



# Opportunity Education Foundation

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**February 2015**

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## WHAT'S NEWS IN OEF SCHOOLS!

### 1,669 And Counting!

The OEF Primary Education Program is thrilled to support 1,669 schools in Africa and Asia with educational materials, TVs, DVD players and more to enhance the English education in schools that are struggling for the basics.

Country	Number of Schools
Cameroon	40
Ghana	135
India	312
Lesotho	15
Nepal	33
Sierra Leone	9
South Africa	86
Sri Lanka	29
Tanzania	452
Uganda	435
Zambia	123
<b>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SUPPORTED BY OEF</b>	<b>1,669</b>

As of 2/16/15



**Schools  
we  
support.**



The OEF Sister School Pen Pal Program is extremely grateful for the 1,296 pen pal relationships between schools all over the English speaking world and the schools we support. As you can see, we are fortunate to have pen pal schools on every continent that has schools (still waiting on Antarctica). The OEF Pen Pal Program connects classrooms all over the globe, wielding diplomacy with the mighty pen!



### SISTER SCHOOL PEN PAL PROGRAM

State	# of Schools
Alaska	2
Alabama	17
Arkansas	25
Arizona	18
California	40
Colorado	23
Connecticut	20
Delaware	1
Florida	52
Georgia	34
Hawaii	3
Iowa	65
Idaho	9
Illinois	57
Indiana	43
Kansas	11
Kentucky	17
Louisiana	57
Maine	13
Maryland	22
Massachusetts	78
Michigan	12
Minnesota	19
Mississippi	5
Missouri	39
Nebraska	111
New Hampshire	4
New Jersey	18
New Mexico	6
New York	36
Nevada	6
North Carolina	22
North Dakota	1
Ohio	31
Oklahoma	13
Oregon	16
Pennsylvania	43
Rhode Island	10
South Carolina	7
South Dakota	6
Tennessee	15
Texas	118
Utah	34
Virginia	21
Vermont	3
Washington	19
West Virginia	6
Wisconsin	8
Wyoming	4

Other Sister School Countries: 56  
 Australia, 2 Bahamas, 2 Brazil, 5  
 Canada, 23 China, 1 France, 1  
 Guam, 2 Guatemala, 1 Indonesia, 2  
 Kenya, 1 Mexico, 2 New Zealand, 1  
 N. Ireland, 1 Nicaragua, 1  
 South Korea, 2 Turkey, 1  
 Virgin Islands, 2 United Kingdom, 7



## Schools that support us.

# 1,296

## Sister School Pen Pal Relationships

1/10/15

### In USA news...

Maxey Elementary School in Lincoln, Nebraska raised money in January for its two sister schools in Tanzania.

Their clever "Be The Change You Wish The World To Be" fundraiser collected change in a jar surrounded by pictures of their pen pal friends. The money will be used to purchase books and school supplies.

Well done Maxey students for changing our world for the better!



## In India news...

John Kandichetla, the South India OEF Manager, has been busy visiting many schools before they end their school year in March. Teachers who have been preparing students for annual assessments have been complimentary of the OEF Program learning aids. Pictured are students and a teacher from Infant Jesus English Medium School.



## In Tanzania news...

Jamaal Mlewa, the Primary School Program Manager in Tanzania, may be only one man but he has exponentially multiplied his efforts by organizing cluster training for Tanzanian teachers.

Gathering teachers from many schools together for a central meeting is an efficient method of providing excellent professional development for OEF schools.

These groups of dedicated teachers meet periodically to share best practices and learn new approaches of teaching methods. We appreciate the creative impact Jamaal has to empower Tanzania educators!

## A BODY OF WORK

In this letter lesson students will appreciate their unique characteristics in terms of planning for their future careers.

Begin by drawing a simple outline of a body on a clean sheet of paper, trying to use as much space as possible for the drawing. Students should brainstorm self-descriptive words and phrases, aiming for 10–20. These attributes can either be simply handwritten or decoratively designed in and around the pictured body.

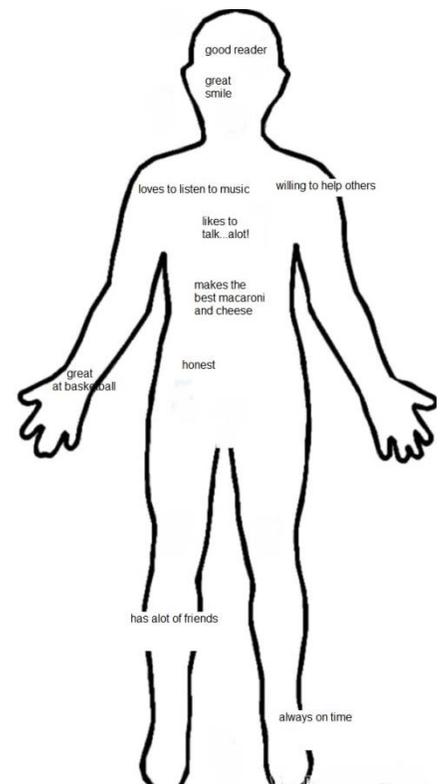
For instance, a student who is kind can put "big heart" where his heart is or draw an arrow to fingers labeling good drawing skills. Hopefully it won't be too difficult for students to find 10–20 positive attributes about themselves. If they get stuck, have them ask fellow students as their affirmations will make it an even more uplifting exercise.

