

HELP-A-SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Taking action to create a better world for children, schools and their communities



SCHOOLS CONNECT PROGRAM

2015 Theme: *Gratitude*

PROGRAM OUTLINE

This document outlines the **Schools Connect Program** for schools in South Australia.

Project commencement date: January 2015

Help-A-School Foundation

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SCHOOLS CONNECT PROGRAM 2015

1. PROGRAM SUMMARY

The *Schools Connect Program (SCP)* is a new initiative established by the Help-A-School Foundation, a not-for-profit charity dedicated to enriching the educational opportunities for students in rural schools in Vellore, India with schools in South Australia.

The program will:

- provide stationery and art supplies to classes in Vellore, India;
- establish learning networks between classes in South Australia and classes in Vellore, India;
- feature an **Exhibition of Artworks** created by all participating students on the Theme: *Gratitude*



2. PROGRAM AIMS

The *Schools Connect Program* (SCP) aims to:

- enhance learning opportunities through the provision of resources to schools in Vellore, India;
- provide 'real-life' educational opportunities for each 'buddy class' through a range of social and literacy activities (including visual and digital literacies) over a period of 6 months;
- explore creative, artistic and innovative ways for students to share their understanding and personal connection with the 2015 theme: *Gratitude*
- promote a 'helping and learning' together approach to global relationship and issues

3. SCHOOLS CONNECT TIMELINE 2015

This school to school program will connect a class in Australia with a class of students in India over a 6 month period. Students from both 'buddy' classes will engage in a range of social and literacy activities (including visual and digital literacies) to learn about each other's culture, school and world.

Timeline for the program organization:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Dec 2014 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish 'buddy-classes' to participate in the 'Schools Connect' (SC) Program for 2015 (January to June 2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm 16 classes /teachers in S.A. schools • Confirm 16 classes /teachers in Vellore, India schools |
| 2-16th Jan 2015 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Jan Carey (Director of Help-A-School Foundation) to visit schools in Vellore, India to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build class profiles of the classes involved in the SC program • Establish partnerships with 2015 SC teachers and support staff • Provide introductory info about the program to the school and community |
| Feb 2015 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Program activities established with classes in S.A. involved in the SC program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory letter or drawing from each student and teacher • Class / school profile/ Photos and video of school / activities • Possible fundraising activity to help purchase stationery items (optional) • Provide parent information about the program and Exhibition Event 4. Resources for program received in India & distributed to classes |
| March - June 2015 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Buddy classes participate in various literacy (including inquiry based research, digital literacies) activities to engage with learning about each other and sharing cultural information. Schools to post materials to each other during this time. |

June 2015

6. **Public Exhibition Event 28-29 June to be held in Norwood, South Australia:** Over this 2 day event, participating classes will display a final piece of artwork that reflects their learning through the program with the virtue of 'Gratitude'. Sponsors invited to hold a stall to promote and sell their products.
7. Review program outcomes with classes involved. Document report.

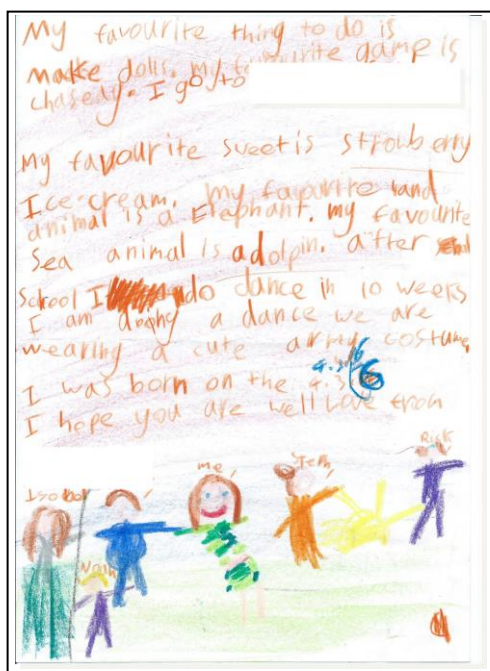
4. EXAMPLES OF BUDDY CLASS ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the buddy class activities will be to learn about each other's culture, school and world through a range of literacy and creative activities. As much as possible, buddy classes will be matched at similar year levels to support meaningful sharing of their learning. Some suggested tasks for classes involved include:

