



Opportunity Education

"Educating Children Around the World"
www.OpportunityEducation.org

Sister School Newsletter
November 2016

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Known for its culture, curry and majestic scenery, Southern India did not disappoint

when Jim Ricketts, CEO of Opportunity Education and Becky Walters, Sister School Coordinator, spent 10 days exploring the cities of Kochi and Madanapalle. While visiting Opportunity Education schools to help us better plan for next year's teacher trip, we were overwhelmed by the generosity and hospitality of the teachers, students, and staff of each school.

From the moment we stepped on each school's campus, we were welcomed with open arms. Indian culture and pride overflowed from the walls of the schools; it was impossible not to feel the same sense of joy as we watched the singing, dancing, skits, and speeches that made up the schools' welcome ceremonies. Let's not forget about the fantastic food served by each school, from fresh coconuts to the best curry we had ever eaten, we were never hungry during our visit. We

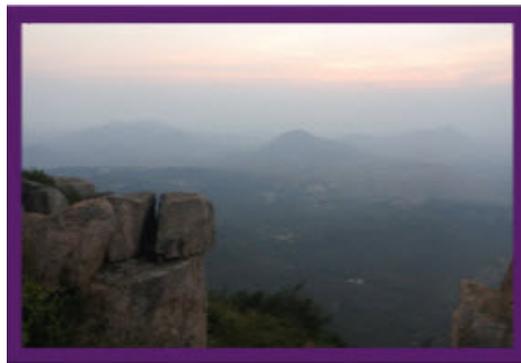


We felt humbled by the preparation and sense of gratitude expressed by each of the schools we visited. When observing the teachers and students in action using the Opportunity Education materials, it was obvious that they truly cared about making the most of their educational experience both as educators and as learners. The progress these schools have made in English mastery and modern teaching methods was impressive and showed their dedication to advancing their students' education.



Our time in Southern India wasn't all work; we also had the chance to experience some truly incredible ventures. In Kochi, we took in picturesque views of the lush, tropical landscape as we cruised the Backwaters; a mix of canals, rivers, and lagoons that flow into the Arabian Sea. We were also lucky enough to stay overnight at Horsely Hills, a former British officer's summer homes where the panoramic view of the valley below was as relaxing as it was breathtaking.

We are looking forward to bringing a group of teachers and other mission focused travelers back to Southern India in October 2017. If you are interested in experiencing these amazing moments for yourself, please contact [Becky Walters](mailto:Becky_Walters@opportunityeducation.org) at bwalters@opportunityeducation.org.



Staff Spotlight

Rethish C. / Northern Manager

Rethish C. joined Opportunity Education as its



representative in India in May 2010. He was born in 1973 and is married with one child. For almost 12 years prior to joining Opportunity Education, Rethish was an Asst. Manager Sales with Jiva Institute, an organization which runs a school for over 1,000 students and publishes over 70 textbooks and educational titles. For the three years prior to joining Opportunity Education, Rethish assisted OE on a part-time basis, helping to introduce the program to schools he was working with. Rethish has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and is pursuing an MBA. He speaks English, Hindi and Malayalam.



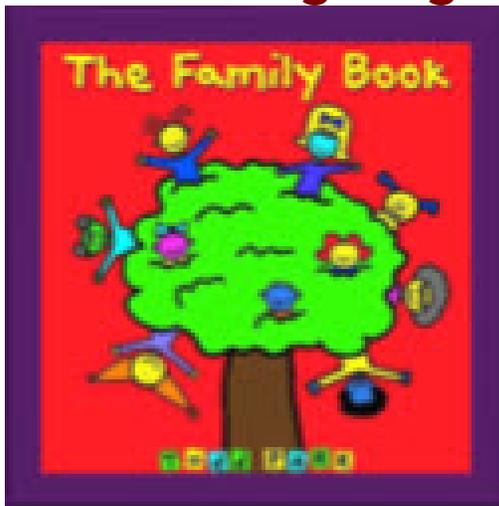
John Kandichetla / Southern Manager

John Kandichetla is a native of India and holds a Master's degree in Business Administration, a Master's in Theology, and Bachelor's Degrees in Philosophy, Theology, History and Education. Before joining Opportunity Education John worked as a Deputy

