



"Educating Children Around the World"

May 2014

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LETTER LESSON – WISH YOU WERE HERE!

As your weeks are winding down and your students are winding up, you may be wishing you were anywhere but here.

Give yourself a well-deserved break from the end-of-year stress by sending your students on vacation.

This letter lesson plan couldn't have less planning – pass out postcards/note cards or just plain sheets of paper. Ask students to bring in samples of vacation postcards or pull some off the internet.

Put them to work creating a post card highlighting a vacation destination – whether it be their school, their city, or a vacation they will go on this summer – drawing the top three attractions that draw visitors.

On the other side, students list the reasons they wish their pen pals could be here. What would they see or do, what should they wear, what's good to eat etc. Extend the activity by asking students to step up in front and sell their classmates on their destination. Put it to a vote, where do students wish they were most?

Collect the postcards, include a copy of this lesson plan and send it off to your pen pals asking them to return a postcard that reveals where they wish you could vacation!



JAMBO TANZANIA!

54 days and counting until we touch ground in Moshi, Tanzania, with 17 people on the Education Experience Trip who will share their time and talents in OEF schools.

Our greatest joy is sharing our schools with others. If you have a pen pal school in the cities of Moshi or Arusha – we would love to include your school in on the fun.

We will personally deliver whatever letters, videos or special projects you would like to share with your pen pals.



To give you ideas...students at Menallen Elementary in Pennsylvania are designing a canvass mural to share. Menallen will draw and paint half of the mural. We will deliver it to their pen pal school in Arusha who will then finish the other side of the mural and send back.

We are always delighted and amazed by the creativity of our schools' correspondence projects. Let us know how we can help you send a special hello to your pen pals!

PEN PAL PRINCIPAL PAYS A VISIT!

Swampscott Middle School in Massachusetts was recently honored with a visit from Sheila Galo, the principal of their pen pal school, Siyabulela Primary School in Langa, Western Cape, South Africa. Ms. Galo made the 7,700+ mile trip at the invitation of Judy McKenzie, the former pen pal coordinator at Swampscott.



It was Ms. Galo's first trip to the USA. It was her first trip on an airplane. Unfortunately, it was also her first experience of lost luggage! But she didn't let that dampen the fun, she hit the ground running with a diverse and full agenda. She toured Boston on Duck Boats and got a VIP tour of Harvard University. She enjoyed visiting a variety of area schools including elementary, middle school and high school levels. Sharing meals with the many teachers who offered their hospitality was fun but it might have been the teacher karaoke-outing that was the most unforgettable experience!

After speaking to classes and answering questions, she shared lunches with students. The students at Swampscott Middle School, who participate in the OEF pen pal program, wrote poems for her, sang a songs and presented her with gifts.



Not to be outdone, the faculty hosted dinners for her in their homes and a party complete with a lip-syncing contest. Ms. Galo also managed to fit in some shopping malls and supermarkets. American jeans for her niece and nephew were among the souvenirs she was excited to take back home.

Swampscott teachers wanted to return the favor of all the wonderful experiences they had last year while they were hosted by Ms. Galo in South Africa. OEF is grateful for the generosity of these special people who are making extraordinary efforts to expand their learning and friendship beyond what we could ever imagine for the pen pal program!

Learn more about their amazing pen pal relationship by watching the videos on the OEF site: <http://www.opportunityeducation.org/videos/global-connections/>

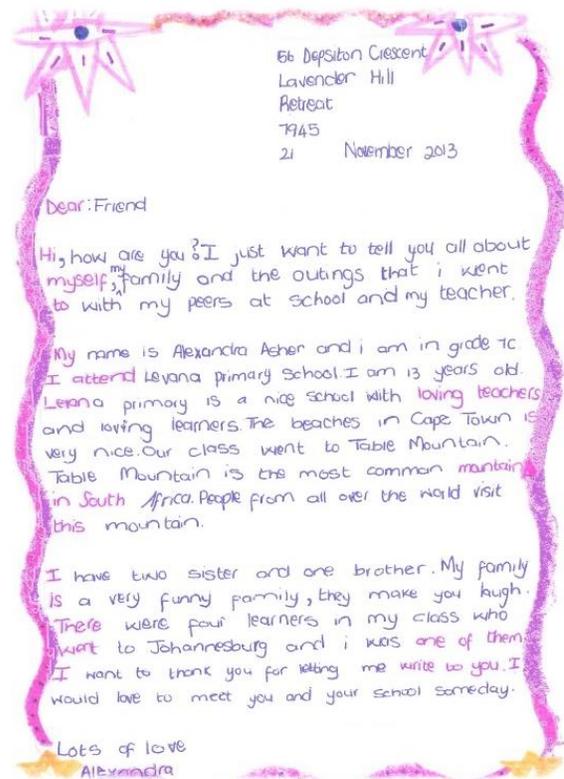
THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

Levana Primary School, Retreat, Western Cape, South Africa

We have letters from this school in our office waiting for pen pals to write them back!

