



"Educating Children Around the World"

April 2014

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Is There an International Sound for a Burp or a Bee?

Letter Lesson: Do the same animals sound different across the globe?

If you were on Zanzibar, a bee would sound like Zzzu Zzzu, in Cape Town, South Africa this same bee might say Zoem Zoem, while students in the USA would probably report a Buzzz sound.

This is a perfect letter lesson for students (and teachers) suffering from spring fever.

It won't be hard to excite students to investigate what a "burp" sounds like in another language or discover why the same animals sound different across the globe.

Have a discussion about onomatopoeia (the word is a lesson on its own) which are words that imitate natural sounds.

Why do different cultures have diverse ways of describing similar sounds. Compare and contrast your country with your pen pals'.

Follow up with a letter that asks them to respond to the age old questions of "What Sound Does a (fill in the blank) Make?"

Some favorite animal sounds to compare might be: cat, rooster, dog, small bird, owl, cow, pig, donkey and of course – a bee!

To help you along with your research the following link has an interesting variety of onomatopoeias – including what is sure to delight your students, the international sounds for passing gas. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-linguistic_onomatopoeias



THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

St. John Bosco Katende Primary School is an OEF school located Mpigi, Uganda.

Despite being 107 years old, the school facilities are in good condition and the children even have space for a nice playground.

There are 32 teachers and 21 classrooms for 1,620 students from pre-school to grade 7. That puts approximately 50-77 students in each classroom per teacher.



Other challenges include unstable electricity that costs the school money for fuel to power a generator. The only government support comes from a grant of about \$2,350.

Recently, OEF was honored to have Sister Maxiensa Babirye, the headmistress of the school, visit our Omaha office. (pictured above with Jim Ricketts, the President of OEF)

Despite the zero degrees outside, Sister "Max" warmed all of our hearts with updates on how well her students are doing and how eager they are to have pen pals!

Uganda is an amazing country, the "Pearl of Africa", with an interesting history and rich culture. As with all OEF pen pal schools in Africa and Asia – the letters to St. John Bosco will offer your students wonderful opportunities to learn.



Writing letters is a creative way 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.](#)

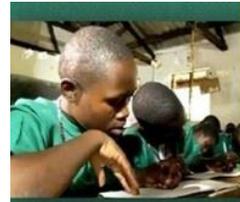
Welcome to:

– Hardin Park Elementary in Boone, North Carolina

Spring is always a little slow in recruiting new pen pal schools.

Luckily, OEF is attending the NCEA Conference in Pittsburgh, from April 22 to 24. Stop by and say hi and get your chocolate fix. We are giving out the good stuff!

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



FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

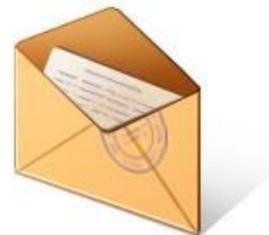
Congrats to Rebekah P.
a great pen pal educator from
Bellview Elementary in Sandy, Utah!

On behalf of your pen pals from Asuboi District Assembly
Primary School in Ghana – thank you for sending letters!

Rebekah, 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.

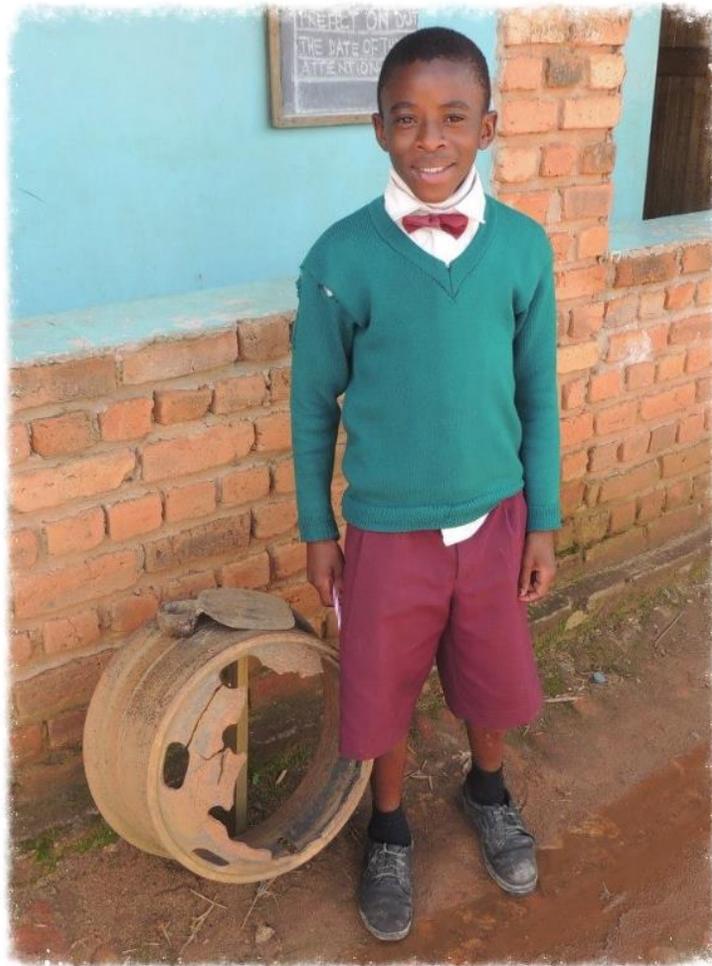
Share the following link – and make sure you CC schools@opportunityeducation.org – to get a gift certificate.

[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. [Click Here to Learn More](#).





Picture of the Month: "A bell is no bell, 'til you ring it."

The rusted tire rim next to this dashing young man serves as the school bell for St. Mary's Anglican English Medium Primary School at Njombe town, Tanzania. Thanks to Martin Russell, OEF Tanzania Country Director for sharing your trip photos!

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STAY CONNECTED