Manager of 100 regular, special and boarding schools in the Catholic Diocese of Kadapa, India for a period of 5 years. He also worked as the Coordinator of Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, whose head office is located in Kansas City, Kansas. Through this organization, he was taking care of the needs of 2,200 children and the aged for 6 years. He has traveled to the US more than a dozen times. He started Mother Theresa English Medium School in South India and developed the schools with financial assistance from contacts in the US. The school at present serves 600 needy students belonging to different religions. John joined Opportunity Education as South India Field Manager in December 2012.



Start Writing - Right Now



During this time of year we enjoy holidays and celebrations with our families. Write about your family, tell about family members and describe what you like to do with your family and why they are special!

There are many different kinds of families. Read The Family Book, by Todd Parr and other books about families where you live and around the world. Discuss how families are alike and different. Make a poster showing your family and illustrate all the things that make your family unique.

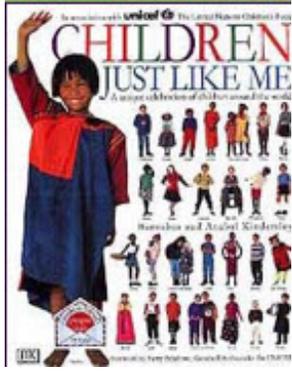
We are thankful for many things in our lives. Read books on thankfulness. Write and illustrate what you are thankful for in your own creative way and share it with your pen pal.

In the United States we are nearing the middle of our school year. In many other countries the school year is ending. Students are taking exams to move on to the next grade or graduating into secondary school. Do research about the school in your pen pal's country. How are our schools alike and how are they different? Share about your school year with your pen pal and ask them to tell you about their year.

Name: _____



This book, Children Just Like Me is in Opportunity Education libraries in Africa and Asia. It is often in libraries



and classrooms in the United States as well. This is one resource children could use to learn about life in their pen pals' country.

Teachers at Loyola School in Northern India made their own drawings to retell the story of **The Very Hungry**

Caterpillar from an OE lesson. If you use this book in your classroom, share your ideas with your sister school. If you have a class project related to the story, send them (or copies of them) to your pen pals.



Learning with Snap Cubes

Snap cubes are included in the materials provided to Opportunity Education Schools. This month offered lesson extension ideas to use with the cubes. Share your favorite snap cube activities with us and we will add it to our snap cube folder on our [Pinterest](#) page.



This School Needs Pen Pals

Sri Shiridi Sai English Medium High School

Sri Shiridi Sai English Medium High School is located in a small town called CTM in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh State. The school was started in 1989 and presently has 450 students studying from Pre-K through 10th grade. All these students come to the school from 32 different villages. There are 18 teachers working in the school. Mr. Laxmana is the owner of the school. He has provided good facilities to



the students including classrooms and electricity. The majority of the parents of the students are land-less laborers and they struggle to pay the tuition fees, to buy books & uniforms.



Mr. Laxmana, the owner of the school is known in that area for his great service in educational field. He has received an award from the State Government for educating poor children in rural areas with less tuition fees. Many of the past pupils of this school have picked up the same kind of working for the poor. The owner has inspired school and some of them have donated money to construct a few classrooms. This school is worthy to be helped.



Welcome New Schools

**Cavett Elementary School
Glenhope Elementary School
St. Peter Interparish School**

School Representatives: Please share our newsletters with all teachers in your building who are participating in the Sister School program. You can do this in a number of ways:

- Forward the newsletter through email
- Send us emails of participating teachers to put on our email list

- Print newsletters and put them in a notebook in a common teacher lounge or workroom
- Share newsletters at staff meetings
- Share current and past newsletters which are available on the OE website
 - Go to www.opportunityeducation.org
 - Click on "About Us"
 - Click on "Pen Pal News"
- Check the newsletter folder on our [Pinterest](#) Page



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