

LOLDIA SCHOOL FUND NEWSLETTER 2008



The Start of 2008 brought with it the news of unrest in Kenya following the December Election results. Luckily the outbreaks of violence reported by the media were more isolated than we were led to believe. The knock-on effects of the troubles were further reaching though.

Whilst the town of Naivasha was the scene of some rioting – Loldia School and the surrounding village of Kasarani remained peaceful. Much of this was due to the village chief who appointed elders to look after small sectors of the village and met with them daily in order to dispel any underlying unrest amongst the community.

Loldia School was proud of the fact that they were able to return to start their new term on time as many of the surrounding schools remained closed throughout February. Scholars returning to Secondary Schools experienced some delays to the start of the new term. In July the Secondary Schools throughout Kenya were disrupted by a spate of unrest and again some of our students had their studies disrupted. These problems have now abated and all of the students returned to their respective schools after the August break.



Following the unrest in January many displaced people came into the region surrounding the school from areas such as Eldoret, Kisumu and Nakuru and Loldia Primary School took in a further 150 pupils - some of which have remained at the school whilst others have returned to their homelands.

It has been a difficult year for Kenya and recovery from the crisis has been slow. The postal system was one service that suffered badly which led to a lack of communications between sponsors and scholars. However the tourism sector, an important component of the economy, has returned to near pre-crisis levels although is likely to be adversely affected by the coming economic slowdown.



2008 At Loldia Primary School

2008 saw an increase in the number of pupils at the school - some of this rise was due to the refugee children but other factors have played their part such as the growth of Kasarani as more people move to the village seeking work at the local flower and vegetable farms. The numbers of pupils at the school should stabilise at around 1500.

Academically 2008 has been a very good year for Loldia School. The School was awarded first position in recognition of outstanding achievements in the KCPE/KSCE examinations of 2007 by the Naivasha District Education Office. With this award came ten new computers for the school. Loldia also got awards of 2nd place for achievement in Maths, 3rd place for achievement in Science and yet another 1st for sports in the ball games section. Reflected in these results is the hard work of the headmaster, Peter Njoroge, and his dedicated staff.

On the sports field we have some superstars in the making among the female footballers. The first XI are considered one of the best teams in the district having won the area women's tournament (inclusive of adult teams) held as part of Aids Awareness and Women United to heal and restore week. As a result of this the girls have been asked to play in Nairobi and their media coverage is a source of pride to the whole school and has made football the favourite school sport. Much credit for this success must go to the dedicated team coach Emman Wambuchi who has done so much to motivate and train both the boys and girls teams.



Two New Classrooms

In July the work was completed on two new classrooms. These stand proudly along those built in 2007, sited on the land so kindly donated by Rick and Betty Hopcraft. This was a very exciting project, a first of what we hope will be many joint ventures with the community group from the local flower farm – Shalimar.

The opening ceremony took place as part of the Sports Day celebrations and the classrooms are now in full use by standard 3 and 4. Many people have helped the fund achieve these new buildings but a special thank you must go to the Maristow Trust for their loyal and continued support of the Loldia School Fund.



Sports Day

The Blue team avenged their 2007 defeat by the Red team by becoming overall victors of the 2008 sports events. Again the sports were held over a two day period starting with the track and field events and ending with the team matches. The Shalimar Ladies won the girls netball (their win was celebrated in true Kenyan style) but sadly the visiting teams from Eburu Secondary School were unable to score any wins against the Loldia pupils. The natural athleticism of these children is quite inspiring and their team spirit and love of sport cut across any of the tribalism seen in Kenya earlier in the year.

There was a school record in the 9km cross country this year – made even more amazing when you consider that only 50% of the competitors had shoes!!!

The Nursery school sports took place on the following Monday and was a wonderful day – the introduction of three-legged races and football penalty shoot-out proved highly popular.

Sports Day has become a highlight in the lives of the pupils at Loldia and the surrounding communities and even the rain during the prize giving didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

Nursery School Toilets and Staff Accommodation

Thanks to the Scotshill Trust we have been able to upgrade the toilets in the Nursery School – they have been re-sited and now include hand washing facilities – the success of these is best described by the Nursery School teachers themselves who wrote us a wonderful thank you letter.

“The aim of writing is to inform you that the new toilets for the children were finished and they are very happy using them because they are smart and they don't have to queue there. We can't hear the bad smell which used to be nearer us just behind our classes. The old toilets were demolished – thank you”

Another big improvement to the Nursery School area is the completion of the staff accommodation block which now offers homes to three Nursery School teachers. The fund thanks Janssen Pharmaceuticals and their employees for their amazing support in this project



Scholarships 2008/2009

Thanks to our wonderful supporters we were able to send 38 scholars forward into Secondary Education this January. These students now have an opportunity to better their circumstances and move out of the poverty that surrounds so many of the area's people. These are the lucky few, and with the lack of tourists visiting Kenya this year we are struggling to find sponsors for the children taking their KCPE this year. 96 children will be sitting their exams at the end of November in the hope that they will get very good grades and find a sponsor. Please contact us at the Loldia School Fund if you would like to sponsor one of these children or wish to find out more about our sponsorship programme. Thank You.



