

## A LETTER TO TEACHERS

Dear teachers,

Greetings from Shriram Foundation!

How did you celebrate Sankaranthi at school? How did you celebrate Republic Day? What did you do to observe Martyrs' Day?

Are there any new programs or practices that you have started at school or are planning to start this year?

Share your programs and ideas with other teachers. Let more schools and more teachers and students benefit from your thoughts. Write to us at the email id given below, or hand over your notes and articles to our academic coordinators when they visit you at school. Don't forget to send us photographs too. We would love to feature your ideas and experiences in this magazine.

Write to us at [m100.shriramfdn@gmail.com](mailto:m100.shriramfdn@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

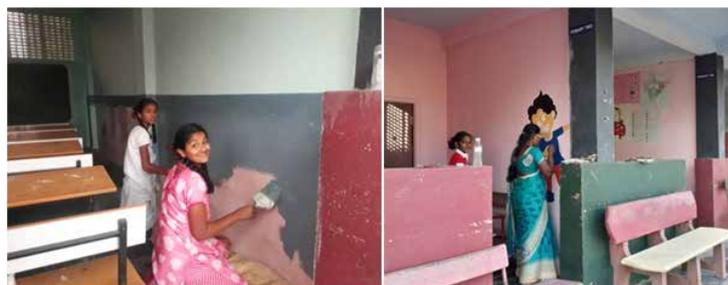
Warm regards  
Editor



## FROM OUR SCHOOLS

### Classroom Painting

Ask a teacher what influences learning and you'll get a variety of responses like teaching methods, curriculum and outside influences. However, the impact of colour is often overlooked. Various studies have shown that the use of colour in a classroom can have a significant impact on emotion, which can ultimately influence an individual's working and studying.



Thinking along the same lines, the management of Hitam School, Pamarru felt the need for the change and decided to transform their classrooms into vibrant and print-rich ones. Teachers along with children from grades 4 to 8 painted their classroom walls in a period of 4 days (January 3rd to 6th, 2018). The walls also had many beautifully painted cartoon characters on it. The management, teachers, students and most importantly the parents were proud of their efforts. Children are excited to work in their new classrooms!

## 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.



**"A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit."**

– Arnold H. Glasgow  
(He is a famous Businessman from USA and a regular contributor to the humor sections of Reader's Digest magazine)

**"It's courage, not luck, that takes us through to the end of the road."**

– Ruskin Bond

(He is an Indian author of British descent. He is considered to be an icon among Indian writers and children's authors and a top novelist.)



**TEACHER TIP****Conquering Stage Fright**

Some children are afraid of participating in drama and public speaking activities as they lack confidence in themselves and their speaking skills.



**You can help them build confidence and manage stage fright in the following ways:**

1. Children can do a variety of activities to practice, like debating, or speaking for a minute on a topic, which would require them to think, speak clearly and remain calm under pressure. It also could help improve memory as they will learn to remember their lines, points and their cues.
2. Instead of thinking about their fears, make the students focus on their purpose, and on what they are doing.
3. Try to help them relax before a performance, so that they don't go up on stage feeling tense. Ask them to stretch their arms, backs, shoulders, and legs to relax and loosen their bodies, and quietly hum to steady their voices. If there is time before a performance, ask the class to meditate for a few minutes, to sit still and focus on their breathing and on relaxing their bodies.
4. If a child is especially afraid, ask them about what they are afraid of, to try and ease their fears. Tell them that it is okay if they forget lines, and to simply continue with their performance. If possible, write down the first word of an important line on the child's hand, so that the child can quickly glance down for a second to see it and remember the line. Even if they do not need it, having it there will help the child relax and feel more confident.

**STORY OF THE MONTH****Chain of love**

One winter night, a man was cycling through a road. Suddenly he saw an old lady in a car parked on the side of the road. He noticed that one of her car's tyres was punctured. It looked as if no one had stopped to help for the last few hours. Even though he was poor and hungry, he said with a smile, "Let me help you, amma." Akash began working on changing the car tyre. As he worked, the old lady rolled down the car's window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from a city nearby and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her help.



