



Opportunity Education Foundation

"Educating Children Around the World"

April 2015

In this Issue:

[A Proverbial Lesson!](#)

[What's News in OEF Schools](#)

[Welcome New Schools!](#)

[This School Needs Pen Pals](#)

[Did Your School Win?](#)

[Start Writing - Right Now!](#)

[What Can You Do?](#)

[Get Them Fit!](#)

[Pic of the Month](#)

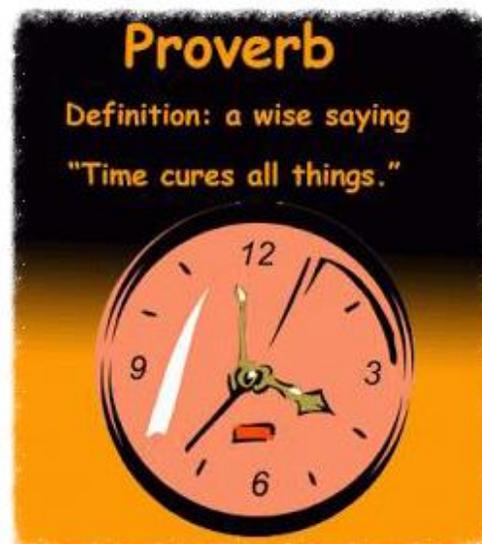
A PROVERBIAL LESSON!

- ~ Wisdom is like a baobab tree; no one individual can embrace it. – Ghana (Akan)
- ~ You cannot tell a hungry child that you gave him food yesterday. – Zimbabwe
- ~ A large chair does not make a king. – Sudan
- ~ You become wise when you begin to run out of money. – Ghana
- ~ The skin of the leopard is beautiful, but not his heart. – Congo (Baluba)
- ~ One person is a thin porridge; two or three people are a lump of ugali. – Tanzania
- ~ If you are looking for a fly in your food it means that you are full. – South Africa
- ~ Hurry, hurry has no blessings. – Swahili (East Africa)
- ~ A fight between grasshoppers is a joy to the crow. – Lesotho
- ~ Do not blame God for having created the tiger, but thank him for not having given it wings. – India

Traditional proverbs like these have been handed down generations to convey cultural knowledge and traditionally valued wisdom. While their meanings are not always readily apparent, they were born of lessons learned from every day experience.

In this lesson, students will learn about proverbs: how they work, how to interpret them, and how they can be unique to a culture but still relay a universal truth.

Begin by selecting one of the proverbs listed and identify terms that make them specific to the culture. Then focus on the bigger meaning that might apply to anyone. Ask students to reflect on why some of the proverbs were difficult to understand and suggest words that might make more sense in their own culture.



Ask students to write their own proverb with terms that are specific to their school, state, or country. Students then should write a short description of the proverb's meaning and application in the body of a letter to their pen pals. Expansion activities include writing a story or picture to accompany their proverb. Following are great resources to get you “started off on the right foot.”

African proverbs: <http://www.myafricanow.com/best-african-proverbs/>

Proverbs from around the world: <http://www.famous-quotations.com/proverbs.asp>

Lesson Plan: Proverbs from around the world:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/proverbs-home-around-world-185.html?tab=4#tabs>

WHAT'S NEWS IN OEF SCHOOLS

In Sierra Leone News

While the media frenzy over the Ebola crisis in West Africa has died down, the people still continue to battle the disease. Schools in Sierra Leone never opened for the school year scheduled in September 2014 but have recently started back in late March 2015.

The government has been pleading with NGOs to improve sanitation by providing water tanks in communities to assist in hand washing and sterilization. Most schools do not have their own well or water system – and rely on the few public water stations.

OEF Sierra Leone School Facilitator, Andrew Kondoh, (pictured in blue) has been on the front lines working hard to help contain the spread. He is hopeful that they are winning the battle but need the sanitation resources to finish the war.



Read more in the Washington Post article that highlights his amazing story.

<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/article/view/id/868>

Get to Know OEF

Get to know the wonderful people of OEF! Every month we will feature an introduction to one of the excellent people who work hard to serve OEF schools.

