



Opportunity Education

“Educating Children Around the World”

December 2015

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HOLIDAY
GREETINGS
From
OPPORTUNITY
EDUCATION



Unwrap the Package and Open the Gift

In this season of gift giving, we at Opportunity Education would like to celebrate the gift of friendship that you share with your pen pals at your sister schools. Every time a child writes their thoughts in a letter and sends it in the mail, they are sharing their life and their heart with their friend across the globe. For teachers and students, there is something magical about tearing open the newly arrived packages of letters and holding them in their hands. The letters are more than just words on paper, they share about a different culture and way of life through the eyes of a child.

Children often can see the world as a bright and beautiful place, filled with opportunities and hope for the future. Each letter brings that spirit of understanding, caring and friendship from one child to another, one country to another and makes the world seem a bit smaller and more connected. We are making a difference one child at a time and we are building peace in the world, one letter at a time.

We thank you, teachers and students, for sharing your gifts through the pen pal letters and your relationships with your Sister Schools. We hope that each time you receive letters from your school, and open their gifts to you, you will know how much you mean to them and truly what a special gift you are.

Right now is a good time to write your next letters, wrap up a package and send it to your Sister School. The children are anxiously waiting to unwrap the package and open the gift.

Start Writing – Right Now

Looking for ideas for your December letters?

[Click here for Letter Lesson Plans](#)

[Click here for Letter Ideas and Resources](#)

If you just need some quick writing prompts, here you go:

- Tanzania recently completed the election of a new leader. Share the election process in the country where you live and ask about the process in your sister school country.
- Students from OE schools as well as Sister Schools have winter holiday. Share how you will be spending this time with family; family traditions, favorite holiday foods, music, and family gatherings.
- Best Gift Ever! Describe what the occasion was, what the gift was, who gave it to you and why it was special to you. You can then tell about a time when you gave a special gift to someone else.

Speaking of Gifts.....

We would love to hear from you! Share the excitement when your school gets their letters by sending us a photo and reactions from students. If we share your story you will receive a gift certificate. Check out this story from Marius at Cameroon.



Red Letter Day

For Cameroon School

Early 2015, Catholic Nursery and Primary School NDU in Cameroon posted letters to Charles City Middle School, IA, their Sister School in the US. They have been patiently and eagerly waiting for the replies. Last week, Monday, 7th of September 2015, I got a posted parcel containing letters from Charles City Middle School for CS Ndu. On Thursday, 10th September, I brought the letters to the children and teachers of Ndu.

Even though it was raining 'Cats N Dogs' that day, it was indeed a red letter day for this rural school in Cameroon. We could not make good pictures because of poor weather. "I can't believe that this letter is written to me from the USA by a white man..." Says Confidence Manju, a lady teacher of Class 4. "I shall show my letter to my parents and friends at home and then I shall display the letter on the wall in our living room.....I have a friend in American..."shouted Shey Brandon a student of Class 5. there was a lot of excitement and euphoria as I distributed the letters to the fortunate teachers and students. Unfortunately, the letters were not for everyone! Even those who did not receive any letter tried to touch and kiss the letters of those who received. I promised to come back for everyone to write to pen pals. It is going to be a Letter Writing Day. Thank you. Marius

Welcome New Schools

We welcome schools to our free, international pen pal program which is a fun and easy way to meet Language Arts, Social Studies and History/Civics standards. Share [this link](#) to invite others to join.

Pen Pals

Students love reading your letters!



When the packages of letters arrive students are very excited and eager to get their new letters from their pen pals. They really enjoy getting to know their friends from far away. The writing is very good and the art work is beautiful! Please write more letters to your pen pals soon! They are anxiously waiting!

2016 Sister School Trip to Tanzania

OE Trip SNAPSHOT



Teaching in Tanzania

As a teacher, it had been my dream to one day teach children in Africa. Opportunity Education gave me the chance to realize my dream with their teaching trip to Tanzania. The students at our school were eager and ready to learn, as they greeted us each day with "Good Morning, Teacher"! I taught lessons from the curriculum provided by Opportunity Education, my own interests, and lessons requested by the teachers. "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" and "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" were favorites with the younger students and "Eating Fractions" was a fun way to teach math. I had observed a teacher, George, teaching painting with no paints, just broken crayons, I asked if I may bring some paints. So one day, I taught painting outside in the courtyard to all the classes! It was a beautiful experience to see the students enjoying creative arts painting with real paints!

If you ever dreamed of teaching in a developing country, take this opportunity to teach in Tanzania! This experience will stay in your heart forever.

Judy Sorensen

Lincoln, NE