Winners of the NSF School Science Competitions

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The National Science Foundation annually conducts science popularization programmes to school community to develop their skills, creativity and guide them to achieve their futureendeavors. The objective of NSF is to lay a sound foundation to create younger generation equipped with skills and sound attitudes which can contribute towards the economic development of Sri Lanka Accordingly following competitions were conducted during the year 2023 targeting all the age categories of the students. Further the contribution of teachers towards popularization of science is felicitated by the special award "NSF Teachers Award for Popularization of Science".

1) Kid Naturalist programme – Students from grade 1-6

2) School Science Competition – Students from grade 6-11

3) Science Research Project Competition – Students from grade 9-12

4) Science Society Star Ratings Competition

5) NSF Teachers Award for Popularization of Science

1) Kid Naturalist programme

The Kid Naturalist Programme (KNP) conduct by the NSF Science Communication and Outreach Division (SCOD) jointly with the Primary Section and Science Branch of the Ministry of Education (MoE) since 2020 aimed at students of grades from 1-6. The main objective of the programme is to nurture students to observe the nature that they live in following scientific methodologies thereby to ignite interest in learning science and create nature loving future generation.

The students who participate the progrmme are expected to prepare a nature journal based on the observations made by them in a period of 6-weeks according to the guidelines given by the NSF. The submitted nature journals were evaluated by a panel of evaluators appointed by the BoM. Accordingly, 1,506 applications were received for the programme in 2023 and 369 students have submitted the fully completed nature journals after completion of the 6-week observation period. The table 01 includes the best performers of the competition.



Figure 01 : Evaluation of the Kid Naturalist Journals

Table 01: Best performers of the programme

Category: Grade 1		
	Name of the winner	**School**
01	Muralitharan Akaran	St. John Bosco's Vidyalayam, Jaffna
02	W. Shanuki Shehansa	MR/Kudagalahena K.V.
03	Kavini Nihinsa Menon	Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy
04	R. Rishika	J/ Holy Family Convent, Jaffna
05	Imalsha Mihisara	MR/Elamaldeniya K.V.
06	S. Kavinaya	J/ Holy Family Convent, Jaffna
07	R. Dironi	J/ Holy Family Convent, Jaffna
08	S.M. Tharushi Lakshani	R/Eththota Vidyalaya, Eththota, Gallella, Raththota
09	S. Sujalini	J/ Holy Family Convent, Jaffna
10	A.S. Marita	J/ Holy Family Convent, Jaffna

Category: Grade 2		
	Name of the winner	**School**
01	Nethya Palliyage	Girls' High School, Kandy
02	Sakila Gesara Dunukepotha	St. Anthonys Boys College
03	M.G. Suwahas Dewshan	MR/Diyadawa K.V.
04	Wageesha prabashwara bandara	St/sylvester's College -Kandy
05	J. Kasvini	J/ Holy Family Convent Jaffna
06	J.V.G. Thinuli Sehansa	MR/Rambukana Kodikaragoda K.V.
07	Methya Palliyage	K/Girls' High School, Kandy
08	D.G. Esandi Dahamsa	MR/Rambukana Kodikaragoda K.V.
09	T.M. Tasheni Nethusari	M/R Siyambalagoda West Primary School
10	T. Najanitha	J/ Holy Family Convent, Jaffna

Category: Grade 3		
	Name of the winner	**School**
01	H.B. Indeepa Geenuka.Hitibandara	CP/KOT/Delta Gamunupura M.V.
02	W.M. Denith Minruka Weerasinghe	Thurstan College, Colombo 07
03	Thesadi Naveethma Deshapriya	K/ Seethadevi B.M.V.
04	Sadiw Kithnuka.Vithanage	Thurstan College, Colombo 07
05	R. Sanjana	J/ Holy Family Convent, Jaffna

06	K.O.G. Jayami Malithya	MR/ Rambukana Kodikarahoda Primary Vidyalaya
07	H.B. Chandeepa Gethma Hitibandara	CP/KOT/Delta Gamunupura M.V.
08	N.H.H. Chamathkara Roosarani	CP/ Hangu Mathurata Central College
09	R.K.Thisum Thejan Nawarathna	CP/KOT/Delta Gamunupura M.V
10	G. Praharsha Kaushan Fonseka	Kingswood College, Kandy
10	D.E. Naduli Tamaya	MR/ Rambukana Kodikaragoda K.V