We are honored to have Ivor Nober work as a school facilitator in the Western Cape of South Africa. He is a gifted musician who recently released a new CD of romantic and classical songs played on his guitar. Learn more about Ivor...

Family background? I married Ruth in 1983. We have one child, Michelle, and she is now 32. She is married and has a 9 months old baby boy.

Where did you grow up? In Oudtshoorn, a town in the Klein Karoo about 400km from Cape Town in the Western Cape.

Who was the most influential person to you as a child? Both my parents (both deceased)

Is there a teacher that you remember having been particularly influential? Yes, my woodwork teacher at High School – he was also my inspiration to become a teacher.

What was your first job or most interesting or unique job? Teacher

What made you decide on education? During 1976, there were not many careers for "coloureds" in South Africa. Most of the careers were teachers, police officers, nurses, social workers and joining the army as soldiers. Because most of my family members were teachers, the choice was obvious.

How did you come to know Opportunity Education Foundation, how long have you worked with OEF? During 2007 Alan Barkley visited the school of which I was principal, Levana Primary in Lavender Hill, Cape Town. We worked closely together until 2011 when I was invited to attend a Classroom and Leadership Management Course in Louisiana, USA. After my retirement last year in March, I was approached by OEF to become the Western Cape Representative. I started in July 2014.

What do you consider to be the most significant political event that has occurred during your life? The release and democratic election of Nelson Mandela as president in 1994.

Who was the biggest influence in your career? A former Head of Education in the Western Cape, Professor Brian O'Connell. He was also an inspirational speaker and as principal of a primary school, I learnt a lot from him as well as how to be an effective educational leader.

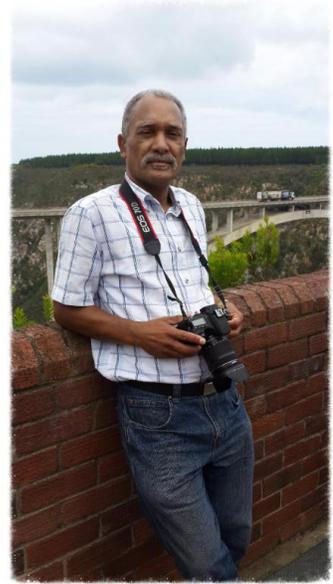
If you could meet any historical figure, of the past or present, who would it be and why? Nelson Mandela, because of the great man of peace he was.

What is your definition of "happiness"? It is to be healthy with your loved ones around you.

What is your most memorable travel experience? My 2011 trip to Louisiana and Omaha.

What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you? During a lesson I was reprimanding the learners who did not do their homework, when all of a sudden my dentures slipped to the front of my mouth preventing me from getting out another word. I warned the learners that if they dare laugh, they will be sorry but at the end of this episode I had to laugh with them.

What is your happiest memory? The birth of my grandson



What accomplishment are you most proud of? When I developed automated assessment software for primary schools during 2006 – 2012.

How do you think people will remember you? As a musician and a family man

Whose biggest fan are you? I think some of my ex-colleagues at Levana Primary and my wife.

What do you like to do in your spare time? Playing the guitar, listen to music, record choirs and do photography.

What are the main lessons you have learned in life? Never take anything for granted. The right attitude can change the world. Do to others that you want them to do to you. Always show respect and appreciation. Only hard work pays off.

What contributions did you make towards community development? During 2004 I was elected the chairperson of the "Lavender Development Forum", an organization which consisted of principals, teachers and community workers. The aim of the organization was to uplift the community of Lavender Hill which also had a high unemployment rate and to combat gang activities. Lavender Hill is well known for its gang violence, but our biggest challenge was to prevent gangsters from recruiting school children. After many campaigns and projects, we eventually started to succeed in transforming the community, but there was still a long way to go. We had to continuously fight the evils of gang activities, shootouts and drug trafficking. Unfortunately the organization could not manage community development without the intervention and support of the police and politics caused the organization to disband after three years of existence. I firmly believed that a teacher in Lavender Hill also had to serve as a community worker.