Once they have completed their "body of work" it's time to imagine where they can use all these gifts in their future career.

A discussion about different careers and skills associated with them will help students get the picture. Ask them to think hard about all their wonderful traits and in what future career they might fit best. Perhaps the good reader could be an author or a big heart might benefit a nurse.

Students should then organize their attributes into a written explanation on the back of the drawing, detailing how their gifts will enable them to be the best in their future career.

Sharing this visual self-awareness portrait will help your pen pals learn more about your students and careers to which they might also aspire. Be sure to ask your pen pals to return the same "body of work" letter for your students.



## FEATURED OEF PARTNER SCHOOL

Every month we feature a school in the OEF Partner School Education Program. If your school is interested in being featured, please email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) your details!

Infant Jesus English Medium School, Ramakuppam in the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh, India has 250 students that come from 11 different villages. Students have very long daily commutes since there is no boarding school. The majority of students come from poor families, whose parents have no steady income as they work as day laborers.



Their school is located in a city of about 10,000 which was once well-known for sandalwood trees that have recently been decimated by illegal harvesting. Wild animals entering villages is not uncommon in this region but in recent years the forest department has constructed fences to keep animals out and prevent people traveling into harm's way.

As you can see from their bright, smiling faces, these students are very excited to have a pen pal school! We would LOVE TO FEATURE YOUR SCHOOL IN OUR NEWSLETTER! Please email your details and pictures if possible to: [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)

## WELCOME NEW SCHOOLS!

We welcome the following schools to our free, international pen pal program which is a fun and easy way to connect with classrooms all over the world!

Welcome to:

Windsor Lock Middle School, Windsor Lock CT and Temeke Primary, Tanzania



## OEF PROGRAM – QUESTION AND ANSWER

This section of our newsletter is intended to help OEF Education Program schools get the help they need to maximize the benefits of our program.

The question this month: **Can you suggest additional ways we can use the many supplemental materials and DVD's provided to support English learning?**

First to clarify: the difference between OEF Program DVDs and the supplemental DVDs. The OEF Primary Program provides instructional DVDs that accompany the Teacher's Guides. These DVDs show teachers and students in American classrooms learning the OEF lessons. Previewing these DVD lessons BEFORE you plan teaching the lesson to your students is vital to maximizing your impact and the goal of the video lesson.

OEF also provides supplemental DVDs to expand your students' exposure to hearing English. These DVDs are informative and entertaining, including comical series about families, exploration of natural wonders and examples of visual and performance art.

These DVDs are excellent resources that both your students and you will enjoy viewing. The videos can be shown before and after school, during school day breaks, in the evenings at boarding schools or whenever there is downtime to fill.

In addition to the benefits of hearing native English speakers, you can select videos that accompany your curriculum goals.

For instance, in the OEF Primary Program (Grade 7 Language Arts, Lesson One: Multi-Paragraph Essay Prewriting), the supplemental videos are used to encourage student creativity in planning for their future.

The goal of this particular lesson is to conduct prewriting activities to plan a multi-paragraph essay. After viewing this lesson and completing the activities, students should be able to plan an essay outlining their short-term, intermediate, and long-term goals.

Supplemental materials and videos that are used in this lesson include a beautiful book, "The Usborne Art Treasury" and a creative video art lesson on the DVD titled: Capturing the Toucan.



The supplemental materials and videos encourage the students to be creative and think about their hopes and plans for the future. In this lesson the materials should help inspire students to writing expository essays, which inform, explain, or describe the students' goals.

It is very helpful for teachers to share their own goals and experiences with students and use them as examples during lessons. This modeling creates a connection between teacher and students making them feel more comfortable sharing with each other.

Teachers should encourage the students to talk to each other about their understanding of the lesson and goals before writing anything down. This spoken activity allows students who process information by speaking to articulate their ideas before writing them down.

Students can explore their goals by imagining what their futures look like, things they might like to try, events they would like to attend, and/or places they would like to visit. The supplemental videos and materials can help open students up to new possibilities!