Category: Grade 4		
	Name of the winner	**School**
01	V.A. Themiya Ranumitha Samarawickrama	Kandy International School, Kandy
02	K. Rahen Seneth Perera	Thurstan College, Colombo 07
03	K. Swarnie Krishmina	Highlands National College, Hatton
04	A.V. Osandi Devduni	M/Morawaka Primary School
05	Shanthakumar Jayashwini	K/Girls' High School, Kandy
06	W.G. Sathsilu Wehara	CP/KOT/Delta Gamunupura M.V.
07	P.G. Iseli Sarya Gallage	Sangamiththa Balika Collage, Galle
08	T. Nethum Mihisara Ranasinghe	Thurstan College, Colombo 07
09	Thedasi Nadulya Kalupahana	G/ Sanghamiththa Balika Vidyalaya
10	Okitha Thanujitha Vidana Gamage	Dharmaraja College, Kandy
10	Ransilu Kaveeshwara Vanigasekara	MR/ Thalapekumbura Primary Vidyalaya

Category: Grade 5		
	Name of the winner	**School**
01	D.A. Chathura Deshanjana Dharmarathne	CP/KOT/Delta Gamunupura M.V.
02	H.R.L. Sanuka Dewsithu	MR/ Deniyaya Madya Vidyalaya
03	L.Tyon Abhishka Perera	WP /Kalaniya Sobitha Vidyalaya
04	W.M. Sanuthi Ashvini Weerasekara	Vision International School Kandy
05	Yashodhara Damsaree Wikramarathna Siriwardhana	St. Joseph's Balika Maha Vidyalaya -Kegalle
06	Senula Insitha Vithanage	Thurstan College, Colombo 07
07	M.G.B.Y.C. Bandara	K/Mahanama Collage , Kandy
08	P.G. Sathusha Nimnada	CP/KOT/Delta Gamunupura M.V.
09	Dulithi Nethumsa Rodrigo	Sujatha Vidyalaya, Matara
10	B.A. Sanudika Sandasan Bandara	R/Kandangoda Primary College

Category: Grade 6		
	Name of the winner	**School**
01	T.G. Indumini Methma	MR/Kirilipana Kanitu Viduhala
02	M.I.M. Aathif	K/Ranabima Royal College
03	D.K. Basitha Thimath Rathnayake	K/Ranabima Royal College
04	J.G. Ashen Nethsara	MR/Kirilipana Kanitu Viduhala
05	W.K.J. Sithumi Seya	MR/Kirilipana Kanitu Viduhala
06	R.K.G.I. Udesh Bandara	K/Ranabima Royal College
07	D.L. Kemitha Suhas Liyanage	K/Ranabima Royal College
08	Mayuran Ajairaav	J/Thavady Hindu Tamil Mixed School
09	Kanishka Balakumar	V/Nelukkulam Kalaimahal M.V.
10	Aranya Ganeshatheva	J/Jaffna Hindu Ladies College

2) School Science Competitions

School science competitions are annually conducted by SCOD to popularize science among the school community. Accordingly, seven competitions under the theme "STEAM Education for a Better Future" were conducted in 2023.

The list of competitions is listed as follows.

1. Essay competition
2. Short science stories (fiction)
3. Digital storytelling
4. Song competition
5. Viridu competition
6. Role play competition
7. Poster competition

First round of the competitions, song, viridu and role play were conducted through recorded submissions and final round was conducted in person with performance on stage. Poster competition was conducted at the poster exhibition held at the National Science day programme. Table 02 indicates the winners of the competitions.

