



Dhammapada:

"As on a heap of rubbish cast upon the highway the lily will grow full of sweet perfume and delight, thus the disciple of the truly enlightened Buddha shines forth by his knowledge among those who are like rubbish, among the people that walk in darkness."

"There is no fire like passion; there is no losing throw like hatred; there is no pain like this body; there is no happiness higher than stillness."

"If a man offend a harmless, pure, and innocent person, the evil falls back upon that fool, like light dust thrown up against the wind."

~ Buddha~~



"All difficult things have their origin in that which is easy, and great things in that which is small."

~~Lao-Tzu~~

"Love is not liking somebody. Anyone can do that. Love is loving things that sometimes you don't like."

~~ [Ajahn Brahm](#)~~

"Don't cry when the sun is gone, because the tears won't let you see the stars."

~~ Violeta Parra~~

"Our truest life is when we are in dreams awake."

~~ Henry David Thoreau~~~

"All men dream but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity; but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes to make it possible."

~~~ T.E. Lawrence~~~



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*Dear Readers,*

*As we step in to the new year and bring you our first edition of Maya Puwath, we hope and wish all our readers had a peaceful start to 2011. This would be the beginning of the seventh year for the Mahamaya Girls College Alumni Association of North America. In our opinion, its been a successful seven years' thanks to the hard work of all our office bearers, committee members, members and honorary members. This organization exists because & only because our members are willing to allocate part of their limited time to make it work.*

*Our greatest moments thus far has been the initiation and activation of the MGCAANA scholarship program and the Vidya Scholarship Trust fund. The scholarship program grants two scholarships per year to students who are pursuing higher studies in the USA. The Vidya Scholarship Trust fund was set up to help financially challenged students at Mahamaya college. Both these financial aid programs are based on the generous donations of our members & honorary members. While many of you have already contributed in the past years we are requesting that you continue to remember our great programs and make contributions when possible.*

*The 2011 Annual General Meeting of MGCAANA is scheduled to be held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Charleston, South Carolina. Everyone in the Maya community and their families are cordially invited to this venue to experience another fun filled and informative event of MGCAANA. A special guest, former principal of Mahamaya College Mrs. N.K. Pilapitiya is scheduled to join us during this meeting. We hope many of you will join us in making this a successful meeting. More details of this event can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.*

*MGCAANA Editorial Committee .*





## ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

### SAVE THE DATE

MGCAANA's 7th Annual General Meeting will be held during the July 4th weekend:

**Venue: Charleston, South Carolina**

**Date: Saturday, July 2nd, 2011**

We are excited to announce that our former principal, Mrs. N.K. Pilapitiya is planning a trip to the United States in June 2011. She has graciously accepted our invitation to attend the MGCAANA annual general meeting on July 2nd in Charleston, South Carolina. We were delighted to hear the wonderful news. She said that she is looking forward to meet the Mayans. Please attend the AGM on July 2nd to receive Mrs. Pilapitiya and to give her a warm reception.

**Stay tuned, more details to follow in the next newsletter.**



### FUNDRAISING RAFFLE DRAW

*Dear Members,*

*In order to raise much needed funds to continue our projects and the Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund, we are having a raffle drawing.*

*In the next few weeks, a member of the Board of Directors will be contacting you. We hope you open your hearts and offer to purchase as many raffle tickets as possible and become eligible to win GREAT prizes.*

*1st Prize: 8G iPod Nano  
2nd Prize: GPS Navigation System  
3rd Prize: Blown glass vase  
Other prizes include a \$50 Visa gift card and batiks*

*Draw : July 2, 2011  
At the AGM, in Charleston, SC  
All winners will be notified  
Each ticket \$2*

~~~~~

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dear Members,

We would like to inform you of a new segment that we have included to our annual general meeting itinerary. We hope to acknowledge and applaud the accomplishments of all our members. All of us have personal or professional accomplishments that is of great interest to our organization. We need to hear of these milestones in your lives. By sharing your proud moments with our society, we hope to applaud you and make it a more joyous occasion. We hope you all will take this opportunity to share a small part of your lives with the rest of us. There is no accomplishment that is too small or too big that can not be shared. We would love to hear anything you feel comfortable sharing.

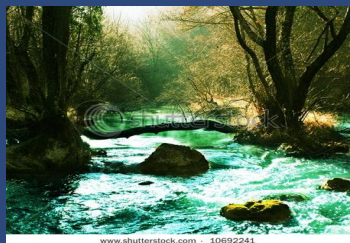
By sharing your great moments with MGCAANA members, we hope you will get a sense of belonging to a warm & appreciative community. We want to hear from you!

You can e-mail us at : Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

MGCAANA Editorial Committee.

You see things; and you say, "Why?" But I dream things that never were; and I say, "
“ Why not?"

