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If I were to become the editor of a monthly paper for Commonwealth children, I must evaluate my goals for the monthly paper. Is it going to be a showcase for aspiring writers? An advertising sheet for pen-pal agencies? Do I intend to baffle young minds with politics in obscure countries? Try to 'educate' them? Do I want my paper to be bought with interest, read with surprise - and thrown away in disgust? Obviously, the answer is a resounding 'no'!

I want this newsletter to be filled with interesting topics, snippets and an opportunity to expand one's general knowledge. To do this, I must have a few good regular columns and various articles. Firstly, as this newsletter is for children my age, I would have a regular column dealing with unusual news about children from Commonwealth countries. Perhaps a youthful, promising athlete; a young circus star; juvenile authors, computer 'whiz' kids, acts of bravery - the list could go on and on and on.....

I will delete hardcore politics because children my age should know all this by reading their country's newspaper. Besides, there might not be enough space! I will encourage readers to send in articles about their country and national events. The best ones get paid for, of course. Another regular column will focus on a different Commonwealth country each month. It would be a good idea to have a UNESCO calendar of events - international news that concerns children. What would an international newsletter be without penpal columns? Quite dull, to be sure. In between these regular columns will be various articles on sports and hobbies; detailed enough to satisfy the most voracious athlete and hobbyist. For the sports articles, I intend to have a mix - from 'five-stones' to football. The hobby column should be quite interesting as I shall focus on unusual hobbies such as enamel jewellery, kite fighting and the like. It would be an excellent idea to have a language

corner and help my gentle readers with their English. I intend to start a series about the history of the Commonwealth - with special coverage during the Commonwealth Games! I will also print amusing mind-bogglers.

Another brainwave would be to introduce a different topic each month and invite responses. Children from, say, Singapore and Australia will have an eye-opening time reading each other's responses to their national education systems and extra curricular activities. Perhaps a little 'advertising' could be done too! Contests will mainly be on general knowledge about Commonwealth history. A regular centerspread on Commonwealth flora and fauna would be both eye-catching and informative. I also intend to award prizes for the best sketches sent in about Commonwealth life.

I do not intend to publish comics jokes and the like. They take up unnecessary space and might offend some sensitive reader. As newsletters do not use up a lot of paper (At least, they should not), these articles have to be spread through various issues and I hope to maintain my gentle readers' interest. Finally, I hope that the quality of the newsletter is such that it becomes a firm foundation upon which strong friendships are built and an appreciation and understanding of various cultures are reached.

[The End]