



Opportunity
Education
Foundation

"Educating Children Around the World"

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In this Issue:

[An Awarding & Rewarding Week!](#)

[What is the High Point of Africa?](#)

[This School Needs Pen Pals](#)

[Welcome New Schools](#)

[Did Your School Win?](#)

[Start Writing – Right Now!](#)

[What Can You Do?](#)

AN AWARDING AND REWARDING WEEK!

Wow! What an amazing week!

The last week of September was busy with many exciting events around OEF, including Joe & Jim Ricketts travels to Louisiana College to accept The Trustees' Distinguished Service Award. This special recognition was in honor of their efforts to promote global education and service.

They then had to rush back to Omaha and greet the First Lady of Tanzania, H.E. Mama Salma Kikwete, who honored OEF with a visit to our Omaha office and by attending the Gala Celebration of African Art, Cuisine & Fashion benefit in Lincoln, NE on Friday September 27, where Joe Ricketts was awarded the 2013 Global Educator Award.

On Saturday September 28, OEF shared the morning with students, teachers and staff of the education department at the University of NE, Lincoln during the Global Education Workshop, where the First Lady of Tanzania was kind enough to share a message on international education.

Following the Workshop, we were then fortunate to connect the First Lady of Nebraska, Sally Ganem, and the First Lady of Tanzania for a discussion on global education. Both First Ladies have years of experience as educators and agreed that the problems and potential solutions facing students all over the world are more similar than different.

[Click Here](#) to enjoy the slide show highlights of our amazing week!



OEF Founder J. Joe Ricketts
& the First Lady of Tanzania

WHAT IS THE HIGH POINT OF AFRICA?

The highest point in Africa may be Mt. Kilimanjaro, but after you visit OEF schools, we have no doubt that spending time with the students and teachers will be the high point of your trip of a lifetime!



The OEF Education Experience Trip, July 2014 is open to educators, high school/college students, professionals – anyone willing to share their English skills & experience.

The trip includes spending time Monday through Friday teaching, learning and sharing in OEF schools followed by a 3 day safari to some incredible wildlife parks (see links below).

Ngorongoro Crater

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ngorongoro_Conservation_Area

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/39>

Tarangire National Park

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarangire_National_Park

<http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/tarangire.html>

The 12 day trip is scheduled for July 10 to July 21, 2014. An estimate of total trip cost is \$3,500–\$4,500. The estimated cost includes all lodging, food and travel. The majority of this cost is airfare (about \$3,000) – and we are still negotiating group airfare rates.

We will be offering scholarships, for more information, email schools@opportunityeducation.org

We had an awesome experience in Uganda and Ghana – and we encourage you to watch the videos on our website (linked below) to learn more.

<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/videos/load/ugandashort/> and

<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/videos/load/ugandalong/>

The following video tells the stories of students that we strive to serve – stories like these are what you will discover on our Education Experience Trip in Tanzania.

<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/videos/lost-children/>

Please email schools@opportunityeducation.org if you have any questions and forward this email or [brochure](#) to anyone you think might be interested in going.

Still deciding...take the words of Cathy Intemann, a two-time OEF trip participant (who will hopefully make it three)!

"Do not hesitate to come if you want to immerse yourself in another culture and if you want more than a tour. You will learn in ways you could never anticipate and you will receive more than you could ever give. And OEF and their staff will insure that you are well-cared for and that you will have an unforgettable experience. Do not miss this Opportunity for your own education."



THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

Santi Ravidas Junior High School is located in Varanasi, India.

If Varanasi rings a bell it might be because the city is located on the banks of the Ganges River and is considered the holiest of the seven sacred cities in Hinduism. This school is not far from the great river which makes it vulnerable to flooding.

Santi started in 1987 and currently has 426 students from pre-school to grade 8. The ten teachers only have six classrooms with walls.

Students also attend classes in open, tin sheds. Subjects are taught in both English and Hindi.

While the school fees are only 40 rupees a month or about 80 cents, parents still struggle to afford the tuition as the school is located in an area that most would consider to be a slum. However, these students and teachers shine beyond their circumstances. They are eager learners who are excited to have pen pals!