WEBSITE

The launch of the new website at the end of 2007 meant that we could keep you up-to-date with news and developments at Loldia Primary School. It is now possible for sponsors and donors to make payments direct to the fund on line. Please do visit the site at

www.loldiaschoolfund.org.uk

Letter from South Africa

Article by **Patrick Kipyegon Lang'at**

Patrick was one of the original Scholarship pupils from Loldia and after finishing his secondary education was funded to continue his education at CIDA University in Johannesburg. With Patrick are three other Loldia Scholars Chege, Luchiah and Julius

Truly where there is a will, there is definitely a way. When I was on the verge of giving up hope, **Loldia School Fund** camp to the rescue and breathed in me a renewed hope of a better future. Currently (2008), I'm doing my first year pursuing a BBA degree at CIDA City Campus and my experience here has been overwhelming. Upon my arrival (early last year), we received a very warm reception from the management staff and students at the CIDA Foundation Campus.

Being in South Africa (which we have come to appreciate to be our home far away from home) has really proved a learning curve for us because we have gotten the ample opportunity of meeting new people from totally different cultural background and learning different languages.

Being in CIDA has taught me the importance of Ubuntu (the spirit of togetherness) and to give back to the community because we are because of them. I also came to realise that we have greater inner potential which lie still inside us and given the chance to unleash it; we are all capable of achieving far greater things than we can possibly imagine.

Indeed **"...it is not where we are coming from but where we are going to.."** I strongly believe that if given the chance, the needy students at **Loldia Primary School** will definitely take it as a stepping stone into a bright future. Let us all join our hands in giving these bright, young minds a chance to prove their worth and enable them to fulfil their potential.



ASANTE SANA

So many of you have supported the fund during the past year, by fundraising, sponsorship and by giving support to the School. We wish there was space to mention you all. However we do need to pass thanks to Jordan Page for her fundraising done at her school, to class five at White House School, Whitchurch for selling their toys to raise money and to Steyning Grammar School for their support. To John Rostron (MBE) for his support of the Fund. To the Jersey and the Southport Sciromptimists for recognising the needs of these children. To Judy Hooton and her colleagues who have raised money to help teaching staff.

To the Castlebridge Stud (Ireland) for their wonderful donation of 1600 pens (much appreciated by the pupils who were fascinated by the fact they could write in 4 colours!) and to Darley Stud for providing prizes for sports day.

We thank all of our amazing supporters – **the difference this is making to the school and the children is immeasurable.**

No Loldia newsletter would be complete without news of Peter Njoroge from Loldia House. It was wonderful to welcome him and his wife Florence to the UK last November and be able to repay some of his hospitality. Peter does so much for the school and he is a father figure to many of the children. We can't thank him enough for all that he does – He is The Loldia School Fund in Kenya!!!! – **Thank You Peter**





Lands End To John O'Groats

On June 13th trustee Andrew Devenport set off from Lands End to cycle the 900 miles to John O'Groats. Andrew, with six other like-minded , people pedalled their way across the UK taking five days to reach their destination –during which time Andrew also had make time to celebrate a milestone birthday!

Their efforts resulted in a fantastic sum of money raised of which 50% boosted The Loldia School Fund and 50% went to Cancer Research UK.

Andrew' original training team (as seen below) did not accompany him en route!



Christmas Gift Ideas

This year we will be selling gift cards for you to give to friends and family – the cards will represent a donation made on the recipients behalf in lieu of a present – the cards can be purchased for any amount starting at £5.

These donations can then go towards educational material, building projects, desks, sponsorship etc and the card can be personalised as requested.

We still have some Loldia Christmas Cards for sale – these cards were designed by one of the pupils and are priced at £6.20 for a pack of 10 .

For more information or an order form for the above please contact us either by email or phone



Contact Details

The Loldia School Fund
c/o Sandie Edmeades
Fair Winter Farm
Singleborough
Great Horwood
Bucks MK17 0RB
Tel (44) 01296 714120
Fax (44) 01296 714338

Email loldiaschoolfund@yahoo.co.uk

Website loldiaschoolfund@org.co.uk

2009

The forthcoming year is going to be quite a challenge for the Loldia School Fund. A lack of tourism, particularly in the Rift Valley area where the school is situated, has meant that sponsor numbers are drastically down. Many of our sponsors come as a direct result of them visiting the school and seeing first-hand how education improves the lives of these children.

The Loldia School Fund remains committed to its goals of improving the standard of both the facilities and teaching resources within the school and to securing sponsorship for the brightest pupils to go on to secondary education.

Whilst much has been achieved in 2008, political problems within Kenya have taken their toll. Poverty and aids related problems are endemic to this part of the world and without the opportunity of an education these children are simply unable to move forward and better their circumstances.

Please contact us if you can help in any way – even the smallest token can make a world of difference.

The Loldia School Fund

UK Charity Reg.No 1089816 The fund is recognised by CAF America

Trustees: Andrew Devenport, Mary Devenport, Sandie Edmeades, Mary Martin , Andrew and Rebecca Ritchie