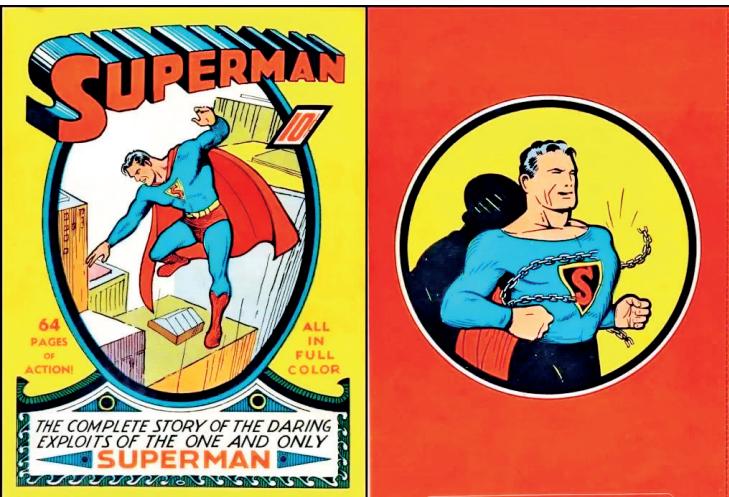
January 16, 2026

Three brothers were clearing out their late mother's home in San Francisco in December 2024 when they stumbled upon a stash of old comic books. Among them was a copy of Superman No. 1, the first issue in which the superhero starred in his own series.

Realizing it might be valuable, they contacted Heritage Auctions. They were not disappointed. On November 21, 2025, the comic sold for a staggering \$9.12 million. This shattered the previous record of \$6 million in 2024 set by a copy of Action Comics No. 1 — Superman's first appearance.

"It wasn't like we said, 'let's go find that comic book,'" the youngest brother said. "It was more like, 'let's get that dumpster and just fill it up.'"

The comic collection had a special family history. As a young girl in the late 1930s, their mother and her brother saved every spare cent to buy comics from a neighbourhood news stand, eventually building a small collection.



Superman No. 1 was the first comic dedicated to the superhero.

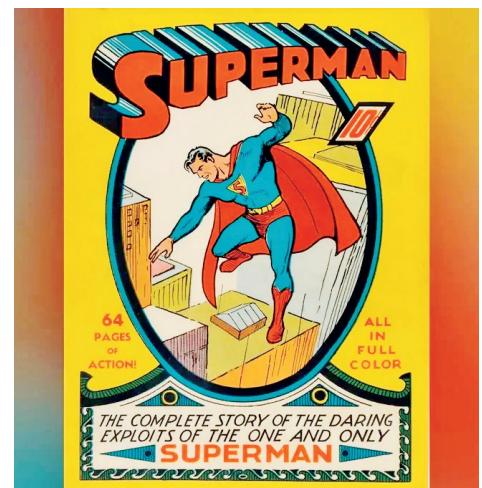
She told her family about it, but could not recall where it was stored. As it turned out, the comics had been sitting in a box in her attic for decades, just waiting to be found.

Superman No. 1 was published in 1939, one year after Superman first appeared in Action Comics No. 1. The superhero's instant popularity led the publishers to give him his own series. The issue tells the origin story of Clark Kent. He arrived on Earth as a baby from another planet and grew up to protect humanity with his extraordinary powers.

About 500,000 copies of Superman No. 1 were printed initially. Publishers often encouraged children to cut off the covers to use as posters, and many copies were thrown away. Fewer than 500 copies are believed to exist today.

The "San Francisco copy" was in near pristine condition with vivid colours and sharp corners. Experts believe the cool conditions in the attic helped preserve the comic and kept the paper from becoming brittle.

The brothers, who have chosen to remain



This 1939 Superman comic sold for over \$9 million in November 2025.



The collection included other comics from the 1930s.

anonymous, say the comic's meaning goes beyond its record-setting price. For them, it is a connection to their mother and her childhood.

"This was never just about a collectible," said the youngest brother. "This is a testament to memory, family and the unexpected ways the past finds its way back to us."

Source: DOGO News



Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given 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 who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

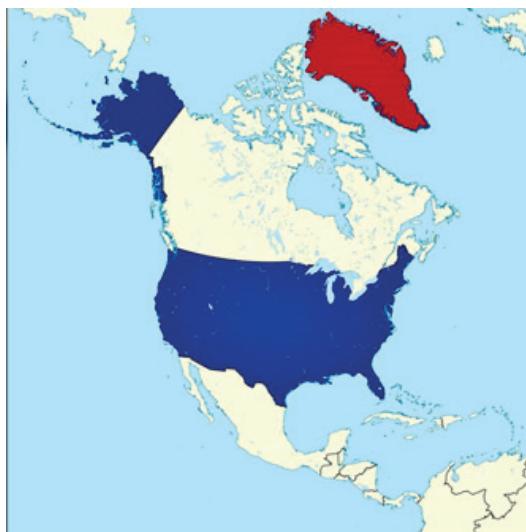
Parent's approval:

Date:

Trump's Greenland push tests US-Europe ties

January 20, 2026

US President Donald Trump's efforts to take control of Greenland are causing great concern in Europe. Despite strong opposition, Mr. Trump has continued to push to take over the island, which belongs to Denmark. His recent threats of tariffs have seriously raised tensions between the US and European countries.



