



"Educating Children Around the World"

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## HOW TO CATCH EBOLA

Don't take it for granted... that your students understand Ebola and how easy it is, **NOT to catch it.**

A basic Q & A session will be easy to integrate with health/science, social studies/geography, and finally language arts as you summarize your findings. Take advantage of the excellent resources and ideas offered on the following link.

[http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/10/01/learning-from-disaster-exploring-the-ebola-epidemic/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&emc=edit\\_tnt\\_20141001&nid=65798539&tntemail0=y&\\_r=0#lesson](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/10/01/learning-from-disaster-exploring-the-ebola-epidemic/?_php=true&_type=blogs&emc=edit_tnt_20141001&nid=65798539&tntemail0=y&_r=0#lesson)

Don't miss this chance to educate your students on how there are no "foreign" events in our ever connected world. Help them connect real-life events to their own life by asking,

"How does this issue affect me today?"

"How does will this issue affect me a month, year, and 10 years from now?"

While Ebola is a serious issue affecting our world, it is up to educators to make these "authentic" learning experiences relevant to students.

The NY Times Learning offers interesting approaches. Students choose a written format to tell a perspective of the Ebola outbreak from the point of view of someone in an affected group, for example: a diary entry, a letter, a poem, an obituary, a scientific report, or a newspaper article.

**Facts about Ebola in the U.S.**

You can't get Ebola through air

You can't get Ebola through water

You can't get Ebola through food

You can only get Ebola from:

- Touching the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola.
- Touching contaminated objects, like needles.
- Touching infected animals, their blood or other body fluids, or their meat.

**Ebola poses no significant risk to the United States.**

Perhaps one student might choose to write a letter from someone in Sierra Leone explaining to someone in the United States what life was like during the quarantine lock down. Another might choose to write as if he or she were a scientist issuing a report on the latest details of the epidemic's spread in a particular region. Students may choose to weave in quotations and descriptions from the articles. Finally, invite the class to share their writing.

Following is a quick read to get you started.

**You can't get Ebola through air.**

**You can't get Ebola through water.**

**You can't get Ebola through food.**

**You can only get Ebola from:**

**Touching the blood or body fluids from someone who is sick or has died from Ebola.**

**Getting stuck with a contaminated needle.**

**Touching the blood/body fluids or eating meat from infected animals.**

**Ebola poses no significant risk to the United States.**

**Other interesting Ebola FACTS:**

(source: <http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/05/health/ebola-dont-panic/>)

### **1. It's easy to kill the virus.**

Ebola is a very weak virus. It does not travel through the air. It is not transmitted by coughing or sneezing. It's actually pretty hard to catch...so what's the drama about. Ebola is a strong virus, once you have caught it. People who are infected will get very sick.

### **2. While we don't have a vaccine, we know how Ebola works and how to stop it.**

We know how to stop the spread of Ebola. Simple hygiene and isolation can stop it.

**The reason that Ebola is spreading in parts of Africa, is due to the difficulties getting patients quickly isolated and providing hygiene materials to thwart the spread.**

### **3. Geography matters.**

Check out this great graphic that reveals...Africa is HUGE!

<http://static02.mediaite.com/geekosystem/uploads/2010/10/true-size-of-africa.jpg>

Africa's size is roughly the size of the U.S., China, India, Spain, Germany, Italy, France, the U.K. and Eastern Europe combined. The Ebola outbreak is centered in four countries in a relatively small part of West Africa: Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

In fact, Africa is so large that many cities in Europe are actually closer to the Ebola outbreak than are cities in eastern and southern Africa. Johannesburg, South Africa is more than 3,000 miles away – farther than both Paris and London.

The most real effect for millions of people reading about Ebola will be fear and stigma.

