



EduAidAfrica

NEWSLETTER

December 2014

Edition No 8

As you read this newsletter I am sure that, like the Trustees, you are all preparing for the Christmas festive season. Cards to write, presents to buy and wrap, food shopping for the big day, attending parties and dinners to mark this very special time of the year. Christmas in Kenya will be very different.

Felix, one of our successful sponsored pupils has sent us an account of a Kenyan Christmas in his village

In Swahili Christmas is called Sikukuu which translates as 'a great day'. It begins in school for the children with an assembly at the end of term (end of November). The assembly is a celebration where awards are presented, speeches are made and Christmas carols are sung. The assembly ends with the teachers wishing the pupils a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". The December holiday has now begun. Once back in their village the pupils walk the village searching for plastic bags. These are wrapped together in a ball to the size of a melon and fastened with ropes. Then it's off to the pitch to play football. When they are bored with football they turn to swimming and fishing in a nearby

stream.

As the holiday moves on the children playing start to disperse. The girls leave one at a time to help their mothers and family. The boys follow suit, either travelling to Mombasa to buy Christmas goodies or going to the village clothes fundi (tailor) to buy new clothes. The older children are busy "preparing the way" for the great day. A week prior to Christmas they clean the whole village, starting with the compound, clearing all tall bushes and filling in the potholes in the roads. On Christmas Eve villages are decorated with woven coconut branches and flowers. The evening meal is eaten earlier than usual to allow families to leave for church in good time.



Felix

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The youths take the lead at the service and the church is in a jubilant mood. As Christmas day begins, the preacher comes onto the stage and ministers the word which is then followed by the sharing of juice and cake. After all these, the service comes to an end and the whole congregation walk as one group through the villages from one home to the next teaching the biblical importance of the birth of Jesus. This is also a way of taking people who have come to church safely back to their homes.

Christmas Day begins quite late for the children as most spent the better part of the previous night at church. On Christmas Day all the meals are a special feast. After taking their first meal the girls hang around helping their mothers. The boys stay with the youth in the village to help with the 'meat business.' Christmas is not Christmas if a goat or a sheep is not slaughtered. The young boys will stand and watch whilst the youths skin, cut and clean the meat. This is what is called learning by observation.

After taking the main feast the children put on their new clothes, gather for a family photograph and then leave for the market centre. At the market centre, which are built for the day, the children try and play a variety of games whilst their parents watch.

And so Sukukuu comes to an end and a good time is had by all but most importantly they have celebrated the Birth of Jesus

Thank you Felix and a Happy Sikukuu 2014

Solihull Methodist Church supports Educaid Africa

Solihull Methodist Church was where Educaid Africa started when, over 20 years ago, Patrick Langmead, its founder, asked the congregation to raise money for Selina Katana, a young Kenyan girl he heard about on a visit with Christian Aid, to go to school. Members of the church have continued to support the charity over the years, but this year, from September 2014 to August 2015, they have made it their project for the year. The aim is to raise enough funds to send four pupils previously sponsored through secondary education to extend their studies at University or college. The four students are **Bernard Nyale** studying for a BSc in analytical chemistry with computing **Eunice Kalama** studying for a BSc in Biochemistry **Robert Mvoyi** studying for a Bachelor of Journalism and Mass communication **Josephine Kaingu** studying for a BEd

The first fund raising event was a talk by Malcolm Evans about his exciting adventure aboard the sailing boat Switzerland on two legs of the Clipper Round World Race. Malcolm is a real enthusiast who had his audience recreating the movement of the boat at sea whilst describing some of the more difficult tasks that were necessary in very confined spaces! They learned about the months of preparation and training for the crew of novices as well as the highs and lows of the journey itself.

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Malcolm Evans on his return to London after crossing the Atlantic with his team on the clipper "Switzerland"

The next event was a quiz organised by the Gilyead family, enjoyed by all ages and won by the youngest members. Over a 100 fish and chip suppers were provided by Shelly Farm Fish Shop. The two events have raised nearly £700. Coming up:, a concert by Out of the Blue Swing Band, a skittles night, a concert by a local choir and open gardens in the summer. You can find more details on the Solihull Methodist Church website.

