

## A Letter to Teachers

Dear teachers,

Greetings from Shriram Foundation.

Schools are re-opening and children are coming back to school with their new books and bags. As teachers, we could make School Reopening Week a wonderful time for all of us. This month we bring you ideas on how to welcome back your students.

The United Nations observes World Environment Day on June 5 to highlight the importance of protecting the environment. In this issue you will find suggestions for Environment Day projects, besides a quiz on the topic of environment. Although school re-opens only after June 5, you may still celebrate the occasion and resume school in a fun and purposeful way.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please do write in to us at [m100.shriramfdn@gmail.com](mailto:m100.shriramfdn@gmail.com) with your suggestions, comments and feedback.

Warm regards  
Editor

## Theme for the Month

### Environment Conservation

*Although Environment Day gets over before school reopens, it is never too late to observe it with activities and projects in your school. Here are a few projects to help you observe World Environment Day meaningfully in your school.*

- » Decide a route in your village for a cycle rally. Inform students who have cycles that they will cycle through the village in a group - escorted by a teacher - to create awareness about the importance of protecting the environment. Get a group of other students (who do not have cycles) to create posters and placards with messages on how to protect the environment. Get them to tie these messages to the cycles. Let the rally start from school and come back to school.
- » Choose a spot on a busy village road which has two trees close to each other. Tell students to create slogans, placards and posters with Environment Day messages such as 'Do not waste paper.' 'Save water.' 'Save electricity' etc. Take a group of students with you to the spot. Tie a rope between the two trees. Clip all the messages and posters on the rope in such a way that they are visible to everyone who passes by.
- » Divide the classes into smaller groups. Ask each group along with a teacher to do a survey of all the trees in one small part of the village. Tell them to draw maps of the streets they visit and mark the trees on them. Let them also list out trees, what kinds of trees and how many of each they see. Compile every group's work and help the children make a school report of the Trees of the Village.
- » During School Assembly, announce that every class must take a pledge to conserve the environment in any one way. Give every class some time to decide their pledges and next day, ask every class to assemble and one after another, take a group pledge.

## Wise Words

*Here are some proverbs, sayings and quotations from all over the world to inspire you. You may write or display them on your blackboards or notice boards, explain and discuss them with your students.*

*"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."*

– Mahatma Gandhi

*"On earth there is no heaven, but there are pieces of it."*

– Jules Renard





## A Letter For School Leaders

By Mrs. V. S. Anuradha

Dear Correspondents and Principals,

Let us talk about the purpose of schools and education. Let us start with a story about a school.

The school looks beautiful. It is clean and decorated. The students have invited people from the village. Parents of children, members of the Gram Panchayat, teachers from other schools, children and youth and many others have gathered at the school. Everyone is curious to know why they have been called.

Meera, a student of class 9, explains the purpose of the gathering. They have just learnt about the fundamental right of every child to education. They have decided to do a small project around it. They want to collect responses from people in their village for two questions.

- a. Why is school important for children?
- b. Why is education needed?

Small groups were formed. There were separate children's groups. The result of the discussion is given below.

### From the adult group

#### *Why is school important for children?*

1. To be able to read and write
2. To go to college
3. Children need a place to stay when parents go to work
4. To learn to be away from home and relatives
5. To do well in exams

### From the children's group

#### *Why is school important for children?*

1. It makes us happy.
2. We enjoy playing and learning.
3. We do many things we cannot do at home.
4. There are many books and computer.
5. We can be with friends and dream

#### *Why is education needed?*

1. To be able to support family as an adult
2. To gain knowledge about the world
3. To be able to speak in English and use computers
4. For a good future

#### *Why is education needed?*

1. For a good future I always dream about
2. To be able to read and write, ask questions and think
3. To do things we have not done before
4. To become a ... [profession]
5. To know about the world

As school teachers and administrators, what do you think about the purpose of schools and education. Write your answers in a diary.

Next, find out what children, parents and the community think about school and education. Ask them the same questions and record their answers.

Are your answers different or the same as theirs? Does your school match up to everybody's expectations?

*The purpose of all education is to bring about freedom, love, the flowering of goodness and the transformation of society.*

- J Krishnamurti

## Puzzle

It is Van Mahotsav Day (the annual tree planting festival in India) celebration at your school. You are given 10 saplings and have to plant them in FIVE rows with FOUR trees in each row. How will you do it? Draw your answer.