“These are lovely countries with friendly people and some heroic health workers, but roads, electricity and other infrastructure are desperately weak. All of Liberia can produce less than one-third as much electricity as the Dallas Cowboys football stadium consumes at peak times.”(Source: [Kristof, New York Times](#))

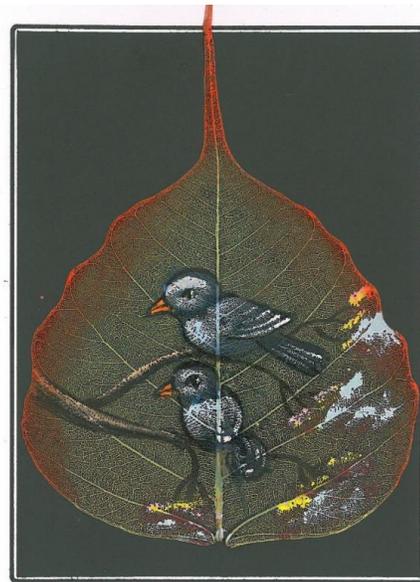
Africa is a continent – not a country. Take note to teach the immensity and diversity of all of her 54 countries. And while the media might be trying to "scare" up the ratings, shouldn't a crisis in even one country, anywhere, get more attention than a Kardashian?

## CARDS FOR A CAUSE!

### Looking for a fun, fundraiser that can't lose?

Easy opportunity to help a great cause – teach your students the basics of business – and make some money!

It will be simple to sell these beautiful hand painted note cards and Christmas greeting cards. The true beauty lies how the money will help and in the amazing women from Indian villages who have painted each unique card. These women raise money with these cards to help support their families and educate their children.



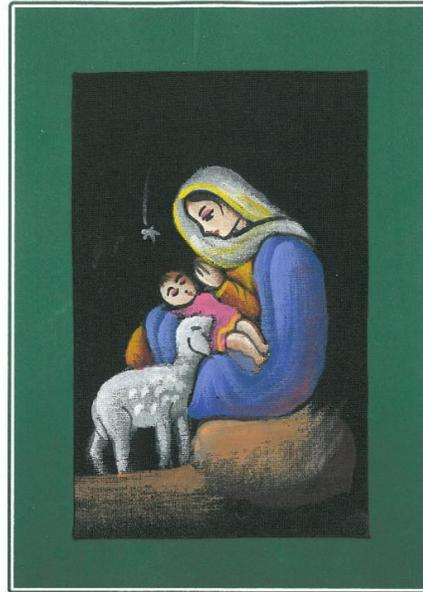
The cards were sent to us by Fr. Inna Reddy – who offered OEF the cards with hopes for a generous sister school or donor to come along and buy them. He plans on using the proceeds to install solar energy panels to help offset the staggering costs of supplying electricity to his school. This will free funds that can go towards educating students at his school.

Fr. Reddy's school, Bishop Thumma Bala Primary, is located in the Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh, India and is new to the OEF program. The school is in a very remote, rural area that struggles to provide consistent electrical power. Started June 2013, the school has quickly filled to over 450 students from pre-school to grade 6 with only 10 staff members to manage it all!

Students come from 7 different villages with parents who are mostly uneducated, agricultural day laborers. Most cannot afford to pay tuition fees, which obviously makes it difficult to attract and pay staff, as well as buy books and school materials. Father Inna doesn't have a home; he resides in the school, sleeping in a classroom.

While the cards are exceptional, it truly is the real people behind them, who will benefit which make these cards an amazing gift.

There are a variety of pictures on the fronts of the cards, some of every day images (birds, butterflies etc.) and some with Christmas themes – all of the cards are blank inside to allow for personalization. 500 of the cards are 5x7 painted on canvas and attached to paper, 500 are painted on a leaf, which is affixed to the card. They are all individually wrapped in cellophane to preserve the integrity. Each card is so pretty, you could frame it!



In regards to fundraising, sometimes the best approach is just to have your buyers "make a donation" to the cause, rather than naming a specific price. Suggested card price ranges from \$2-\$5 per card, with your school keeping \$1 per card and donating the rest to Bishop Thumma Bala Primary. However, you can handle the sales however you see fit – take advantage of empowering your students to manage the "business". Here is an opportunity to challenge your students to learn the basics of business, accounting and salesmanship.

Please contact Teresa Roll at Opportunity Education Foundation, (402)614-5381 or [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) for more information. I can immediately mail you whatever quantity of cards you want and provide whatever you need to succeed.