~~ George Bernard Shaw~~

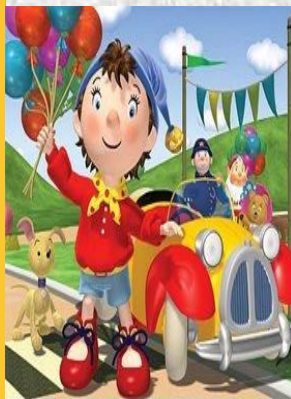




Finger Painting by Chanduni Himaya Herath

Age: 3 years

Daughter of Dakshika Bandaranayaka (former NL committee member) and Sunjeeva Herath.



Whole Duty of Children ~Robert Louis Stevenson~

*A child should always say what's true,
And speak when he is spoken to,
And behave mannerly at table:
At least as far as he is able.*

Kawdai kawdai randu karanne (Sinhala)

*Kawdai kawdai randu karanne
Nandai Mamai randu karanne
Mokatada mokatada randu karanne
Dunkola nattata randu karanne*

Song by: Niranjala Sarojini

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1. When he was in office, what was President Clinton's Secret Service code-name?

2. Who wrote "The Man in the Iron Mask"?

3. Once native to the island of Mauritius,

what extinct bird has been unseen in the wild since the 1600s?

4. On what river does the capital of the Republic of Ireland lie?

5. In which play would you find the characters of Cordelia, Goneril and Regan?

6. This metal is known as the "Poisoner's Poison"

7. What specialized UN organization, established in 1964, deals with financial, trade and development issues?

8. On the coast of Croatia, there is an area that a dog was named after. Which dog breed is this?

9. This bridge traverses Tampa Bay at Tampa Bay.

10. Who was the first woman to win an Olympic gold medal?

Sent in by Himashinie Diyabalanage



Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

~~Frank Outlaw~~

Flower meanings and myths

Before buying that bouquet, consider your petal power. Explore the meanings and myths behind your favourite flowers.



Lilac - sadness of love, farewell

According to folklore, the purple lilac was turned white when one was left atop the grave of a young woman who committed suicide because she mistakenly believed she'd been abandoned by her lover.



Lily - innocence

Often associated with female deities like the Virgin Mary and Juno, the goddess of nature, the lily signifies innocence and majesty.



Pansy - secret thoughts of lovers

Named for the French word "pensée," meaning "thought," the pansy was once believed to hold telepathic properties, allowing an individual to hear the thoughts of a lover by listening to a cut blossom.



Peony - keeping a secret

The peony's tightly held petals and deep roots make it a clever symbol for the power of a promise.



Poppy - dreams

In Greek mythology, Morpheus -- the god of dreams -- is said to have laid garlands of poppies on the heads of sleeping mortals. Red poppies would bring dreams of passion, while white poppies meant dreams of a deeper nature.



Rose (red) - love

The significance of red roses and love dates back to Greek mythology, when the goddess Aphrodite pricked herself on the thorns of a rose en route to her lover, Adonis, and bled upon the petals... forever turning them red.



Rose (yellow) - jealousy, or familiar love

In Victorian times, yellow roses held a more negative meaning, but its modern interpretation is that of a simpler love.



Sunflower - power, warmth, nourishment

The tall and strong sunflower signifies the same things as the celestial body for which it's named.



Tulip - declaration of love

Native to Persia despite being associated with Holland, the tulip means love, but the colour determines the nature of that love. Red declares love, but yellow represents hopeless adoration.

Whichever flower you choose to give, knowing the legend and lore behind it can be a fun way to add a little something extra to your gesture... so pick wisely!

Courtesy <http://www.homemakers.com/life-and-balance/home-and-garden> By Vickie Reichardt