- VISUAL LITERACIES; taking photos, making drawings, maps or artwork to share with their buddy class



- ENGLISH/ LITERACIES; letter writing, stories, history narrations, inquiry based research



- DIGITAL LITERACIES; video production and sharing, oral stories, personal histories, cultural activities



5. FINAL EXHIBITION OF ARTWORK: 'GRATITUDE'

Students from each buddy class will be invited to create a final piece of work to submit to an art exhibition on the Theme: *Gratitude*. Any medium may be used to allow for creativity, individualism and to portray the message they wish to share with their audience. This could mean for example; painted canvas work, charcoal drawings, print designs, pastel drawings, photography or handmade craft works.

Details of the Exhibition are:

- ❖ Sunday 28th June: Public Day. Open 11.00am – 5.00pm for parents, families and general public
- ❖ Monday 29th June: School Day. Open 9.00am – 3.00pm for participating schools in S.A. to attend as a class group (booked time slot required)

Venue: Norwood Town Hall, Don Pyatt Hall; 175 The Parade, Norwood SA 5067

Student artworks will be offered for sale during this exhibition time, with proceeds contributing to the Help-A-School Foundation's aims and future projects in schools in India.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to see their art work displayed in an area for public viewing and appreciation. Parents and families will be invited to attend on the Sunday.

6. CLASS RESOURCES

- 1) To support the Schools Connect program aims and activities to be successfully achieved, the following resources will be **provided** to each buddy class in India. (approx. 40 students per class)

The Class Resource Kit resources for schools in India will include:

- lead pencils, erasers, rulers and biros (one per student)
- sets of coloured pencils, textas or crayons
- lined writing pads and blank exercise book/ sketch pads
- reams A4 white paper and A4 cartridge paper (for classroom)
- Class set of art/ craft items – to be determined by fundraiser or sponsor (optional)

How can your class help to support this provision of resources?

Helping others promotes the virtues of generosity, compassion, kindness and service. These can be enacted in real ways with your class should you wish to get involved in helping to fund the purchase of these class resources. Some class or school activities / ideas could include:

- Holding a 'stationery drop' in your school : ask families to donate a new packet of pencils or crayons
- Fundraise through a class cake stall, jellybean in a jar competition or a raffle etc

(These activities are *optional* and are not a requirement of participation in the Schools Connect Program)

BEING A 'BUDDY CLASS'

7. 2015 PROGRAM COMMITMENTS

The Help-A-School Foundation is seeking Expressions of Interest from 16 classes in rural India, and 16 classes in South Australia to participate in the 2015 *Schools Connect* program. # A selection process will be used if more than 16 schools apply. This will ensure that a diverse range of schools and ages are represented.

Teachers who nominate to be involved with their class will make a commitment to:

- Participate in '**Sharing information about our Class**' activities, which could include:
 - Writing letters, stories or recounts from the students in the class
 - Taking photos of students involved in daily activities at school or home
 - Drawing pictures of activities students like to do
 - Making videos about the class, the school or the community
 - Making things to share – craft activity
- Involve their students in '**Learning about their buddy class**', which could include:
 - Finding out more about India from their buddy class.
 - Asking questions, participate in an inquiry or research to learn more
 - Discussing their buddy letters, and reflecting upon the photos and videos they send

* Students might like to share this information with other classes or their families too
- Each student will be invited to **submit a piece of art** work on the theme of 'Gratitude. The artwork could reflect what the student has gratitude for in their lives, or about their world.

Gratitude: the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

Other words for gratitude include: thankfulness, appreciation, gratefulness

These art works will need to be posted or delivered to the *Help-A-School Foundation* in time for the Art Exhibition on the 28-29th June.

To express an interest in being involved in this program, teachers will need to complete the attached form and return it via email to jancarey@helpschoolfoundation.com before **30th Jan 2015**.

Successful applicants will be notified by email and further program support materials and information will be provided to all SC teachers by mid February 2015.

I hope that you are interesting in being a part of this exciting partnership opportunity.

Kind regards
Jan Carey ☺