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 huge thanks to all those who visited our booth at the National Catholic Educators Association Conference in Orlando. We are grateful for the many schools that signed up!

Welcome:

Garvin Tynes Primary, Nassau, Bahamas

Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Academy, Freeport, Bahamas

Good Shepherd Catholic School, Orlando, FL

St. Mary's School, Rockledge, FL

St. Joseph Mission, San Fidel, NM

Holy Family School, Fort Worth, TX

Bishop Moore High School, Orlando, FL

Cathedral School of St. Jude, St. Petersburg, FL



Father Lopez High School, Daytona, FL
Helias Catholic High School, Jefferson City, MO
Holy Cross Central, Indianapolis, IN
Holy Family School, Port Allen, LA
Holy Redeemer School, Kissimme, FL
Immaculate Conception Elementary, Traverse City, MI
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Wimama, FL
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Scottsdale, AZ
Our Savior Catholic School, Cocoa Beach, FL
Sacred Heart School, South Beach, FL
Sacred Heart School, Lakeworth, FL
Santa Fe Catholic High School, Lakeland, FL
Sensa Educational Systems, Hillsboro Beach, FL
St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart, TX
St. Anastasia School, Fort Pierce, FL
St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope, Westburg, NY
St. Clare Catholic School, North Palm Beach, FL
St. Charles Borromeo School, Kansas City, MO
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Dallas, TX
St. Gregory the Great, Bluffton, SC
St. Helen Catholic School, Vero Beach, FL
St. Jerome Catholic School, Phoenix, AZ
St. Joseph Catholic School, Stuart, FL
St. Martin School, Jefferson City, MO
St. Peter School, Beaufort, SC
St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Cloud, FL

OEF would love to have more international schools. If you have educator friends, anywhere in the English-speaking world, forward their details to us and we will connect their school to one of our outstanding schools in Africa or Asia.

Email today and start writing tomorrow! schools@opportunityeducation.org

THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

Mpunde Basic School, Kabwe in the Central Province of Zambia was opened in 2001 with four classrooms and has since grown to twelve classrooms with 997 students from grades 1 to 9. Kabwe is the capital of the Zambian Central Province with a population estimated at 202,914 in 2010. The city was founded when lead and zinc deposits were discovered in 1902.

Kabwe also has a claim to being the birthplace of Zambian politics as it was an important political center during the colonial period. It is now an important transportation and mining center.

Despite the area's mineral wealth, the school struggles to keep up with a modest annual tuition of less than \$42 per student. Proud of their wealth of student talent, this school performs well in sports and quiz competitions and is very eager to have pen pals!



Writing letters 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.

FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

Congrats to Cindy Nardini from St. Pius/St. Leo School in Omaha, Nebraska.

On behalf of all of your pen pals at: Samaria Primary School, in Tanzania, thank you for sending letters!

Cindy, send an email to: 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!



KEEP THEM FIT FOR LEARNING!

Don't let your students get out of shape over break! Keep them building their brains and bodies with this fun and affordable learning program that incorporates creative learning and fitness. Summer vacation is a great opportunity for parents to help teachers extend classroom learning with innovative experiences to reinforce basic skills and moral values. These simple lessons are popular with busy parents, to stop the "summer slide." Kids like the fun format that challenges both their academic and physical fitness. Click here to learn more. <http://www.summerfitlearning.com/>



START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

We have the "write" letter lesson plans for maximizing the pen pal program for your students!

While no lesson plan is needed to write to your pen pals, if you want ideas – we have them!

Writing letters is a great 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 4 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/>

OPTION 3: Pinterest. <http://www.pinterest.com/opportunityed/>

OPTION 4: Twitter. <https://twitter.com/OpEdFoundation>

Check out our social media for 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 355 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.](#)





Picture of the Month:

Where in the World Are They?

Students at St. Pius School in Hyderabad, India look up the location of their pen pals from Lightfoot Elementary School, in Unionville, Virginia. Many schools in south India have started their summer break as temperatures can peak well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit daily in April and May.

For more information please contact:

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STAY CONNECTED



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