When he had finished, Akash just smiled and completed replacing the tyre. The old lady was grateful and she wanted to pay him as a token of appreciation but Akash refused to accept money. "I only wanted to help you, amma," he said. "You can give this money to anyone else who needs it."

The lady was very hungry. A few miles down the road, she saw a small restaurant and stopped for a meal. The waitress brought her the food she had ordered. She had a sweet smile and served her. She also brought a clean towel to wipe the old lady's wet hair. The lady noticed the waitress looked weak and tired, but she never let the strain stop her from doing her duty. She wondered how someone who had so little could be so caring. Then she remembered the young cyclist who had helped her.

After the lady finished her dinner, she paid the bill with a hundred rupees. The waitress quickly went to get change for her bill, but the old lady had already left by the time she came back. Then she noticed that the woman had left a small note on her table. It read: "Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. Here is some money. This is to appreciate the kindness and love you showed me today. Please continue the good work. Do not let this chain

of love end." Along with the note, were four more Rs.100 notes.

After serving the other people, clearing the tables and cleaning vessels the waitress got home from work. As she and her husband sat down for their dinner, she noticed his worried face and said, "Don't worry. Everything will be alright. An old lady who came to the restaurant gave me some money. We have enough money to get our gas stove and mixer repaired. We can also take our neighbour aunty to the doctor tomorrow."

And the chain of love went on.

**QUIZ**

**Wildlife**

*Knowledge of the country, 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. Share a small quiz with your Upper Primary children about wildlife.*

1. Which insect produces honey?
2. Which bird can fly backwards?
3. What is the name of the longest snake in the world?
4. True or False: Rabbits are born blind.
5. Where are grasshopper's ears located?
6. The animal which is known as "River Horse" is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Where is India's first wildlife sanctuary situated?
8. What is a baby kangaroo called?
9. An earthworm breathes with the help of its \_\_\_\_\_.
10. How far can an owl rotate its head?
11. How is the age of a lion determined?
12. What is the scientific name of tiger?

**MATHS PUZZLE**

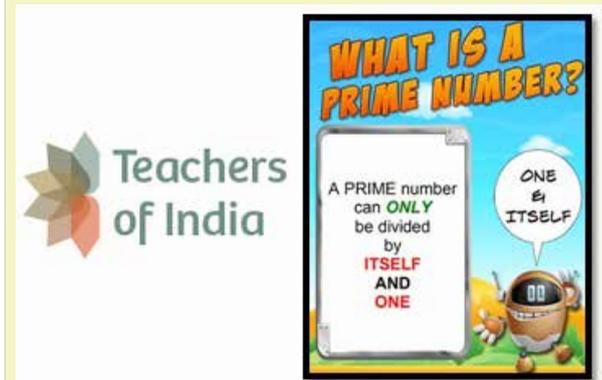
**Fit-me-in**

Insert these eight four-digit numbers, 5417, 9132, 8621, 3751, 6193, 1476, 2735, and 6528, in the 4 x4 grid, four reading across and four reading down.

*(Hint: Start by selecting the two numbers having the same first digit. Place one of them in the top row and the other will be in leftmost column)*


**EDUCATIONAL WEBSITE REVIEW**

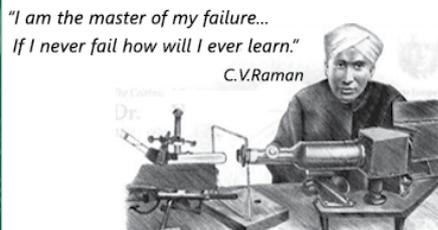
How nice would it be if we march into the class well-prepared with clear ideas and execution planned well ahead? How much nicer if there is something to help us with its preparation? Let's know more about a website having all kinds of teacher resources under one roof!