<http://wwwsolihull-methodist.org.uk>

Africa Day at Langley School

Exactly one year ago Langley School held a most successful Africa day for Years 7, 8 and 9. It proved to be such a wonderful day that they decided to repeat the experience and on the 9th July the school was once again enveloped in an African themed day. Three of the Trustees took assemblies to show the pupils what school life is like for their sponsored pupils Alfred, Emmanuel, Mary and Jonathan.

Pupils took part in a wide range of activities all based on an African theme including cooking, drumming, musical composition, performing dance, art and building a shanty town. Year 9 boys all took part in an African football tournament. It was good to see pupils and teachers alike having such a fun day and raising money at the same time.

As a result of the day and a bag pack held earlier in the year the school raised £2202.80.

Well done Langley School



Thank you, Langley, for your support.

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Sponsorship

Those who sponsor pupils do more for those young people than you can ever imagine. As one past sponsor said "You have changed my life" We received correspondence from a former Bishop of Mombasa- Charles Makonde who put it in context

"For boys and girls who have no opportunity to go to Secondary School, would see themselves as having no hope for the future. Knowing that education is the key to greater opportunity in life.

The boys would end up by being either house servants, street boys or beach boys and even maybe engage in activities of drugs and robbery. For girls, they would end up by being married to men much older than themselves (this is arranged or forced marriages). Some of the girls would even end up in towns and engage in prostitution.

When those boys and girls complete Secondary School well, it gives them the opportunity to go for further education in Universities and Colleges. When they complete their further education, they are assured of getting good jobs. When they are employed, they become great assistance to the rest of the family. In Kenya there is no unemployment benefit so any family member who has a regular paid job, becomes great support to the whole family. The scholarship provides great opportunity for boys and girls who would have no hope for the future. The Scholarship has transformed and given bright future to boys and girls and even their families have benefitted from the Scholarship.

Thank you once again for all your support and education assistance to many of our young men and women in Mombasa, the Coast Region and Kenya as a whole

Charles Makonde

Sponsor Climbs Kilimanjaro

Dinesh Phakkey, a new sponsor, set himself quite a challenge - to climb Kilimanjaro. The climb was almost unimaginably more difficult than he had anticipated but **He did it!**



Dinesh and friends on the summit of Kilimanjaro

It was a rewarding experience not only in that he managed the summit and the accompanying sense of achievement, but also the breath taking views and a view of the milky way. The climb was not technically challenging but very gruelling with the team walking on average 7-8 hours per day. The summit was the most challenging thing he had faced in his life. It started at midnight in temperatures of -15 degrees walking up an incline of 45 degrees with oxygen levels at 25%. There were many times when he felt like giving up but he made it to the summit in 9.5 hours. His team spent 15 minutes at the top and then started the 4 hour decent to base camp where they had a two hour rest and then walked for another 4-5 hours. All in all he walked for 19 hours in a period of 22 hours. The money raised exceeded his expectations

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Africa day at Coppice Junior School

On Friday 24th October Coppice Junior School held its very first 'Africa Day', to raise money for Educaid Africa.

It was an amazing day, enjoyed by all. Each year group chose an African country to learn about and pupils and adults could wear their own clothes, so long as they wore the colours of the flag of that country. For this privilege everyone paid £1.00.

Throughout the day there were fantastic activities for all the children including Zumba (provided free by a local Zumba instructor, a parent Mrs Awdry) and a wealth of art work including making masks, jewellery and canvas painting. There was also a raffle for the children. We are thrilled to announce that we raised a grand total of £330!!!

Mrs McCarthy, Head Teacher commented "The children thoroughly enjoyed their experiences throughout the day and found a purposeful way of raising money for a worthy cause"



Linda Maxfield receives a cheque from Coppice pupils.

A Happy
Christmas
and a
Prosperous New
Year
From the
Trustees and
Sponsored pupils



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