Table 02: Winners of the competitions

Essay Competition			
No.	**Name of the Student**	**School**	**Place**
Sinhala medium			
1	D.P.K.G. Tharushi Deumini Dasanayaka	CP/Denu/ Handessa Maha Vidyalaya, Daulagala, Peradeniya	1st
2	Nipun Dhananjaya Premarathna	Dharmaraja College, Kandy	2nd
3	W.G. Senugi Lehansa	Delta Gemunupura Maha Vidyalaya, Pussallawa	3rd
English medium			
1	Mohamed Nowzad Beena Dhaneen	KM/ Mahmud Ladies College (National School), Kalmunai	1st
2	Aaysha Mohideen	BADI-Udin Mahamud Girl's College, Kandy	2nd
3	Athiyya Jezee	BT/ St. Cecilla's Girls' College, Batticaloa	3rd
4	M.S. Shafa	British International College, Polgahawela	3rd

Tamil medium			
1	Paraniha Selvendradas	J/ Skandavarodaya College, Jaffna	1st
2	Thevasihamani Kasanthanan	Tk/ Sri Ramakrishna College, Akkaraipattu	2nd
3	S. Logalakshan	Tk/ Sri Ramakrishna College, Akkaraipattu	3rd

Short Science Stories (Fiction) Selected the best 05 Short Science Stories			
No	**Name of the Student**	**School**	**Place**
1	H.W.M. Randinee Vandanu Wijayasinghe	Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy	Among best 5
2	Rubiga Arunthavam	J/ Vembadi Girls' High School	Among best 5
3	R.M. Charani Sipsandee	Jinaraja Girls' College, Gampola	Among best 5
4	Anthony Rupasinghe	Matale International School	Among best 5
5	Binal Yesandu Ekanayake	Matale International School	Among best 5

Digital Story Telling			
No	**Name of the Student**	**School**	**Place**
1	Yaneth Ranabahu	Thurstan College	1st Place
2	Nethuni Himanga Gamage	St. Joseph Balika Maha Vidyalaya, Gampola	Appreciation
3	Thewmali Piyadasa	Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya	Commendation

Song Competition			
No	**Name of the student/ teacher**	**School**	**Place**
1	H.A. Deep Anchitha Ms A. Abayasiriwardena (Lyrics Writer)	CO/ Rajasinghe Maha Vidyalaya, Colombo 9	1st
2	Mansoor Fathima Hasna Haroon Fathima Hishma Samsudeen Arashad Shams Aariff (Lyrics Writer)	KM/AK/ Akkaraipattu Muslim Central College, Akkaraipattu	2nd
3	M.M.D. Eina Saawangi I.M. Washitha Harshana Mrs. Dhammika Chandralatha (Lyrics Writer)	Harischandra College, Negombo	2nd
4	P.D. Duleema Indeewaree L.W.P. Thisari Sandasiluni Mrs M.S.K. Marasinghe (Lyrics Writer)	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa.	3rd

Viridu Competition			
No	**Names of the student/ teacher**	**School of the Student**	**Place**
1	Atheek Ahamad Mr A.L. Ansar (Lyrics Writer)	Maccan Markar National School, Eravur, Batticaloa	1st
2	Heshan Athapaththu Hirushan Wijesinghe Heshan Athapaththu Hirushan Wijesinghe (Lyrics Writers)	Thoranakada Dharmaraja Vidyalaya, Eheliyagoda	2nd
3	Hashini Sansala Dinuka Dilshan Vidana Pathirana Hashini Sansala (Lyrics Writer)	Alapaladeniya National School	3rd
4	Duleema Indeewari Thisani Sandasiluni Mrs. K.A. Thamara Priyadarshani (Lyrics Writer)	Royal College, Polonnaruwa	3rd

Role Play Competition			
No	**Name of The Student**	**School of The Student**	**Place**
1	M.P. Praharshana Undugodage	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1st
2	K.A. Nadin Thathsara	Thurstan College, Colombo 07	2nd
3	Y.G. Bindya Induvari Wijesinghe	St. Joseph Balika Maha Vidyalaya, Gampola	3rd

Poster Competition			
No	**Name of The Student**	**School of The Student**	**Place**
Grade 13			
1	A.G.W. Yasami Thenuwara	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1st
2	S.G.W.D. Induwara	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	2nd
3	M. Sheba Simirna	WP/ C/ St. Annes Girls' M.V., Colombo 13	3rd
Grade 12			
1	Tharusha Shehan Amarathunga	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1st
2	S.S. Sasmitha Weerasundara	Thurstan College, Colombo 07	2nd
3	A. Chathushki Nayanathara Dissanayaka	KG/St. Joseph's Balika M.V., Kegalle	3rd
Grade 11			
1	D.G. Upeksha Indeewari Abesinghe	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1st
2	G.P.G.M. Kalhara	Thoranakada Dharmaraja Vidyalaya	2nd

3	U.S. Poornima	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	3rd
4	U.G. Chathumini Kaushalya	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	3rd
Grade 10			
1	K.D.N. Sanvidu	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	1st
2	A.G. Nethmina Thejan	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	2nd
3	W.H.M. Chameesha Avindi	CP/ HG/ Mathurata M.V	3rd
Grade 09			
1	Hasith Sasmitha De Silva	Thurstan College, Colombo 07	1st
2	D.M.M. Hashara Dissanayeke	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	2nd
3	D.M.P. Wathsala Dissanayeke	Royal Central College, Polonnaruwa	3rd
4	U. Harish	C/ St Anthony's Boys'M.V., Colombo	3rd
Grade 8			
1	B. Savishka	St. Annes Girl's M.V.	1st
2	R.M Raya Raihan	Mercy Education Institute	2nd
3	M.R.F. Riffath Rasha	School of Excellence	3rd
Grade 7			
1	M. Jinulakshaya	Tk/Sri Ramakrishna College, Akkaraipattu	1st
2	S. Thaboorshaan	Tk/Sri Ramakrishna College, Akkaraipattu	2nd
3	K. Sharmithan	Tk/Sri Ramakrishna College, Akkaraipattu	3rd
Grade 6			
1	R. Kiruthigan	Tk/Sri Ramakrishna College, Akkaraipattu	1st
2	P. Kiriththika	Tk/Sri Ramakrishna College, Akkaraipattu	2nd
3	S. Sujasthikan	Tk/Sri Ramakrishna College, Akkaraipattu	3rd



Figure 02 : Poster Competition



Figure 03 : Role Play Competition



Figure 04 : Song Competition



Figure 05 : Viridu Competition

3) Winners of the of the NSF Award for Teachers in Promoting Science 2024

The NSF felicitates the best performed Science Teachers and Science Societies to give recognition for their contribution towards popularization of science and promoting science education among school community to popularize science among the school community. Further, this also become a motivation to get their fullest engagement to promote science education beyond school curriculum. These awards include one Lifetime award (01), Commendation awards (max 02) and Appreciation awards.

Table 03: Details of the Winners

	Award	Name of the teacher	Name of the school
1	Teachers' Award	Ms N.D.C. Sagarika Gunathilake	CP/K Ranabima Royal College
2	Commendation	Ms S.I.W. Samaranayake	Royal College Polonnaruwa
3	Appriciation	Ms Chamari Tharangika Colambage	Kg/St Mary's College, Kegalle

Winners of the Star ratings for the best performed Science Societies 2024

The NSF felicitates the best performed School Science Societies under the NSF School Science Society Network by evaluating their performance on the respective year by giving "Star Ratings". The awards will be given to the Schools Science Societies that received 5-3-stars at the evaluation. The school, Teacher in-charge of the Science Society, President and Secretary of the School were awarded certificates at the Ceremony.

Table 04: Details of the Winners

Award	School	Teacher in charge of Star Rating Competition	Principal	President	Secretary
5 Stars	WP/Ng/ Harishchandra National College, Negombo	Ms. A.T. Nelka Munasinghe	Mr. U.G.V.D. Siriwardhana	K.G.K. Nethsara Daham Amarasinghe	K. Binari Nimhara
5 Stars	Royal College Polonnaruwa	Ms. S.I.W. Samaranayake	Mr. I.K.K.R Wijayawansa	M.P.P. Undugodage	M.A. Yenara Methuki
4 Stars	ST/PD/ Paddirippu National School	Ms. S. Thevakumar	Mr.T. Janenthirarajah	S.P. Moga-napratha	S.S. Shanuja
4 Stars	Thurstan College	Ms. Upeksha Abeysekara Mr. W.A. Dushantha	Mr. W.A.P.J Wickramasinghe	Janith Bandara	Sajan Mihiranga
3 Stars	CP/HK/ Mathurata M.V	Ms. R.M. Ajantha Menike	Mr. M.G.N. Bandara	R.M. Tharusha Lakshan	M.I. Rashimika Dissanayake



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