<http://teachersofindia.org/en>

The portal is an initiative of Azim Premji Foundation. It is a platform for teachers, teacher educators and others working in the education sector in India. It has a wide range of teaching and learning resources which deepen one's knowledge of subject content and pedagogy, shows new methods of classroom practice and offers concrete support in the form of teaching/ learning material.

These materials demonstrate an experimental approach and are available in textual and multimedia formats like articles, policy documents, manuals, tools, lesson plans, worksheets, activities, etc. Their primary goal is to support school teachers of state-run schools, who teach in the regional languages. So, they are available in 5 languages – English, Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, and Tamil.



# Science At School

## Science Newsletter for Teachers

Dear Science Teachers,

Welcome to the February edition of Science at School – the monthly magazine specially for you!

This month is a special one, when we celebrate Science by observing National Science day with exhibitions and Science fairs in our schools.

In this edition, we bring to you, Science classroom activities, stories, DIY (Do it yourself) ideas and much more !

### In the classroom: Science Fair Project

Can complex principles be explained simply enough that everyone can understand? Here's a simple project that you can ask your students to do for your Science exhibition.

All you need are 3 fused electric bulbs of different sizes.

Carefully cover the bulb with cloth and keeping it upright tap it gently on the floor. Use a nail to remove the filament and glass pieces from inside the bulb. Make sure that there are no sharp edges.

Now pour a little water in the bulb. Tilt the bulb and view a small flower or object through it. How does the object appear?



Did you observe that the smallest bulb magnified the most? Hence the magnification is inversely proportional to the radius of curvature.

*\*Source: Ten little fingers(book), Arvind Gupta*

### Match the Following: Inventors and Discoverers

Did you know that a discovery is different from an invention? A discovery is recognizing something that already exists for the first time. Eg. Christopher Columbus discovered America. An invention is creating something totally new with one's own ideas and development. Eg. The Wright brothers(Orville Wright and Wilbur Wright) invented airplanes. Now, match the famous Inventors/Discoverers in Column A with their Inventions/ Discoveries in Column B.

A	Inventors/Discoverers	B	Inventions/Discoveries
1.	Pasteurization	a.	Alexander Graham Bell
2.	Telephone	b.	Madam Curie
3.	Small pox vaccine	c.	Louis Pasteur
4.	Radium	d.	Benjamin Franklin
5.	Electricity	e.	Edward Jenner



### Invention of the Month: Crescograph

Do you think that a piece of carrot can feel the pain when it is pinched?

As we celebrate National Science Day to honour Dr.C.V.Raman, here's an inspiring story of yet another Indian scientist that you can share with your students.



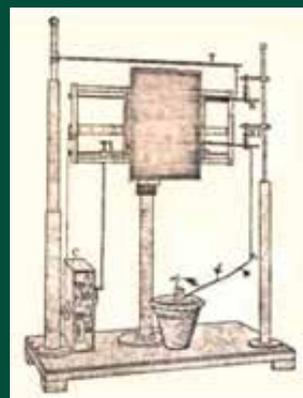
Jagdish Chandra Bose was born on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1858 in today's Bangladesh. Even though his father was a rich magistrate, he decided to send Jagdish to a Bengali medium school to study along with the local children from different backgrounds. It was here, that he developed a life-long love and curiosity about the workings of nature. The seeds of great discoveries were sown!

After his schooling, he went to England to pursue medicine. But unfortunately, he fell ill and had to discontinue the course. In spite of this, he did not give up on science, he studied Natural Science and came back to work in India.

He began work as Professor of Physics at Presidency College, Calcutta. Since this was during the British rule in India, he faced a lot of discrimination. He did not have a laboratory or any research facilities to carry on his work. What was he to do? He set up his little laboratory in an abandoned bathroom of the physics department. Working here, with very basic equipment, he made some of the greatest discoveries of his time!

Two years before Marconi demonstrated the two-way radio, Dr.J.C.Bose gave a public demonstration, where he used microwaves to ring a bell at a distance.