## WHAT'S NEWS IN SISTER SCHOOLS!

### CHICAGO SISTER SCHOOL SOCIAL

Great thanks to generous parents and staff at Central Elementary School in Wilmette, Illinois for hosting a Sister School Networking event on September 30. Both school staff and parents were eager to share ideas how to integrate the OEF Sister School Pen Pal Program and enhance global education at their school. It was an insightful and productive meeting of enthusiastic Chicago area educators who strive to give their students the best both in and out of the classroom!



## THE MURAL MADE IT HOME!

16,000 miles and a lot of smiles later...

the mural started by the artists at Menallen Elementary in Uniontown, Pennsylvania and finished by their pen pal school, Uhuru Peak School in Arusha, Tanzania – has made it back home to the classroom of the very creative Michelle Komacek.

Ms. Komacek helped students at Menallen design two murals that were sent to their pen pal school. Uhuru Peak Primary then finished both and kept one to decorate their own school.

We are grateful to all our OEF educators for their dedication to shrinking the miles apart and connecting at the heart!



## 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.

Welcome to:

Charles City MS, Charles City, IA  
Valley Ridge Academy, Ponte Verde, FL  
Robeson Elementary, Champaign, IL  
Palisades Elementary, Gretna, NE  
Lawrence Catholic Academy, Lawrence, MA  
Lincoln Elementary–Evanston, Evanston, IL  
Superior JR/SR High, Superior, NE  
Independence Elementary, St. Charles, MO  
Meskawki Settlement School, IA



Callahan Middle School, IA  
Cardinal Middle School, IA  
Danville Community School, IA  
Goodrell Middle School, IA  
Ft. Madison Community School District, Fort Madison, IA  
Cheery Children Education Centre, Nairobi, Kenya  
NorthStar After School Program, Omaha, NE  
Salem High School, Virginia Beach, VA  
Bangor Christian School, Bangor, ME  
Lincoln Elementary, Burlingame, CA

OEF would love to have more international schools – if you have educator friends, anywhere in the English speaking world – forward them 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](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)

## THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

Eckernforde English Medium Primary School is located in Tanga, Tanzania.

The city of Tanga sits on the Indian Ocean, near the border with Kenya. Major exports from Tanga's port include sisal, coffee, tea, and cotton. Tanga is also an important railroad hub, connecting the northern Tanzanian interior with ocean transports.



The name Tanga comes from the word for farm in several of the local languages Tanga also gave its name to Tanganyika, literally meaning "Sisal Farm", the name of the territory which in 1964 joined with the island of Zanzibar to form the modern nation of Tanzania.



Tanga has been sister cities with Eckernförde, Germany since 1963. Eckernforde Primary was started in 1999 with only seven pupils and currently has 538 students (219 boarders) from pre-school through Grade 7. The annual tuition for day students is about \$240 and for boarders around \$600.

Eckernforde continues to undergo renovations to improve facilities by adding more dining space and additional classrooms and dormitories. There is an open courtyard with a beautiful garden and shade trees for relaxation as well as for private studies. Eckernforde is working to add more computer facilities. The students and teachers are very excited to be part of the pen pal program!

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](mailto: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!

## FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

Congrats to Monica Robinson,  
from LaSalle Middle School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

On behalf of your pen pals from Udaipur Public School in India – thank you for sending letters!

Monica, send an email  
to: [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)  
to claim your prize!



Want to win next month?

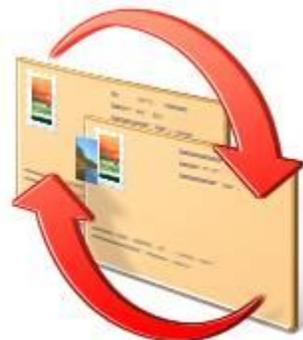
Just email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) after you mail your letters and you are entered to win!

## START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

Now is the perfect time to write your pen pals!

No lesson plan is needed, but if you need one – 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

Well done OEF Professional Development Team!

OEF sponsored a week-long teacher training seminar in South Africa!

Pictured are Jamaal Mlewa – OEF Tanzania, Nuri Arieff – OEF South Africa, Alan Barkley – OEF Director of International Operations and Ivor Nober – OEF South Africa.

For more information please contact:

**TERESA ROLL**

**OUTREACH & SISTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR**

**OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

[www.OpportunityEducation.org](http://www.OpportunityEducation.org)

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**402-614-5381**

*STAY CONNECTED*