Visual learners may want to create images of these goals to help them articulate their ideas. OEF has provided many creative arts DVDs such as "Capturing the Toucan" to inspire artistic students.

Every student learns and expresses in unique ways. A teacher's job is to provide the stimulus to ignite a passion for learning. The OEF supplemental materials and DVDs help teachers spark curiosity and imagination!

## START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

Most schools in the USA, Canada and Europe follow a school year that starts in August/September. Now is the perfect time to send letters to your pen pals.

If you need any help regarding how to send letters, please contact your OEF Field Manager listed below. No letter lesson plan is needed but if you need one – we have them!

Writing letters is a perfect activity to keep students productive if they finish their work early or during downtime caused by noisy downpours. 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](#)



## **OEF Field Managers and Partner Organization Coordinators by Country**

### **Cameroon – Bamenda Diocese**

Valentine Nsanyu, P.O. Box 161, Bamenda, North West Region, E-mail: [sirvali@gmail.com](mailto:sirvali@gmail.com)

### **Cameroon – Buea Diocese**

Oscar Atem Bessong, P.O. Box 82, Buea, South West Region, Tel: 79707478 E-mail: [catholicsecbuea@yahoo.com](mailto:catholicsecbuea@yahoo.com)

### **Cameroon – Kumbo Diocese**

Marius Berinyuy, Pedagogical Adviser, [berimars@gmail.com](mailto:berimars@gmail.com) and Father Anthony Lawir, Education Secretary, Catholic Education Secretariat, P.O. Box 135, Kumbo, North West Region, Tel.: 237 7984 2521

E-mail: [alawir2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alawir2003@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Cameroon – Mamfe Diocese**

Ferdinand Eno-Akpa Agbor, Catholic Education Secretariat, P.O. Box 120, Mamfe, South West Region,

Tel.: 97851905 Email: [enoakpagk@yahoo.com](mailto:enoakpagk@yahoo.com) or Education Secretary, Father Cornelius Njingwa:

Tel.: 77778665 Email: [cningwa@yahoo.com](mailto:cningwa@yahoo.com)

### **Ghana**

Augustina (Tina) Adobea, SYTO, Opp. U.N.D.P. Offices, Ring Road East, P.O. Box KA 9732, Accra, Ghana,

Tel: 302 769157 E-mail: [opportunityeducation@sytoghana.org](mailto:opportunityeducation@sytoghana.org)

### **India – North** (all states except the South India states listed)

Rethish C. Nair, Flat No. 806, Sadbhawana Apts, Sector – 46, Faridabad – 121010, Haryana, India,

Tel: 9810611690, Email: [rethish@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:rethish@opportunityeducation.org)

### **India – South** (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka)

John Kandichetla, 31-93/2, Teacher's Colony, Kotha Indlu, Punganur, Chittoor District, 517247, Andhra Pradesh, India, Tel:

955-022-6688 (Mobile), Email: [johnk@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:johnk@opportunityeducation.org)

### **Lesotho**

Mr Teboho Moneri, Regional Inspector – Central, Ministry of Education and Training – Head Office, P.O. Box 47, Maseru

100, Lesotho, Tel: 266 22322755 Mobile: 266 63003734 E-mail: [tebohomoneri@yahoo.com](mailto:tebohomoneri@yahoo.com)

### **Nepal**

Education Team Leader: Kshitij Raj Prasai [kshitiji.prasai@umn.org.np](mailto:kshitiji.prasai@umn.org.np) Anjana Chitrakar, Education Advisor – Technical Team,

United Mission to Nepal, P.O. Box 126, Kathmandu, Nepal, Email: [anjana.chitrakar@umn.org.np](mailto:anjana.chitrakar@umn.org.np)

### **Sierra Leone**

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### **South Africa – Western Cape**

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### **South Africa – Eastern Cape**

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### **Sri Lanka**

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### **Tanzania**

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### **Uganda**

Please email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) for more information.

### **Zambia**

OEF Pen Pal Coordinator, World Vision Zambia, P.O. Box 31083, Lusaka, Zambia, Tel.:



**Picture of the Month:  
A Tablet of Opportunity!**

Juliana Bwire, OEF Tablet Program Manager, is handing a tablet to an eager student during the celebration that launched the OEF Tablet Project at Mtakuja Secondary School near Moshi, Tanzania. The Opportunity Tablet Program provides both students and teachers individual access to a rich, multimedia digital curriculum. OEF is developing this unique tablet to stimulate learning space both in and out of classrooms, opening even more opportunities for education!

For more information contact:

**TERESA ROLL ~ OUTREACH & SISTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR**

**OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

**[www.OpportunityEducation.org](http://www.OpportunityEducation.org) [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)**

