

Educaid Africa

NEWSLETTER

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TRIP TO KENYA

On Friday 18th February 2011 Ian Carnell, Jenni Kitson, Angela Robson, Linda Maxfield and Lorraine Armstrong, Trustees of Educaid Africa, along with husbands Martin Maxfield and Cliff Armstrong and Anne Byrne set off on the long journey to Mombasa Kenya. We had a good journey arriving in Mombasa on Saturday morning. It was wonderful to feel the warm sunshine after leaving behind a very chilly England. For Angela and Anne, it was their first trip to Kenya. What lay ahead, we all knew was to be the experience of a life time for them. Hopefully this Newsletter will give you some idea of the excitement and pleasure we get from our visits.

Mombasa Community Centre

We were given a very warm welcome at the centre and taken to see the courses sponsored by Educaid namely the woodwork and dressmaking. These were well subscribed with young men being taught to make furniture and the women learning the skills of dressmaking. One of the highlights of our visit to the centre is to meet the nursery children. In true Kenyan tradition they sang to welcome us, including happy birthday to Jenni. It certainly made it a birthday she will remember!



We were very pleased to give the nursery £100 to purchase books and equipment



Carpentry workshop



Dressmaking class

Sponsored pupils

We visited all the sponsored pupils at the four secondary schools (Ribe Boys, Ribe Girls, St John's and St George's Schools) It was lovely to meet the pupils who were all very appreciative of the sponsorship that they receive.

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The resources in the schools are very poor compared with England, however this year Ribe Boys School are trying to raise funds to build a library and ICT room. They have started building but need money to complete the project and equip the rooms. Each school was given a gift of £250 to spend on books thanks to a generous donation.



Sponsored pupils at Ribe Boys School



Sponsored pupils at Ribe Girls school



Sponsored pupils at St John's School



Sponsored pupils at St George's School

Primary schools

We give thanks for the hard work of Greswold, Streetsbook and Widney Schools and Blythe and Cole Beavers, along with Softcat and Olton United Reformed Church for providing books. Our visits were made very special, as we were able to present M'bungoni, Mwarakaya and Malau schools with books. These were very gratefully received by pupils and staff. In typical Kenyan fashion the pupils entertained us with singing and gave us gifts of bananas, coconuts and mangoes in return. Thankfully we did not receive any live chickens this year.



Ian Carnell presenting books to Malau School

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Presentation to Mwarakaya School



M'bungoni book presentation

Big Developments at Malau School

The first time we visited Malau school it consisted of a single nursery class but today it has grown to include a primary school. The village has embarked upon a massive building programme to accommodate the primary pupils. When we arrived the roof was about to go on to a classroom for the fifth form pupils. St Margaret's Church in Olton donated money to complete this project. They have plans to build three more classrooms to complete their project and provide education for all the pupils. Some are taught in the church at the moment and others have to attend school in the afternoons. It was so commendable to see a village working together. They have made all their own bricks to complete the project but do need money to pay for the labour, cement and the roof panels. They were very appreciative of the money we donated to the school and for the gift of books.



Disappointing News

We were all disappointed that we could not visit Kaloleni Nursery School but the building has been deemed unfit for use as a school. The school is still open but the School Board were not happy for us to visit. It did not seem appropriate to donate money to the school under the circumstances so the money allocated was given to Malau as the school is growing.

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Plea from St John's School

We have received a request from St John's Girls School to help with a programme to provide the basic needs of the girls who arrive without the required personal effects like bathing soap, washing soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, pens, pencils, shoe polish, body oil, hair oil and sanitary towels. In support of this programme they depend on well-wishers and are getting worried as they only have stock that will last to the end of term. They require 15 000 Kenyan shillings per term or 45000ksh per year to fund this initiative (15000 ksh =£125 and 45000ksh = £375 approximately)

Rising Costs

We are all aware that prices are continually rising. This is not just a British problem but also very much a problem in Kenya. The cost of education is included in these price rises. Unfortunately the Trustees have had no option but to increase the price of sponsorship.

£20 is the cost of nursery education
£300 is the cost of a student at a secondary school for a year

Past Pupils



We always find the time to meet with past pupils, some of who are now at university or college. It is gratifying to see how EducAid has made a difference to their lives.



We were pleased to meet Patrick (left) who is now an engineer and Felix who is in his final year at University. EducAid has changed their lives

A Big Thank You From the Trustees

With rising prices, low interest rates and low exchange rates the Trustees were concerned that we would be unable to continue supporting so many pupils at secondary schools. However we have had a very successful fund raising year. The Trustees would like to thank all sponsors for their continued donations and all organisations that made EducAid Africa their chosen charity. Your donations have made a great difference to the lives of those students and the quality of education the pupils are receiving in schools

Thank you all



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