Pictures courtesy of Google images

Continued next issue

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

~~~Martin Luther King Jr~~.





Answers:

- 1. Eagle
- 2. Alexandre Dumas
- 3. Dodo
- 4. Liffey
- 5. King Lear (By William Shake-speare)
- 6. Thallium
- 7. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- 8. Dalmatian
- 9. Sunshine Skyway Bridge
- 10. Charlotte Cooper (1900, Paris Olympics, for Tennis)

2010 Tax Tips...

Like many other Americans, you must be scrambling to get your tax returns done before the April 18th deadline. Unlike most years where the deadline is April 15th, you get a few extra days this year to complete your tax return. So, here are a few tips for all our readers:

Students:

Be sure to file a tax return; you might be able to claim the earned income credit (EIC) if you have wages. Also, you can claim several credits depending on eligibility:

- American Opportunity Credit: Up to \$ 2,500 credit of the cost of qualified tuition and related ex-penses paid during 2010 toward the first four years of post secondary education.
- Lifetime Learning Credit: In most cases you can claim up to \$2,000 for qualified education expenses paid to a post secondary education institution.

Homeowners:

Most homeowners are eligible to item-ize their deductions versus claiming the standard deduction. However, this will vary on individual circumstances. If you are eligible to itemize, here are a few deductions not to miss:

- Mortgage interest and mortgage insurance premiums: In 2010, you can deduct the mortgage insurance premiums shown on your form 1098 in addition to the interest pay-ments made. Also keep in mind that any property taxes paid are deductible.
- Points: If you purchased a home in 2010, you can also deduct points paid toward the purchase of your home. If you refinanced your home, you can deduct any points on the portion of the loan that were used towards making home im-provements.
- Energy credits: If you made any energy efficient home improve-ments such as putting in new win-dows or insulation, you can claim up to 30% of the cost up to a maxi-mum of \$1,500.

Please note that these are some general tips and pointers and deductibility will depend on your individual circum-stances.

Sent by: Pamuditha Mahadiulwewa

A Tribute to my father

I close my eyes and let my mind float to my childhood. I think of my father, my Appachchi who is no longer with us. A year ago February he took his last breath in front of my mother and me. I have experienced bringing two wonderful lives to this earth, but never have experienced death. Among all the unforgettable things he taught me during the last several decades, that fateful day he taught me that death also can be a beautiful and serene experience.

He took his last breath with a smile and let his smile linger on his face as his body was losing its warmth . My father, who taught me how to love, how to fight, how to face challenges, respect the decisions I made in life, showed me on his last day how to “let go” too.

He lived his life to the fullest, touched many lives, especially during his profession as an educator. Growing up as the only child to my teacher parents in Sri Lanka, I felt like a Gypsy girl. Every few years they were transferred to a differ-ent part of the country, mostly in rural areas due to political reasons or some other reason which I never understood then or even today. I was tagging along with them and tried hard to keep stable friendships which wasn’t easy. Looking back, I’m so thankful for those unstable elementary school years yet it gave me a stable sense of life and also gave me a second family, who love me dearly today.

He was a mentor to his co-workers, parents of his students, most of all many people looked up to him, respected him, and was called “ Maha kalu Sinhalaya”. For me, he was just my father, a simple man to me. I don’t remember playing ball or sitting on his lap and reading books with him; may be I never have done it. But he showed me how to keep my head high and look forward, accept life as it is, and he believed in destiny whether it is in your favor or not.

Among many life lessons and beautiful memories I have created with my father, for the first time I would like to share a letter he wrote to me when I was just a kid...

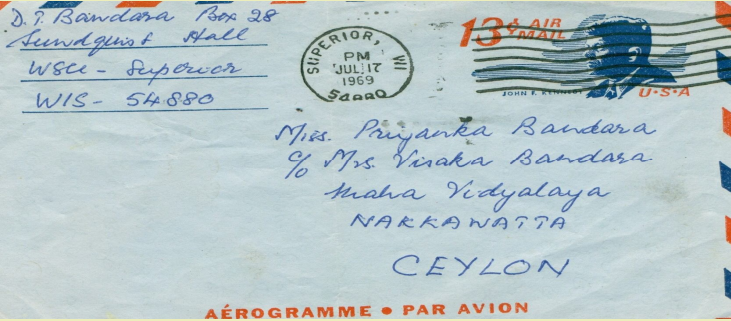
The letter was dated on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1969 and written from Wisconsin, United States and was addressed to his 7 year old daughter.

( I have tried my best to do the direct translation of his Sin-hala letter)

From America

16.07.1969

My dear daughter Priyanka,



Hope you have received the two letters I have sent you earlier. Did you get the beautiful picture post-card I sent you? When I come I will bring more picture postcards.( he was studying in the US at that ime )

Today is a very important day to the people in America. They are celebrating the day with singing, dancing and lighting fire crackers all over the country. Every house has raised the American flag.

This morning at 8.32 AM our time, the first manned air shuttle to the moon was launched. The space shuttle left at 8.32 AM local time and it was 2200 miles away from where I live. But I was able to watch it launching live via television. Do you know what a television is? It’s very similar to a ra-dio but you can see the pictures and listen to it at the same time. After one hour and 38 minutes later the shuttle was 35,000 miles in the space. They have shown the photos of the earth from the space on television and for the first time in my life I have realized that earth is round. When I come back, I will bring photographs to show you. (of course he is a science teacher and geared me to learn sci-ence since a little kid)

Next Monday the 20th is a national holiday in America. Monday morning my time at 2 AM, they will be walking on the moon for the first time. They have taken the American flag, Sri Lankan flag and also flags from 85 other countries to post on the moon. (My father was a precise man. He loved the numbers and his favorite subject was physics though I never was fond of physics)

I think your term tests are closer. Are you studying hard? I wish you will become first in the class and did you get selected to sing the English song in school? ( now I can’t recollect what song he is talking about)

Hope everyone at home is well. I'm feeling good. Give my love to Amma and write to me about how you are doing.

May the Triple Gem Bless you all

Loving Appachchi.



Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share a fraction of my father’s amazing life.

May he attain Nirvana.

Sent By Priyanka Jayakody