



KAKUNYU SCHOOL

united for the good of the children

Newsletter Dec 2010

www.kakunyuchildren.org

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Kakunyu School for Children with Special Educational Needs. It is almost unbelievable what progress has been made since our last newsletter in June and we just can't wait to tell you all about it!!

In October, Jan Lowe and her sister Pat Harper visited the school from the UK. They brought many useful materials both for playing and learning. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to so many people for the wonderful gifts they sent to the school, and also to Turkish Airlines for allowing us extra baggage allowance. It will come as no surprise that one of the most popular gifts was the parachute shown below, sent by the children of the Kingshill Baptist Church Sunday School.



The visit was such a joyful and instructive experience for everyone and we had ample time to celebrate the achievements of the past year and formulate ambitious plans for the future. We were so pleased to be able to stay on-site with Moses and Mary Kabiito (the founders of the school) and

this enabled us to understand the situation in which the students live.



During our stay, we were able to visit a local supplier of solar lighting to discuss our plans to light the children's dormitories andas a result.....

On 24th November, 2010, our students emerged from darkness, when solar lighting was installed in the children's sleeping area. It was a historic and joyful moment – so historic that it was captured on the 8pm WBS TV news on Sunday 28th November! It is hard to understand the difference that this solar lighting will make to the children – the lights are bright enough to read by and it also ensures that we will no longer be tempted to use the paraffin candles that present such a danger to everyone. We are so grateful to the young children of Little Kingshill Combined School who bought this lighting for the school.

Many of you have been waiting for news of our amazing pit latrine block. It was only when we were trying to choose the best picture that we realised that some people may not be as fascinated by this structure as others. But everyone will be excited to know that the latrine pit

was dug to a depth of 60 feet by hand, using a special spade (an ensululu). It was completely dark at the bottom and only one man was brave enough to work there. No shoring was used to stabilise the sides of the excavation, and access was by holes cut into the walls as there was no ladder. It should last over 25 years before it needs to be moved....thank goodness! It even has a chimney vent as can be seen in the glorious picture below. Let me (Jan) know if you would like any further technical details.....



In early December, the school took delivery of a number of pieces of outdoor playing equipment that we will use to encourage the children to play and to develop their physical co-ordination. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Helen who ran the London Marathon to raise funds for this purpose. We are now working on fencing the school so that the play equipment can be fixed in a secure environment.

Every day we continue to improve the quality of services we are providing to our children in the Nursery section, children with Special Needs within the school and those on Home-based programs. We put great emphasis on the use of individualized programs and a holistic approach to ensure that each child within our care reaches their maximum potential and becomes as self-reliant as possible. In this we provide vocational skills, self help skills and activities of daily living, physiotherapy as well as other ordinary subjects.

We are always pleased to collaborate with other stakeholders, and recently have been helped by Kayla Yama, a social worker from Canada and Kerlin Ga, a senior physiotherapist from Switzerland who stayed at the school for two days while

equipping teachers with skills of doing proper exercises. Students on the Home-based program also benefited from her visit and she donated 850,000/= for transporting some of these children to Katalamwa Cheshire Home for intensive therapy and for buying Appliances. Well done Kerlin!!!

We continue to lobby for the rights and recognition of children with Special Needs. Through this, many people are becoming more aware of the difficulties to be faced. We are happy that Mary has attended a number of workshops and meetings sensitizing various people on disability issues. We hope that this will help us to work together to improve the lives of children with disabilities who have been marginalized for so long yet have so much potential.

Right now, our children are enjoying their holidays. We would like to thank the school Management Committee, the teachers, the UK team, Lillian Foundation, Douglas College TDH and USDC Katalamwa Cheshire home plus parents for all your contributions which have made this wonderful school a reality.

Next year we are expecting 30 students in the boarding section as we continue to expand. Our ambitious plans for 2011 include the construction of 2 dormitories, a physiotherapy building and buying water tanks to capture and store all that wonderful rain that falls on our roof.

We hope that you will visit our amazing new website (www.kakunyuchildren.org). We are so grateful to Pat and Steve for their artistic and technical skills and for this wonderful gift to the school.



Thank you again to everyone for the great support, interest and encouragement during the development of this fantastic project.

If you would like to know more, please contact Jan Lowe j.f.lowe@btinternet.com if you are in UK or Mary Kabiito (mkabiito@yahoo.com) if you are in Uganda.

New Year greetings from us all at Kakunyu School!!!