A map highlighting the United States (blue) and Greenland (red).

In 2019, during his first term in office, Mr. Trump suggested that the US might buy Greenland. The idea was unusual, and many people didn't take it seriously. Greenland's government responded, "Of course, Greenland is not for sale."

But Mr. Trump didn't give up the idea. Even before he took office for his second term, he said on social media that the US had to own Greenland.

There are several reasons that Mr. Trump may be interested in Greenland. The island is close to both Russia and China, two countries that the US sees as threats. As global warming melts Arctic ice, more ships will be able to pass through the Arctic. That could make Greenland important for defense. Greenland is also rich in natural resources, including oil, and rare metals that are important for making electronic devices.

Last March, Mr. Trump spoke to the US Congress about Greenland, saying, "One way or the other, we're going to get it."

The position was very worrying for Denmark and other European countries, which have long had strong ties to the US. Many European countries, along with the US and Canada, are part of an important security agreement called NATO. It's highly unusual for a country to threaten to take over territory belonging to one of its allies.

Recently, Mr. Trump and his government have raised tensions even higher. Mr. Trump's team has said several times that the US wants to buy Greenland. But they have refused to promise not to use the military to take it by force.



The leader of Greenland's government, Jens-Frederik Nielsen (left), and Denmark's Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen (right), speak to reporters on January 13.

Denmark says Greenland isn't for sale. Greenland's leaders say they don't want to be part of the US. Denmark's prime minister, Mette Frederiksen, said if the US took Greenland, it would be the end of NATO.

European leaders are worried about Mr. Trump's plans. They say the US should work with Europe, not against it.



People in Nuuk, Greenland protesting against Mr. Trump and his Greenland plans last Saturday.

Greenland

Greenland is the world's largest island. Though it's huge, there are only about 56,000 people living there. The island is part of Denmark, but Greenland has its own government, which handles most of its laws and rules.

In the past, the US has had a close relationship with both Denmark and Greenland, and has a military base in Greenland.

In Denmark and Greenland, thousands of people have protested against Mr. Trump's positions. Many people in the US also disagree with Mr. Trump – including some people in his own political party. A group of US Republican and Democratic politicians recently visited Denmark to try to calm things down.

But Mr. Trump has refused to back down. On Saturday, he threatened to put tariffs on Denmark and the European countries that have been supporting it.

The threat of tariffs has upset many European leaders. Many see Mr. Trump's actions as bullying. They worry that he is putting important friendships in danger. European leaders will be meeting to decide on how to respond to Mr. Trump's increasing pressure.

The situation is tense. Many people are concerned that Mr. Trump's actions could lead to a serious split between the US and its European allies. For now, the world is watching closely to see what happens next.

Did You Know...?

Many people see Mr. Trump's recent attack on Venezuela as proof that he might be willing to use force against Greenland. The attack on Venezuela went against international law, but Mr. Trump did it anyway. Speaking to reporters the day after the attack, Mr. Trump said, "Let's talk about Greenland in 20 days."

January 20

News in Pictures



Northern Germany

The *aurora borealis*, also known as the "northern lights", illuminates the sky over Quickborn, northern Germany.



Washington D.C., USA
Sunrise hits the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and Washington Monument on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Davos, Switzerland

The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, talks during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum.



Adamuz, Spain

Members of the Spanish Civil Guard, along with other emergency personnel, work next to one of the trains involved in the accident, at the site of a deadly derailment of two high-speed trains near Adamuz, in Cordoba, Spain.



Kyiv, Ukraine

A girl takes shelter inside a metro station with a dog during a Russian missile and drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine.



Ahmedabad, India
Rama Davi sits next to her belongings after her house was demolished during a demolition drive by authorities at a slum near Vatva Lake, Ahmedabad.

Washington D.C., USA
Sunrise hits the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and Washington Monument on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



South Pacific

A French navy helicopter operates over a seized fishing vessel at a location in the South Pacific. Almost 5 tonnes of cocaine, believed to be bound for Australia, were seized from the vessel.

January 19



Nuuk, Greenland
People attend a protest in front of the U.S. consulate in Nuuk, against U.S. President Donald Trump's demand that the Arctic island be ceded to the U.S., calling for it to be allowed to determine its own future.



Nuuk, Greenland
Danish soldiers disembark at the port in Nuuk.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters