

St Patrick's College Jaffna Old Boys Association

Melbourne, Australia

Established 1992

P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Website: www.spcaustralia.com

Email: secretary@spcaustralia.com

Newsletter 40

Facebook: www.facebook.com/spcobamel

December 2020



Our Objectives

Socialise and share the Patrician spirit with benevolence.

Support our Alma Mater in meaningful ways.

Fide et Labore

Faith and Labour

*"Long lay the world in sin and error, pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt it's worth."*



Message from the President

Dear Patricians and Families

Having gone through an exasperating year – mostly indoors, we are entering the holiday season with hope that we will be able to enjoy a normal (or as our Premier describes it – a Covid normal) year in 2021.

The COVID-19 era gave each of us different life experiences. Although 2020 brought anxiety, frustration, loneliness, loss and hopelessness, it also provided an opportunity to spend time with family members and get closer to each other. Many of us created a strong bond between husband and wife; parents and children; with our relatives and our friends. Even though we couldn't go to church, we all spiritually reconnected with God and increased our faith in God. Attending Sunday Mass and other devotions via television or a streaming app was a new experience for most of us. Many of us worked from home which brought about its own challenges and we thank Our Lord that we survived all these.

As a Patrician family, we also managed to stay virtually connected. The Committee members met via Zoom a few times. Fr Joseph Selvan – Patrician and Parish Priest at Church of Christ the King in the Mayfield/Stockton Parish in Newcastle, NSW – found the time among his parish duties to conduct two Zoom Meetings titled "Our Faith during lockdown". Thank you to all those who joined these meetings, especially Fr Selvan, Fr Albert and Fr Anton (our new TCAV chaplain). We all learned from each other and had the great opportunities to share our experiences, worries and feedback through these meetings.

One of our favourite Rectors – Rev Fr Bernard – celebrated the golden jubilee of his sacerdotal ordination on October 19, 2020. We sent our greetings on this wonderful occasion and a specially prepared electronic card with well wishes from many of our members who were his students. The greeting card has been uploaded to our website. We have invited Fr Bernard to a Zoom meeting with Patricians in Melbourne and he has agreed. I will provide more details when this can be arranged.

We contributed to a special supplement published in the 'Virakesari' on the occasion of the Episcopal Ordination of Rt. Rev. Dr. Pillainayagam Anton Ranjith, another scholarly Patrician, on August 29.

We missed many of our great events this year. We could not even hold the AGM 2020 – the virus put paid to that. It is our hope that 2021 will be a better, blessed and wonderful year for all of us to celebrate. We look forward to seeing each of you at our Australia Day Family Fun Day on January 26, 2021, and St Patrick's Day celebrations and AGM on March 20, 2021.

I wish each and everyone and your families a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May God bring you light in your life.

Jeyandra Antonipillai
President

Office Bearers and Committee Members 2020-21

President - Jeyandra Antonipillai

Vice President - Noel Rajiv

Secretary - Berchmans Tennakone

Assist. Secretary - Rukshan Theophilus

Treasurer - Richman Mangalanayagam

Assist. Treasurer - Jenith Jesuthasan

Committee Members:

William Nimalraj, Anandarajan James, Angelo Fernando, Chrysostom Gunanayagam, Jeevaranjan Fernando, Philip Ravindraraaj, Dr Sanjeev Alfred and Dr Hutchinson Thurairajah.

Support Group:

Antony Gratian, Dr Florentine Singarayar, James Joseph and Patrick Rajaratnam.



Australia Day Cricket and Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday, 26 January 2021 in a Covid-safe manner.

God our Father, we Thank You.

In his last 'Letter to Washington' – a 2020 dispatch highlighting stories, trends, and people from outside the political bubble, Tim Alberta, *chief political correspondent for Politico Magazine*, wrote: "I wish I could promise you that brighter days are just around the corner. But that wouldn't be honest. If anything, I feel certain that things are getting darker in America". After travelling the country for a year, hearing the stories of so many ordinary Americans and witnessing the insecurity that grips their everyday lives, he detected one common feeling that binds together this deeply fractured nation: fear.

Putting the Presidential Election aside, the USA has recorded over 13M Covid-19 positive cases with 300,000 deaths so far. On Wednesday, 17 December, the country set a double record of 3,600 deaths and over 250,000 new cases in just 24 hours. And authorities are concerned about a spike following the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Germany's regional leaders who had resisted Angela Merkel's calls for a tougher nationwide response have agreed to a lockdown over Christmas and New Year period. In one week they had more deaths due to Covid-19 than in one year in 2019 due to traffic accidents. Similarly, Holland has gone into a 5-week lockdown, and the U.K. is in no better shape.

In contrast, here in Australia we have been blessed. Guided by medical experts and science, most people did their part responsibly and cooperatively to help 'Flatten the Curve'. With the enormous sacrifices and dedication by the frontline health officials, and strong political leadership at State and Federal levels, the country has almost eliminated the community transmission of the coronavirus. And the government is now readying software and data specialists to manage the logistics of a Covid-19 vaccination program early next year.

With Victoria recording no coronavirus case for 50 days in a row and most of the other States doing pretty much well, Australia has become a pandemic success story. While the total cases worldwide has reached 75M and deaths 1.65M, as at 18 December, Australia's total cases amount to 28,059 and deaths 908, with a recovery rate of 91%.

For this enviable success:

God our Father, we thank you.

We beseech you that the nations around the world that are struggling to contain the mortal virus, suspend all political conflicts and work together to overcome the health crises that have beset their peoples.

Guide the hands and minds of the medical professionals that they may minister to the sick with love and compassion.

Grant that the agony and sufferings of the pandemic cease, and normal life resume soon.

Lord, we thank you that in Australia every Covid-19 patient who needed a ventilator was able to have one.

We thank you for the ability to see each other and hug each other again.

We thank you for all the Australian medical and scientific innovations and technological ingenuity during this global crisis.

We thank you for the full fixture of international summer of Cricket 2020 –21.

We thank you for the chance to have a family meal on Christmas Day and exchange gifts and greetings.

We thank you for the unique experiences, Zoom Meetings, and expression of love and appreciation between parents, sons and daughters with texts such as: "Dear, Thanks so much for cutting my hair yesterday spending so much time in between your work. The end result is fantastic!"

We thank you that our unemployment level is falling steadily and faster than expected, and our economy is growing at a rate better than anticipated.

We thank you that the Tennis Grand Slam in Melbourne is set to begin on 8 February 2021.

We thank you that China is still buying our iron ore and they need our coal, too, to make it into steel.

And then there was the Australian Pub Choir: "We can be heroes, just for one day".

Indeed, we have received many a blessings in disguise, during this once in a century pandemic.

We have missed many funerals of our dear ones whom we couldn't say goodbye in person.

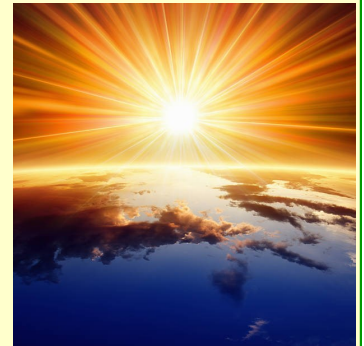
Now that we are given a new lease of life by the creator of the universe, let us live it to the fullest *each day*, praising and fulfilling His marvellous love and purpose for our being on this His planet.

Let us live in hope, work hard and dream big.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Antony Gratian

Editor



உம்மை வாழ்த்துவோம், உம்மைப் போற்றுவோம், உம்மை ஏற்றுவோம் இதேவா!

St. Patrick's College Jaffna Srilanka LinkedIn group

It is with great pleasure that we invite Patricians to connect with St. Patrick's College Jaffna Srilanka LinkedIn group.

We have formed our school's global LinkedIn group to encourage Patricians around the world to join and cherish the name of our Alma mater.

Many of us are dispersed around the world involved in various professions. This is an opportunity to convey important messages to the present and future generations of Patricians.

Let us emphasise how the education we received from St. Patrick's College added value to our lives, and lessons of perseverance made us successful. Let us strengthen the prevailing connections to support each other Patricians and the community.

Under the Education column in your LinkedIn profile, now you can add our School Shield as shown below and join our School Alumni.



St. Patrick's College Jaffna Srilanka
Primary, Secondary, High School

Regards,

Newman Ponniah — LinkedIn Administrator (Canberra)

+61 432 209 242

Enjoy the perks of partnership.



Bank of Melbourne Member Alliance provides **St Patricks College Jaffna - Melbourne OBA** members access to a dedicated team of specialists, discounts, offers and support to help you meet your goals.

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Terms and conditions apply.

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Bank of Melbourne has partnered with St Patricks College Jaffna - Melbourne OBA to offer members access to an exclusive cashback offer on new home loans or refinances.

Members can access a 0.3% cashback when an eligible home loans settle with Bank of Melbourne. What is 0.3%? For example, on a \$500,000 loan, you could receive up to \$1,500 back in cash! Offer excludes refinances from within the Westpac Group. Eligible members are only entitled to one cashback benefit payment. This offer is in addition to any other Bank of Melbourne cashback offer.

Credit criteria, fees, charges, terms, conditions, and exclusions apply. For more information about the 0.3% cashback and refinance cashback offers click [here](#).

Link for the BOM offers: <https://www.bankofmelbourne.com.au/content/dam/bom/downloads/bom-member-alliance-benefits.pdf>

Or contact Don Kulasinghe on 0435 340 015 don.kulasinghe@bankofmelbourne.com.au

How a Couple's Quest to Cure Cancer Led to the West's First Covid-19 Vaccine



Vaccine is one of the fastest developed ever, but it was also 30 years in the making, starting with two Turkish-born scientists in a small German town.

Özlem Türeci and Ugur Sahin founded BioNTech in 2008 to expand their research from antibody treatments into mRNA.

Photo: Marzena Skubatz for The Wall Street Journal

Extracts from an article by Bojan Pancevski (Germany Correspondent, The Wall Street Journal) — Dec. 2, 2020

MAINZ, Germany—The story of the first Covid-19 vaccine to be authorized in the West began 30 years ago in rural Germany when two young physicians, the children of Turkish migrants and freshly in love, pledged to invent a new treatment for cancer.

It has taken 10 months for Germany's BioNTech SE BNTX 1.11% and its U.S. partner, Pfizer Inc., PFE 0.62% to develop the vaccine that was granted emergency-use authorization in the U.K. on Wednesday—beating the previous Western record for a vaccine by more than three years.

Yet, for BioNTech's founders, Ugur Sahin and Özlem Türeci, the husband-and-wife team behind the successful endeavor, it was the outcome of three decades of work, starting long before the coronavirus first appeared in humans last winter.

When the pandemic broke out, Dr. Sahin had spent years studying mRNA, genetic instructions that can be delivered into the body to help it defend itself against viruses and other threats. In January, days before the illness was first diagnosed in Europe, he used this knowledge to design a version of the vaccine on his home computer.

"The success of Ugur and Özlem is a fantastic combination of two people who complement each other," said Rolf Zinkernagel, a Swiss Nobel Prize laureate who once employed Dr. Sahin in his Zurich lab. "He is an innovative scientist, and she is an amazing clinician with a great sense for running a business."

Dr. Sahin was born in Iskenderun on Turkey's Mediterranean coast in 1965. He moved to Germany four years later when his father was recruited to work at a Ford factory near Cologne as part of a policy to rebuild postwar Germany with foreign labor.

Dr. Türeci's father, a surgeon, came to Germany around the same time to work at a Catholic hospital in the small town of Lastrup, where she grew up inspired by the nuns who tended to her father's patients. After considering becoming a nun herself, she followed in her father's footsteps.

Dr. Sahin and Dr. Türeci said their frustration as young physicians about the dearth of options faced by cancer patients for whom chemotherapy was no longer working had been the driving force behind their mRNA work. When the two met at Homburg university hospital in the 1990s, "We realized that with standard therapy we would quickly come to a point where we didn't have anything to offer to patients," Dr. Türeci said. "It was a formative experience."

In 2001, the couple set up their first company, Ganymed Pharmaceuticals GmbH, to develop an antibody treatment. Dr. Türeci was chief executive and Dr. Sahin was in charge of research. "The motivation...was to bridge the gap from science to survival: In our research we saw solutions that we couldn't bring to our patients' hospital beds," Dr. Türeci said.

One day in 2002, Dr. Sahin and Dr. Türeci left their laboratory around lunchtime and headed to the registry office, where they got married before donning back their lab coats and returning to work.

In 2008, Drs. Sahin and Türeci founded BioNTech to expand their research from antibody treatments into mRNA. Since Ganymed was sold for \$1.4 billion in 2016 and the couple reinvested the proceeds into their new venture, BioNTech has been their sole focus. The BioNTech team, half of them women, includes scientists with 60 nationalities, including authorities in the mRNA field such as Katalin Kariko, a biochemistry professor at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

Continued on page 10

Rev Fr A I Bernard celebrated his Golden Jubilee on 19.10.2020 in Canada with Parishioners, Patricians and friends. With fond memories and gratitude, the OBA wish him well.



Date of Ordination - October 19, 1970

Dear Rev Fr Bernard

As you celebrate

the Golden Jubilee of your

Sacerdotal Ordination

We, St Patrick's College Jaffna

Melbourne OBA

send our warmest greetings

"As Multos Felicissimos Annos"



Rev Fr A. I. Bernard
Associate Pastor
St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish
2490 Sandalwood Pkwy East
Brampton L6R 3A4

It is with the greatest pleasure that we, at St Patrick's College Jaffna, Melbourne OBA, write this message of felicitations on the event and occasion of Rev Fr Bernard's Golden Jubilee celebrations on October 19, 2020. As the College's past Rector, many of our members were students of Fr Bernard. All of us Patricians in Melbourne join others from all over the world who have been fortunate to have known Fr Bernard in his many ministries and have been blessed by his wisdom, enthusiasm, fight for human rights to name just a few of his qualities and achievements. We pray to God to grant Fr Bernard abundant grace, good health and courage to continue to touch and transform many more lives.

Jeyandra Antonipillai
President SPC Jaffna - Melbourne OBA

Messages from members of Melbourne OBA



Hello Rev Fr Bernard,

It was pleasure being a student while you were our Prefect of Studies. My greetings and well wishes on your Golden Jubilee Celebration. All the very best for your future endeavours and have a healthy life Father. - Balendran Sockalingam.

Dear Fr. Rector,

I am so glad to write these greetings for your golden Jubilee, I was there as a student for your silver jubilee at school as well. We wish you as a whole family for your good health and God's blessings for your great service as a priest to continue for long time. Best wishes from Niruban & Vimalathas Family". - Niruban.

Dear Fr Bernard,

A golden jubilee of any occasion is a great milestone in a person's life. As you celebrate this great achievement, I am honoured to join all members of my family who have all known you for a long time in wishing you all God's blessing to continue your Apostolate for many, many more years. - James Joseph.

Dear Fr Bernard

As you celebrate golden jubilee of servicing God, I congratulate and thank god for the blessings you have received. Will continue to pray for more blessings to be showered upon you. - Berchmans Tennakone.

Dear Fr Bernard,

You lived and showed us how Rector can be tough, disciplined and friendly at the same time during our school days. Your voice for human rights during the war made our Alma Mater proud. God keep you well and give strength to glorify his name. - Jeyandra Antonipillai

Dear Fr Bernard!

As you celebrate this special Ordination anniversary this year, let me take this opportunity to wish you and to thank God for how far He has led you, we thank Him for opening the door of service to you and for making it possible for you to serve many people, as you look back from where the journey began from, May our good Lord give you new perspective so that you can creatively deliver what He called you to do, let God guide and help you to rise to greater heights, once again I say Happy Golden Jubilee. I want to join with the rest of the OBA members in registering my wishes to you as you mark this special occasion in your priesthood, it has been a long journey with ups and downs but with the love of God and His unfailing grace, you have reached where you are today, my prayer is that He who started this good work in you will bring it to completion, keep trusting in Him, we are together in this journey, God bless you always. Congratulations on your Golden jubilee celebration. Wishing you every best blessing from God. - Neville Gnanarajah.

Dear Fr Bernard

Congratulations on your golden jubilee of priesthood. Sweet dreams From St Patrick's College when you were our perfect of studies. Golden memories from national seminary of Ampitiya where you were our lecturer. Are you still playing Carnatic music? Still playing tennis? Thank you for these contributions in our lives and also for your service to the Tamils. May God bless you to continue his service. - Fr Albert Yogarajah and Cornelius Sebastiampillai

Fr. Bernard steered our college well both in curricular and extracurricular activities. His yeoman's work was incredible and beyond comparison. He was second to none of that era in how he managed our College and was a Rector par excellence. God bless you, Father. Fr. A. Anton Punithakumar - Tamil Chaplain - Melbourne, Australia.

The Stock Market Keeps Rising, but Millennials Aren't Reaping the Benefits

Many young investors, wary of bear markets, have focused on paying off debt and saving instead

Extracts from an article by Julia Carpenter - Nov. 25, 2020

Many millennials, having suffered through two nasty bear markets in the first years of their working lives, are missing out on some of the gains from the rally that brought the Dow Jones Industrial Average to 30,000.

The stock market's surge in the midst of the pandemic has given investors confidence and helped businesses raise capital. It has also come with big swings, including one of the worst selloffs in history followed by one of the fastest recoveries, with triple-digit point moves in the Dow commonplace. This has made many young investors wary of putting too much of their assets in stocks.

About half of millennials—generally defined as people born from about 1981 until 1996, sometimes called Generation Y—are invested in the stock market, roughly the same ratio as members of Generation X were at the same age, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. The difference is that the value of their holdings is nearly a third lower than their counterparts at the same age, according to the St. Louis Fed.

A year of ups and downs in the market re-emphasized to Elizabeth Brozek the importance of a savings cushion, rather than of getting involved in trading. The 28-year-old graphic designer suffered a layoff earlier this year, a setback that pushed her to give priority to paying down high-interest debt and establishing an emergency fund. "When the pandemic happened, I put my financial plan on hold," she said. "I'm not looking to invest right now. I'm trying to stay in my lane."

David Hill, 39, said he has been used to seeing dramatic changes in the market since he graduated from business school in 2008. "The market is like a casino right now," said Mr. Hill, a marketing professional in Oak Park, Ill. "But my financial security is not tied up in the stock market."

For him, purchasing a home with his wife was the biggest financial move they have made in several years. The couple's house is worth less than their retirement accounts, but it has kept their focus on housing rather than stocks. "I'm more worried about the economy than I am about the market," he said.



The market turned sharply up this year while unemployment remained high and nervous consumers used what cash they had to pay off debt and save rather than invest in stocks. "Those groups who weren't invested in the first place are not trying to get into the stock market now," said Kim Parker, director of social trends at the Pew Research Center. "They're trying to keep their heads above water."

Investors who owned stocks during the 11-year bull market that ended in March earned significant wealth, and likely were willing to weather a setback. The wealthy have always owned the most stocks, but the gap has widened. The big gains went largely to wealthy, older investors who accumulated years of savings. "The overwhelming value of those stocks are held by white, college-educated, middle-aged and older families," said Ray Boshara, senior adviser and director of the Center for Household Financial Stability at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Adam Carrico, a 29-year-old nonprofit financial analyst living in Washington, D.C., said even though he has been "one of the lucky ones" able to save more in the coronavirus pandemic, he remains on the sidelines due to the stock market's volatility. "I thought about investing, but I'm definitely scared," he said. "There's a fear I didn't have before: 'You could be unemployed soon.' And so I've seen the stocks go up and down, but I don't know how much I trust the market, with the pandemic."

Like most Americans, Mr. Carrico's exposure to the markets is his retirement savings. He said he has just over \$22,000 saved in a 401(k) but hasn't made significant changes to his contributions since the pandemic.

Bureau of Labor Statistics data show that as of March 2020, 55% of all U.S. civilian workers participated in benefit pension plans or defined-contribution retirement plans, such as a 401(k). That means Social Security—which isn't tied to the stock market's ups and downs—remains the major source of retirement income for a large number of future retirees.

Mr. Carrico said he continues to make payroll contributions to his 401(k), but he remains "purposely blind" on his retirement plan's performance, citing a deep fear of what the future could hold despite the Dow's continued climb. "I'm not paying attention to it," he said. "Today, it could be great. Tomorrow, it could go down and I could get stressed looking at it. Life has enough stressors right now, and this is out of my control."

Courtesy — Wall Street Journal: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-stock-market-keeps-rising-but-millennials-arent-reaping-the-benefits-11606305600?st=44yrb1097xnaqla&mod=epced>

The Old Boys around the Globe of
St. Patrick's College, Jaffna

Proudly and Wholeheartedly Congratulate
Msgr. P. Anton Ranjith
on the
Episcopal Consecration
as an Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo



by
His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith
on Saturday, 29th August 2020 at St. Lucia's Cathedral , Kotahena



This Supplement is Jointly Released by
THE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATIONS OF ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, JAFFNA
in

CANADA - UK - SYDNEY - MELBOURNE - FRANCE - OSLO - COLOMBO - JAFFNA



Patrician and educationist, Father Anton Ranjith Pillainayagam (53) was appointed as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Colombo on 13 July 2020. His consecration took place on 29 August 2020 at which occasion the above full page newspaper supplement was published in Virakesari. Bishop Ranjith studied philosophy at St. Francis Xavier Major Seminary in Jaffna and theology at the National Seminary of Kandy. He pursued his higher studies in Mathematics and obtained his Bachelor's degree, and later a Master's degree in Philosophy, both from the University of Jaffna. Prior to his appointment as Bishop, he served as the Rector of St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa.

The OBA Melbourne wishes this humble, trilingual, scholarly Priest of God, long life, wisdom and His Mercy. May he be the 'chosen one' to heal our broken nation .

How do you identify a smart person in 3 minutes?



[Jeffery Tian Answered October 9](#)

I can maybe try and do this in 3 minutes, 5 for sure.

First, don't go for looks. Just say hello, strike up a conversation for maybe 30 seconds. See whether or not they are OK with silence or not; usually intelligent people are able to keep themselves occupied and shy off when a conversation dulls. Most people look at the eyes - intelligent people have depth in their eyes, they don't always need to be 'sharp'.

Now comes the important part. Once you see who seems intelligent, talk to them about philosophical topics. It's incredibly easy to see who is really intelligent; intelligent people will most likely have already thought of similar things and will answer you and give you a new perspective. They will relish the opportunity and three minutes will fly in 10 seconds.

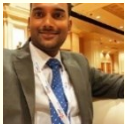
People passing off as intelligent will try to sound smart and use big words and theories, but look past and they don't have much **substance**. Intelligent people should be able to put deep things in easy-to-understand sentences. 3 minutes will most likely look like this - 1 minute to do the talking, 2 to get to the point.

Normal people will just tell you to go away (or call you a nerd), or just turn off. Because really, what's the point? No need to ask deep questions. No need to talk about them either. 3 minutes will usually be them on their phones.

To be honest with you, I'm not shading normal people or people who try to look smart; because I may also be a normal person who is writing this from a "smart" person's perspective. Also, there's a reason why smart people are smart - if everyone's smart, no one is.

Normal people are normal people; and in reality, too much deep discussions about time and creation and life and all that drains time, time that may be better used helping society. Even "smart people" are just normal people, we just have a spike in a physical (or mental) attribute.

*Signing off,
A Random Teen in the Middle of Nowhere*



[Srinath Nalluri](#) - [October 31](#) - Most Viewed Writer in Behavioral, Social & Human Psychology

How do you identify a smart person in 3 minutes? For what?

Let me ask you a question,

Who wins in a race between a cheetah, human, horse and wolf?

Quite a few will hazard a guess that it is cheetah as since childhood we have been told this 'Cheetah is the fastest animal' fact.

However,

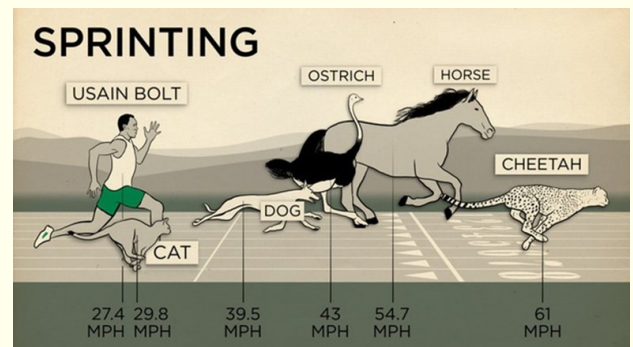
Cheetah wins only if it is a short distance sprint like 100 m race. Cheetah has poor endurance and limited stamina. It is not built for long distance races or marathons.

And coming to the long distance race,

If the temperature is low, **wolf wins, followed by horse.**

And if the temperature is high, **human wins, followed by horse.**

Just like that answer, **Smartness derives its ultimate value from where you want to use it.**



You want to find that smartest person to send him to a quiz show, or put him on a short-term project with high-end results, or want him to solve a world's problem or just do what you say on time? The person who is best-fit for one may not get you an equally amazing result for the third one.

So instead of going for this 3-minute play, figure out your requirements and choose the best-fit candidate.

Courtesy: <https://www.quora.com/>

இங்கிலீஸ் படிப்போமா?

How to use and Em Dash (—)?

An em dash, or long dash, is used:

- in pairs, to mark off information or ideas that are not essential to an understanding of the rest of the sentence:

Thousands of children—like the girl in this photograph—have been left homeless.

My son—where has he gone?—would like to meet you.

- to show other kinds of break in a sentence where a comma, semicolon, or colon would be traditionally used:

One thing's for sure—he doesn't want to face the truth.

Things have changed a lot in the last year—mainly for the better.

Note that there is no space added on either side of an em dash.

Em dashes are especially common in informal writing, such as personal emails or blogs, but it's best to use them sparingly when you are writing formally.

<https://www.lexico.com/grammar/dash-and-em-dash>

Editors Note:

hyphen (-): e.g. 1939-1945

en dash (-): e.g. 1939-1945 [Ctrl + minus]

em dash (—): e.g. 1939—1945 [Ctrl + Alt + minus]

வாழைச்சேனை இந்துக்கல்லூரி தேசிய பாடசாலையில் ஐந்து மாணவர்கள் 9A சித்தி

வாழைச்சேனை இந்துக்கல்லூரி தேசிய பாடசாலையில் 2019ல் நடைபெற்ற சாதாரண தர பரீட்சையில் 125 மாணவர்கள் தோற்றியிருந்தனர். இவர்களில் 90 மாணவர்கள் கணித பாடத்துடன் உயர் தரத்திற்குத் தகுதி பெற்றுள்ளனர். இதன்படி 72 வீதமான மாணவர்கள் சித்தி பெற்றுள்ளதுடன், கடந்த வருடத்தினை விட இம்முறை 5 வீதமாக சித்தி வீதம் அதிகரித்துள்ளது.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - <http://www.battinews.com/2020/04/9a.html>

Editor's Note:

இவர்களில் தவராஜா சனுஸ்காந்த் எனும் மாணவன் மீனவத்தொழில் செய்யும் தன் தந்தையின் உதவியுடன் நான்கு பக்கமும் கடல் மற்றும் ஆறுகளால் சூழப்பட்ட மிகவும் பின் தங்கிய நாசீவன் தீவு கிராமத்தில் இருந்து தினமும் தோணியில் ஆற்றைக் கடந்து சென்று படித்தவன் என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது! எதிர்காலத்தில் தான் Bio. படித்து டொக்டராக வரவேண்டும் என்பது தனது ஆசை என்று இம்மாணவன் குறிப்பிட்டுள்ளான்.

... Watch this space!



How Venomous Australian Stinging Trees Cause So Much Pain

The trees may look fuzzy, but they're covered in tiny needles that can cause months of pain



Dendrocnide plants in Australia's eastern rainforest have broad, fuzzy-looking leaves. But one touch packs a punch that can leave a person in pain for days, weeks or even months. Some animals eat the leaves, but the venomous spines are certainly enough to discourage humans from getting too close.

Each hair is like a tiny needle that injects venom into its victim. The molecules in the venom not only ignites nerve cells to send pain signals, but also sticks around in the body and prevents the signal from turning off.

For predators like spiders and cone snails, causing pain is an effective way to incapacitate prey. For the Dendrocnide plant, it may be a form of defense.

By [Theresa Macherer](#)

smithsonianmag.com – September 22, 2020

What is the difference between Hungarian words "roma" and "róma"? Answer in our next newsletter.

Noticeboard



Australia Day Cricket and Family Fun DAY

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

at Wattle Park, 1012 Riverdale Road, Burwood

Cricket Matches, Bar-B-Que & Kothurotti lunch, Rounders, Kilithaddu and Soccer

[Details to be confirmed closer to the event]

The St. Patrick's Day celebration and AGM

Saturday, 20 March 2021 in a Covid-safe manner.

at St. Pascal's Church, Box Hill

Continued from page 4

On Jan. 25, a Saturday, after reading a study he said convinced him that the obscure disease in China would soon engulf the globe, Dr. Sahin set to work on his computer, designing the template for 10 possible coronavirus vaccines, one of which would become BNT162b2, the vaccine authorized in the U.K. on Wednesday. Later that day, he told Mr. Jeggle that BioNTech would refocus its work on combating a virus that didn't yet have a name and hadn't yet been diagnosed in Europe. "I was surprised, to say the least," said Mr. Jeggle, who has been working with Dr. Sahin since 2001. "We didn't have much free capital, and we were tied up with our cancer research." Dr. Sahin cited the Hong Kong flu of 1968-69 that claimed as many as four million lives. After two hours, Mr. Jeggle conceded.

The following Monday, Dr. Sahin reorganized his staff into seven-day shifts, asked key workers to cancel their holidays and stop using public transport. Lightspeed Project, as he dubbed the effort, would develop a vaccine in months rather than years, as had so far been the case.

In February, Dr. Sahin was observing the effect of the jab in a microscope. He took a selfie with two employees present. "I think this is the birth of our vaccine candidate," he declared.

BioNTech had been working with Pfizer to develop a flu vaccine based on the mRNA technology. So when Dr. Sahin needed a partner to organize clinical trials across continents, manufacture the product globally and help distribute it in the U.S. and Europe, he knew whom to turn to. In March, the two companies signed a cooperation deal, and in April, the first human trials began.

Later, BioNTech acquired a U.S. company and a large pharmaceutical factory in Germany to scale up production pending authorization—a high-risk approach should the shot fail.

Morgan Stanley estimated that the vaccine could bring Pfizer and BioNTech more than \$13 billion in revenue. Any proceeds will be reinvested, Dr. Sahin said. His main focus hasn't changed: to bring mRNA-based and other innovative cancer treatments, 11 of which are in clinical trials, to market.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-a-couples-quest-to-cure-cancer-led-to-the-west-s-first-covid-19-vaccine-11606905001?st=9zg9utp3gk04884&mod=epced>