Curious about living forms, he applied his research in electromagnetic waves to the study of plants. He invented a device that could measure the growth and movements in a plant to the accuracy of 1/100,000 an inch. Using this 'crescograph' (shown in the picture), he proved that plants too had a sensitive nervous system just like animals. He proved for the first time that plants too could 'feel' pleasure and pain.



Today, 100 years on, some of his instruments are still in use. Dr.J.C.Bose is recognized as one of the fathers of radio science world over.

Dr.J.C.Bose proved once again that path-breaking science doesn't need a big laboratory or equipment. All that is needed is a curious mind, that is prepared to fight against all challenges!

### Did You Know:

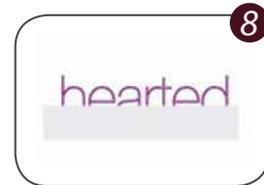
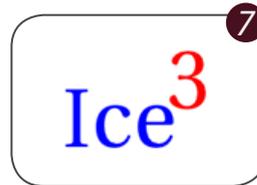
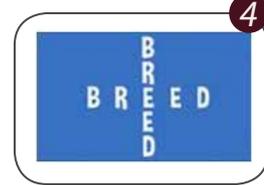
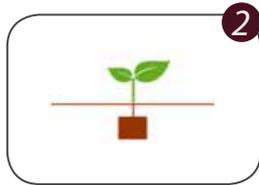
- \* The longest and strongest bone is the femur, your thigh bone. It is 5 times stronger than steel and four times stronger than concrete.
- \* There is enough DNA in a person's body to cover the distance from the Sun to Pluto and back, 17 times.



## BRAIN TEASERS

## Rebus puzzles

"Rebus puzzles" are a set of brain teasers which have clever arrangements of letters or symbols that give each puzzle a special meaning. The challenge is to figure out the meaning. Here are rebus puzzles designed to encourage your students to think clearly, creatively and logically and find the compound word or phrase. You can share this puzzle with your Primary/Upper primary students.



## THEME FOR THE MONTH

## International Mother Language Day

**INTERNATIONAL  
MOTHER  
LANGUAGE  
DAY  
FEB 21**



International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on 21<sup>st</sup> February, to promote awareness of the importance and value of diversity in languages and cultures around the world.

Our mother tongue connects us to ourselves. It is the language in which our strongest feelings and deepest thoughts are expressed.

### Activities at school:

1. Conduct an Assembly at school and talk to children about the importance of expressing themselves in their mother tongue.
2. If there are students in your class who speak a different language at home, ask them to talk about their native language.
3. Have the class do some research and discuss all the different languages that are spoken in India in all the different states.
4. Find the names of the Indian languages mentioned in the Indian Constitution. Find them on a currency note and guess which script belongs to which language.
5. Find small songs in other Indian languages and teach them in class.



## CREATIVE CORNER

## Thread ball

Everybody likes a colourful home. Here is a very simple way to make beautiful airy, thread balls which are made from stiffened thread and would look pretty when hung from the ceiling in your house or room.

### Things needed:

- Colourful woollen thread. (You can also use Jute threads)
- 2-3 small balloons
- Fevicol
- Scissors



1. Make a mixture of fevicol and water. Do not make it too watery.



2. Blow up a round balloon (approx. 5").



3. Pull out a big bunch of thread from the thread ball. It is better to wrap it around your hand holding onto the end as to avoid tangling of the thread. Dunk the thread into the fevicol-water mixture making it wet.