## Teacher Tip

Children love surprises. And teachers love their students to smile and be happy. So what can we as teachers do to give our young ones a surprise that will make them smile? School re-opening time is the right time for teachers to bring the smile on their students' faces. You could do this by planning an interesting welcome back time for your student. Here are a few ideas.

1. Decorate your classes with new posters and charts before your students come.
2. Stand at the school gate or in front of the class to welcome your young ones with a bright smile and a happy greeting.
3. Write welcome messages on the blackboard.
4. Invite students to spend their first day decorating their classroom. Have materials ready for them. Work with them and allow them to plan and create as many things as they want to. Appreciate their work and invite other teachers and the Principal to visit your room.



## Quiz

*Knowledge of the world, past and present, is very important for young minds. It does not always come from textbooks. Making students familiar with these quiz questions and answers is a fun and easy way to build general knowledge.*

1. What are greenhouse gases responsible for?
2. This is a form of rain but it showers - not pure water but chemical waste. It is harmful to plants and animals. What do you call it?
3. What is the study of environment called?
4. Sometimes oil tankers carrying crude get damaged and the oil leaks into the oceans and seas. What is such an accidental release of oil into water bodies called?
5. What are the 3 R's of waste management?
6. Which gas leaked out of a factory to cause the Bhopal Gas Tragedy in the year 1984?
7. Which layer of the atmosphere screens out the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation?
8. What percent of the Earth's water is fresh?
9. Which gas can be generated from dung and is used in the rural areas for cooking and lighting?
10. Which Asian country has one third of the world's known coal reserves?





## Let's Learn English

We all know that pronouns are the words that replace nouns in sentences. We use pronouns instead of repeating the same nouns in sentences. There are many kinds of pronouns and they are all used in different ways.

For example although myself is a first person pronoun, it cannot be used to introduce oneself. We cannot say, Myself Raghu. The correct form is, My name is Raghu. Or I am Raghu.

### Emphatic Pronoun

>> The pronoun myself (also herself, himself, themselves, ourselves) is called an emphatic pronoun and is used when you want to emphasise something done by the person who is being talked about. For example, I did it myself. It means I did it without any one's help. She herself told me about it.

### Subject Pronouns

>> Look at all these pronouns. I am Prema. This is my friend, Shabana. She lives in Vijayawada. This book belongs to Shabana. Please give it to her.  
 >> I, she, he, it, we, they and you are subject pronouns. They are used to indicate people/things about whom something is said. They are the subject of the sentence.

### Object Pronouns

>> In contrast object pronouns are receivers: things are being done or said to them. Here are some examples:  
 >> He told me a story. I gave him the bag of mangoes. The thieves tried to run away but the police arrested them. Please give the book to her.  
 >> Me, him, her and them are object pronouns – they stand for nouns/people to whom something has happened.

Now can you write three sentences about your best friend using the subject pronouns carefully?  
 Then write three pieces of advice that your parents/teachers gave you and your brothers/sisters – and use the object pronouns carefully.

### TEACHERS TALK



## Recycling and Art

### Things needed

- Balloon
- Fevicol/Flour and water glue(Instructions below)
- Old newspapers
- Scissors
- Paints and Brush

### How to do

- i. Blow the balloon and tie it at the end.
- ii. Make a simple, thin glue from flour and water. Mix flour and water in the ratio 1:1 to make a thin mixture. Add 3 times of boiling water and stir it until you get a glue like consistency. Simmer for about 3 minutes, then cool.
- iii. Alternatively, you can also make a 1:1 water and Fevicol mixture and keep it ready.
- iv. Tear the old newspapers into strips and pieces. Dip each strip of paper in the glue mixture, wipe off excess, and wrap the strip around the top half of the balloon. This is the Paper Mache.
- v. Add at least 3-4 layers of the strips over it.
- vi. Let it dry overnight.
- vii. Pop the balloon, remove the rubber from inside the bowl. Cut the edge of the bowl with scissors.
- viii. Now paint away with your own colors and patterns!

*Tips: You can build globes, dolls, masks, flower vases, cartons, boxes, beads and necklaces etc. with Paper Mache.*



### Answers

#### Quiz

1. Global Warming
2. Acid Rain
3. Ecology
4. Oil Spill
5. Reduce-Reuse-Recycle
6. Methyl-iso-cyanate
7. Ozone Layer
8. 2.5 percent
9. Biogas
10. China

#### Puzzle

Star shaped manner as shown below.