Writing letters to this school is an excellent opportunity to learn more than textbooks or even the internet can offer...just email us and we will put a Welcome Folder in the mail to you today!

Email schools@opportunityeducation.org and you can start writing today!

If you already have a pen pal, refer a friend to our [OEF Pen Pal](#) link.

If you prefer a different school, simply email us and note what grade and country you would like to write to and we can get you writing, right away!



WELCOME NEW SCHOOLS

We welcome the following 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.](#)

A special thanks to all the wonderful educators who joined our pen pal program during the Utah Education Conference!

SEED School of Maryland, Baltimore, MD
Floranada Elementary, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Cheltenham Elementary School, Cheltenham, PA
Walcott Elementary-Intermediate School, Walcott, IA
St. Louis Catholic School, Louisville, CO
Colegio EuroTexcoco, Texcoco, México
Another Way School, Bountiful, UT
Beehive Elementary School, Kearns, UT
Bellview Elementary, Sandy, UT
Clinton Elementary, Clinton, UT
Copper Hills Youth Center, W. Jordan, UT
Eagle View Elementary, Roosevelt, UT
Gerald Wright Elementary, West Valley, UT
Granger Elementary, West Valley, UT
Hayden Park Elementary, West Jordan, UT
Helen M. Knight Elementary, Moab, UT
Hunter High School, West Valley City, UT
Kennedy Jr. High, West Valley City, UT
Lake Ridge Elementary, Magna, UT
Lehi High School, Lehi, UT
Liberty Elementary, Murray, UT
Mana Academy, West Valley City, UT
Monticello Academy, West Valley, UT
Neil Armstrong Academy, West Valley City, UT
Nibley Park School, Salt Lake City, UT
Parkview Elementary, Salt Lake City, UT
Stansbury High School, Stansbury Park, UT
Two Rivers High School, Ogden, UT
Washington Elementary, Washington, UT
Western Hills Elementary, Kearns, UT
Hellenic American Academy, Lowell, MA
The Middle Grades Academy, Hartford, CT
Wyatt Elementary Plano ISD, Plano, TX



We have hundreds of schools waiting for pen pal partners – email today and start writing tomorrow or stop by and visit me at the AMLE Conference in Minneapolis, November 7–8 or in Boston at the NCTE conference, November 22–24.

FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

Congrats to Ann M.
from Taylorsville High School in Taylorsville, Utah!

On behalf of your pen pals from India, thank you for sending letters.
Send me an email at schools@opportunityeducation.org to claim your prize!



Want to win next month?

Just email schools@opportunityeducation.org after you mail your letters and you are entered to win!

START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

Start your year off right by writing your pen pals!

No lesson plan is needed, but if you need one – we have them!

Writing letters is a perfect activity to keep students productive during homeroom, study hall or downtime.



You can also integrate cross-curricular objectives into lesson plans that we have created to maximize learning through letters.

[Click Here for Letter Ideas and Resources](#) [Click Here for Letter Lesson Plans](#)

We also have two options to stay up to date with our international pen pal program.

OPTION 1: To keep up with our "Friends" – we have a Facebook page just for you!

Visit our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OpportunityEducation>

OPTION 2: Unable to get on Facebook? No worries.

Visit our Pen Pal Blog. <http://opportunityeducation.wordpress.com/>

Both the Pen Pal Blog and Facebook offer interesting ideas, stories, and links to help generate enthusiasm and discussion about education plus lesson plans to integrate pen pal letters into your standard requirements.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Write Your Pen Pals!

Even if it's been a while, now is still the best time to write. The name, address and mailing instructions are available on our website start by [clicking here](#).

You can also email:

Schools@OpportunityEducation.org

Get Others to Write!

We have 421 schools very eager to have English speaking pen pals.

Share the following link – and make sure you CC schools@opportunityeducation.org – to get a gift certificate.

[Click Here to Refer A Friend and Get a Gift Certificate!](#)

Visit an Opportunity Education School!

Take a life-changing trip to teach, share and learn in an Opportunity Education school in Africa or India.

[Click Here to Learn More.](#)



TERESA ROLL
OUTREACH & SISTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR
OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION
www.OpportunityEducation.org
schools@opportunityeducation.org
402-614-5381

STAY CONNECTED