4. Squeeze the wet thread and start wrapping it around the small balloon. (Note: This step is fun and messy! So make sure to spread a newspaper on the floor)



5. Once you have covered up a good portion of the balloon, cut off the thread and tuck the end under.



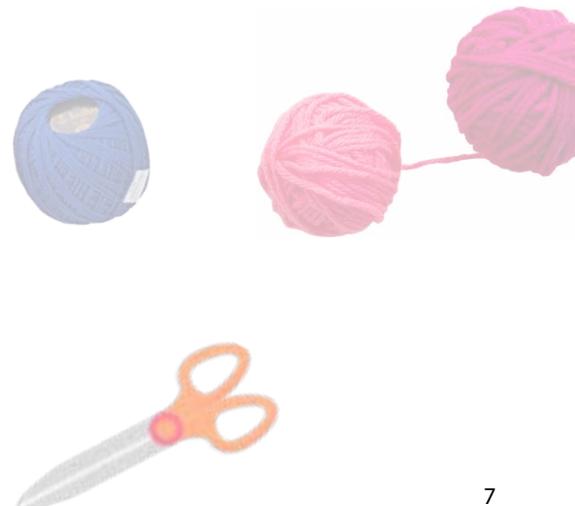
6. Roll the wrapped balloon one more time in the fevicol-mixture, and then squeeze out the excess.



7. Once it is completely squeezed out, let them dry completely until it is stiff and hard.



8. Finally, pop the balloon with a pin! You will be left with a colorful decorative thread ball.



**TEACHER ASSESSMENT JUNE 2017**

**General English Answer Key**

Here is a small English grammar exercise. Try it yourself. Then correct your answers with the rules given below the exercise.

**Choose the correct answer:**

1. Every one of these video games\_\_\_\_on sale. (are / is)
2. This historical novel is set in the age of the Mauryas, which\_\_\_\_\_ a most critical period in Indian history. (cover / covers)
3. Here\_\_\_\_a serious and scholarly study of the literary works of Rabindranath Tagore. (is / are)
4. Neither of the books you gave me\_\_\_\_of any help. (is / are)
5. King Rajendra Cholan\_\_\_\_\_ called Gangaikondacholan as he reached the banks of the River Ganga during his conquests. (have been / has been)

**Answers:**

1. Every one of these video games **is** on sale. (are / is)  
*The term every one always refers to something in singular. So 'is' is used.*
2. This historical novel is set in the age of the Mauryas, which **covers** a most critical period in Indian history. (cover / covers)  
*The verb 'covers' refers to the 'age of the Mauryas' which is singular and not the 'Mauryas' which is plural.*
3. Here **is** a serious and scholarly study of the literary works of Rabindranath Tagore. (is / are)  
*The reference is to the study based on Tagore's works and as study is a singular noun,'is' is used.*
4. Neither of the books you gave me **is** of any help. (is / are)  
*The word 'neither' is singular.*
5. King Rajendra Cholan **has been** called Gangaikondacholan as he reached the banks of the River Ganga during his conquests. (have been / has been)  
*The king is a subject in singular number.*

**Answers**

**Quiz – Wildlife**

- |                        |                                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Bees</b>         | 7. <b>Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand</b> |
| 2. <b>Hummingbird</b>  | 8. <b>Joey</b>                                   |
| 3. <b>Python</b>       | 9. <b>Skin</b>                                   |
| 4. <b>True</b>         | 10. <b>270 degrees</b>                           |
| 5. <b>Knees</b>        | 11. <b>Colour of its nose</b>                    |
| 6. <b>Hippopotamus</b> | 12. <b>Panthera tigris</b>                       |

**Brain Teasers – Rebus Puzzles**

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <b>Crystal Clear</b> | 7. <b>Ice cube</b>      |
| 2. <b>Square root</b>   | 8. <b>Half-hearted</b>  |
| 3. <b>First aid</b>     | 9. <b>Balanced diet</b> |
| 4. <b>Crossbreed</b>    | 10. <b>3D movie</b>     |
| 5. <b>Back pain</b>     | 11. <b>Understood</b>   |
| 6. <b>Countdown</b>     | 12. <b>Top secret</b>   |

**Brain Teasers – Fit-me-in**

6	1	9	3
5	4	1	7
2	7	3	5
8	6	2	1

**Match the following(SAS) – Inventors and Discoverers**

1-c, 2-a, 3-e, 4-b, 5-d