



KAKUNYU SCHOOL

united for the good of the children

Newsletter January 2013

www.kakunyuchildren.org

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Kakunyuu School for Nursery Children and Children with Special Educational Needs. We are nearing the end of the long school holiday and are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school next week.

It has been a while since our last newsletter – this doesn't mean that things have been quiet at Kakunyuu - it simply means that so much has been happening that we have not had time to write a newsletter! Apologies....

In October the school welcomed back Rachel Wetherall, who spent time with us in 2011. Rachel travelled back to Uganda with her boyfriend Stephen.



Rachel writes:

"Last year I spent three months at Kakunyuu School and it was the most fabulous experience. I always knew that I would return, but never imagined that it would be so soon! In October this year I went back

to Uganda with my boyfriend, Stephen, and we spent several days at the school. It was amazing to be back there and see all of the faces that I knew so well. For me it was particularly great to see the improvements that have been made to the school. The new dormitory block and kitchen are brilliant, and make such a difference to the lives of the children living there. Best of all were the new beds. When I first visited last year they were sleeping two to a blanket on the floor, then there were mattresses, and now each child has their own bed. Truly amazing.



There has also been progress in the children themselves. My little class that I taught last year have improved a lot, thanks to the hard work of the new teaching staff. It was very special to be able to teach them once again and see how much they have learnt in a year. It was hard to have to leave everyone all over again, but no doubt I will be back once more in the not too distant future"

Later in October, Jan and Pete visited the school to share the excitement of Kakunyuu's first "Parent's

Day". Despite a torrential downpour, the students of Kakunyu assembled to show their school to their parents and many other local people. The local Community Chairman, Mr Haruna Bukenya introduced the afternoon and we were entertained by the school choir and dancers (below). Justine Bukenya, the Community Development Officer encouraged us to consider making and selling handicrafts to increase income.



Pete was challenged as a GP trainer to give an overview of current "First Aid" practice to the parents and children, delivered through an interpreter and competing with thunder and lightning of the storm overhead. He was, of course, phenomenal....

Our visit was a chance to celebrate the new order of Kakunyu School. The difference in the school from our last visit in November 2011 was so encouraging. The staff team are truly professional, and the school has a calm and ordered atmosphere as the children progress at their own pace in a loving and caring environment. Some students continue to excel – one of our students, Gertrude, gained 100% in the national science exam for her year-group – Well Done Gertrude!!!

I am sure that the order of the school is helped enormously by the presence of the new stove and kitchen. The new stove uses far less wood than our old open-fire method of cooking and has 2 chimneys that ensure that the smoke is taken out of the kitchen. But the real reason that the stove is such an important addition is that it allows our cooking team to prepare porridge for the whole school at exactly the right time. Beforehand it was always very difficult to know when the porridge would be ready – and as a consequence the morning break was often delayed or cancelled and

when the children are hungry it is so hard for them to concentrate. Here's the stove in the final stages of construction – what a wonderful thing!



So at the end of the school year, in early December 2012, Kakunyu School can look back on a challenging but successful period. We have 60 students, comprising 32 who have special educational needs, 20 nursery day scholars and 8 children on our home-based programme. We hope they all return safely after the holidays.

Mary Kabiito, the school's Director writes:

"Last but not the least, on behalf of the students, all other stake holders of the school and on my own behalf, I would like to thank the following partners/friends from UK, Douglas college in Canada, Switzerland, USDC, Lillian fund, NTV Uganda, staff of Bank of Uganda, PADRE-PIO Insurance brokers SIGN HEALTH UGANDA and the individuals for the food stuffs, financial, technical, moral and material support they rendered. Your intervention kept the school running up to the last day of the school calendar. In a special way I thank the staff members for their commitment and friends from UK for the regular payments of these people."

Please don't forget that if you would like to know more about Kakunyu School, just contact Jan Lowe (01494 890675) (jan@kakunyuchildren.org) if you are in UK or, if you are in Uganda, please contact Mary Kabiito (0701 489834) (mkabiito@yahoo.com).

Do visit our web-site (www.kakunyuchildren.org) for more information and pictures and videos.

Thank you so much for reading this – and for your interest and support of this small but special school in Uganda.