



Opportunity Education

"Educating Children Around the World"

August 2015

Opportunity Education News ~ In this Issue:

[It's All About Me-Letter Idea](#)

[3 Reasons NOT to Visit Africa?](#)

[Money for Teachers!](#)

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

[Welcome New Schools!](#)

[This School Needs Pen Pals](#)

[Did Your School Win?](#)

[Start Writing - Right Now!](#)

[What Can You Do?](#)

[COUPON - Save \\$ on Supplies!](#)

[Pic of the Month](#)

IT'S ALL ABOUT ME!

Quick and easy letter to start your school year – that serves double duty!

Whether you are new to the pen pal program or have been writing for years, it's always good to start off with introductions.

Print off the following picture and get students busy sharing "All About Me." These are great to put up around the classroom to help students get to know one another and once they are done, send them over to your pen pals and ask them to return the same information.

Providing a copy of the blank template to your pen pals will help, or just ask them to list the answers in a letter. Either way it will be fun to know more all about them! <http://thefilesofmrse.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/All-About-Me2.png>



3 REASONS NOT TO VISIT AFRICA?

1. It will forever change your perception of the world. You will appreciate all that you have and work harder for those who don't have as much.

2. You could be more difficult to live with. You won't take things for granted and you will encourage others to keep their troubles in perspective.

3. You will experience both extreme joy and sadness in a way you have not felt before. While it may feel like a roller coaster some days, the ride is well worth it.

It's pretty clear that the reasons not to go will all result in challenging you to be a better person.

And being a better person is a noble goal and a great by-product of the OE Education Experience Trip to Sumbawanga, Tanzania in July 2016. Our primary goal, however, is to spend time in OE schools, supporting the teachers and building relationships that can have an impact beyond your visit.

OE is eager to invite you on an Education Experience Trip which is open to educators, high school/college students, professionals or anyone willing to share their English skills & experience. The trip includes spending time Monday through Friday teaching, learning and sharing in OE schools.

The 12 day trip is scheduled to depart the USA on Wednesday July 13, 2016 and arrive back on Tuesday July 26. Specific details and costs will be announced soon. We have been fortunate to share our schools in Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania with exceptional people on previous trips and we encourage you to watch the videos on our website (linked below) to learn more.
<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/watch/video/27>



Interested in making a difference? Please email schools@opportunityeducation.org to note your interest. We have a trip participant limit and will honor those most qualified on a first come, first served basis. Stayed tuned for more information in next month's newsletter!

MONEY FOR TEACHERS!

Whether you are looking to join us in Tanzania or improve classroom resources – check out the following link. Get a list of educational grants, contests, awards, free toolkits, and classroom guides aimed at helping students, classrooms, schools, and communities. Check this page weekly to get the latest updates!

http://www.edutopia.org/grants-and-resources?utm_content=article&utm_campaign=grants-and-resources&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialflow&utm_term=link



WHAT'S NEWS IN OE SCHOOLS

OE South India News

John Kandichetla, the South India OE Program Manager, held an orientation for the new schools located in the Tirupathi Cluster in the state of Andhra Pradesh in July 2015.



Once explanations of the program and materials were covered, representatives from the schools discussed the possibility of holding a cricket match for boys and a Kho Kho (tag) game for girls from OE participating schools in October 2015. The teachers were so excited about it and affirmed that students will be even more enthusiastic! This would be an occasion for the OE participating students to meet each other and have a lot of fun.

OE North India News

Rethish Nair, the North India OE Program Manager, shared the positive response from his orientations and distributions of the materials in the northern Indian state of Gujarat. Recent heavy rains in this area have caused great loss of life and property. Even though the weather was not favorable, all the selected 10 schools participated in the orientation program. With 40 teachers and administrators in attendance, there was productive sharing of best practices and guides on maximizing the OE program.



WELCOME NEW SCHOOLS!

We always welcome new 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.



We are pleased to have the following schools join our pen pal program:

Ralston Middle School, Ralston, NE and Rosmini Primary, Tanzania
St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield, PA and Prince George Primary, Western Cape–South Africa
Avalon Elementary, Avalon, TX and Thomas Wildschutt, Western Cape–South Africa

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!

Bakuba Junior Secondary School started in 1957 near the town of Ntabankulu in Eastern Cape, South Africa.

The school is government aided and today caters to the needs of 789 students, from pre-school to grade 9. The staff of 20 teachers makes use of 21 newer classrooms that were built in 2006. The school, however, lacks basic amenities such as desks and has no playground equipment.



The school does not charge tuition due to the level of impoverishment in the area and relies solely on income from the Department of Education. Challenges for the school include teen pregnancies and drug abuse. Over 50% of the students are orphans because of HIV/AIDS and are being raised by grandparents or foster parents.

Despite these problems, the school is proud of its performance in both academics and co-curricular competitions with excellent results in sports and music. The school was the national music champion in 2009 – a remarkable achievement for a small rural school – and in 2010 was provincial champion. The school welcomes opportunities to engage in sister school activities.

Joining our pen pal program is easy and 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 Elaine Miller at Superior Jr. and Sr. High School, in Superior, Nebraska.

On behalf of all of your pen pals at Okorase District Assembly Experimental Primary School in Ghana, thank you for sending letters!



Elaine, 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!

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 386 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. We are in the early stages of planning for 2016 – stay tuned!

SAVE \$ ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Playtime/Schooltime Inc. has a long history of helping teachers equip their classrooms and locate hard-to-find or discontinued items. Save time and money with a one-stop shop! Coupon is good for both online and in-store purchases!

A coupon with a filmstrip border. At the top, it says 'Save \$\$' in a starburst, followed by '20% off Entire Purchase' in large bold letters. Below that, it says 'Regular priced in-stock items' and 'May not be combined with other offers'. The store name 'PLAYTIME/SCHOOLTIME' is in the center. At the bottom left, it lists the address: '99th and Fort 402-571-1717', '5310 North 99th St', 'Omaha NE 68134', and the website 'www.playtimeschoolsupply.com'. At the bottom right, it says 'Redeemable on-line— use code 2015-OE', 'In store show coupon', and 'Expires 8-30-15'. The bottom right corner features the slogan 'Omaha's best teacher store!' and 'Opportunity Education Bonus'.

If you are looking for educational products for children from birth to middle school age, their friendly staff of former/current teachers can help you find what you need.

Visit: <http://www.playtimeschoolsupply.com/> or Email: info@playtimeschoolsupply.com

1-800-288-3224 | 5310 N 99th Street, Omaha NE 68134



Picture of the Month: Traits of Writing Success!

OE recently produced a "Traits of Pen Pal Writing Poster" and distributed it to our schools overseas. John Kandichetla is pictured sharing with a teacher from Andhra Pradesh, India. The poster is also given to every new pen pal school that joins our program.

Click here to get your FREE copy!

<https://opportunityeducation.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/6-traits-poster.pdf>

For more information please contact:

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STAY CONNECTED