We understand that most schools are wrapping up their year. Giving your students an enriching letter writing activity will keep them busy while you get busy finishing grades and prep for summer vacation!

A little background on this exceptional school – Levana Primary was established in 1977 and serves very impoverished and disadvantaged students, who struggle with violence, substance abuse and lack of parental guidance.



Similar to many American schools, Levana has a security system with 26 cameras which are monitored by an armed response company and the police service.

Despite this environment, the 33 educators strive to give the 1,048 learners from pre-school to Grade 7 the best possible education.

The school is very proud of its academic excellence and its professional development program for the educators. It is actively involved in global education, with school relationships in Japan and with other international schools. Flower and vegetable gardens have been developed to complement the curriculum and every attempt is made to expose the learners to various sporting activities.

The school fees are only Rand 200 or about \$20 per year but collecting tuition is very difficult. Rather than get discouraged with their challenges, these students are working hard and are encouraged by pen pal letters. Can you help?

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.

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!

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 special welcome to the following new schools who signed up at NCEA in Pittsburgh. It was a great conference to meet new teachers and catch up with those who have been in the pen pal program for years!

St. Francis of Assisi School, Houston, TX
All Saints Elementary, Cedar Rapids, IA
Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic, Pittsburgh, PA
Christ the Divine Teacher Academy, Pittsburgh, PA
Lock Haven Catholic School, Lock Haven, PA
Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic Academy, Pittsburgh, PA
Campus School of Carlow University, Pittsburgh, PA

Catholic Academy of West Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
Claridge Primary School, Nassau, Bahamas
Corpus Christ School, Wheeling, WV
East Catholic School, Pittsburgh, PA
Holy Child School, Bridgeville, PA
Niagara Catholic High School, Niagara Falls, NY
Noonan Academy, Mokena, IL
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Cleveland, OH
Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria, TX
Our Lady of Victory School, State College, PA
Queen of Angels Catholic School, Rosewell, GA
Sadie Curtis Primary School, Nassau, Bahamas
St. Agnes School, West Mifflin, PA
St. Augustine Academy, Ventura, CA
St. Bernadette School, Monroeville, PA
St. Catherine Laboure School, Harrisburg, PA
St. Francis DeSales, Beckley, WV
St. Gregory School, North East, PA
St. Irenaeus School, Oakmont, PA
St. Margaret's School, Mattydale, NY
St. Maria Goretti, Madison, WI
St. Mary Immaculate, Plainfield, IL
St. Matthew Catholic School, Phoenix, AZ
St. Patrick Catholic School, Louisville, KY
St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School, Fort Worth, TX
St. Pius X Catholic School, Indianapolis, IN
St. Sebastian School, Pittsburgh, PA
St. Thomas School, Corry, PA
St. Ursula School, Allison Park, PA
St. Matthias The Apostle, Lanham, MD

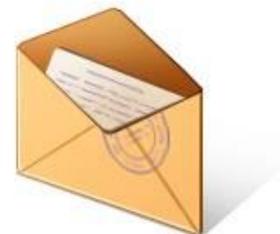


We have hundreds of schools waiting for pen pal partners –
email today and start writing tomorrow!

FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

Congrats to Lisa Geosits, a great pen pal educator from
St. Joseph the Worker School in Orefield, Pennsylvania!

On behalf of your pen pals from Uwata Education Center in
Tanzania – thank you for sending letters!



Lisa, 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!

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



Get Others to Write!

We have 355 schools very eager to have English speaking pen pals.
Share the following link – and make sure you CCschools@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.](#)

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 that 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/>



Picture of the Month:

OEF is Making Connections Across the Globe! Literally!

Pictured is Victor Lutebingwa, an IT Technician with OEF in Tanzania, who is connecting Opportunity Education Foundation Student Tablets.

For more information please contact:

TERESA ROLL

OUTREACH & SISTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR

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STAY CONNECTED

