

May Newsletter 2023



Dear Supporters,

At the end of a long but busy and productive school term, we wanted to share news from Nabugabo and to thank you for your continued support and interest, which is so appreciated and needed.

The new school year started in February 2023, and it was good to see everyone back and to welcome new arrivals into Primary 1 under the caring supervision of **teacher Annet and teacher assistant Betty**. In total, we have **136 children in the primary school, 79 of which are girls**. 20 students are now in Primary 7, including 14 girls and all will be sitting the primary leaving exam at the end of the year in preparation for secondary school. Recycled uniform was distributed to all including sports kit and a HUGE thank you to **all the schools** that have made this happen. Whilst the uniforms have come from a variety of sources, there is a united sense of identity in terms of colour and quality! Thank you.



Ugandan Literary Programme - Read for Life

Reading in English at Nabugabo Community Primary School has always been rooted in phonics, and from these foundations, we decided at the start of 2023 to invest in a new phonics programme that combines international literacy methodologies with themes and vocabulary that are specifically designed for Ugandan children. English is a tricky language to learn to read and write, especially when it is not your native language. There are 26 letters, 44 main sounds and over 100 ways of writing these sounds. **Read for Life** have developed a highly interactive and fun curriculum which breaks down the main sounds to help pupils in the early years learn to read and write. We were fortunate to have two dedicated trainers from Read for Life come and teach our staff and we are delighted this programme is now being used for the first three classes P1 - P3. **HUGE thanks must go to Sotogrande International School for kindly funding this exciting new programme.**



Dedicated Computer Room



Over the Winter holidays, work was undertaken to one of the ancillary classrooms to turn it into a dedicated computer room with **six dedicated computer** workstations and most importantly with **access to the internet**. Going forward this area will be for the staff in their lesson planning and education, and for the children currently at St Kizito secondary school who have quite challenging homework requirements which make access to the internet important. All homework sessions are supervised.

Athletics Success

Athletics and volleyball have been this terms sports. **Clare from Primary 7** recently won a gold medal at the youth athletics competition at district level for relay and throwing. This is a tremendous achievement. It celebrates the importance of empowering girls at every opportunity and demonstrates the benefits of sport alongside academic studies. Well done Clare - we are hugely proud of you! Clare is now going onto the national finals in Luweero, north of Kampala.



New Staff Arrivals

This term we have welcomed two new staff. Firstly **Josephine**, who takes on the very important role of cooking for the entire school. All the children and staff receive two meals a day and this is vital to improving well being especially as this may be the child's only food.



Secondly, we welcome **teacher Sam** who is class teacher for P4 and specialises in social studies. Sam comes from Mbaale in Eastern Uganda

Reinforcement of Values

At the start of term, we had a workshop with the staff to agree what values were important to them and how these can be embedded into school life and in the community. The six core values important to Nabugabo are **Honesty, Teamwork, Kindness, Hardworking, Responsibility and Courage**. We look forward to seeing these in action in and out of school.





St Kizito Secondary School

Following the **100% success** rate of last year's P7, we now have **42 children at St Kizito secondary school** which is the preferred local private school, in classes ranging from S1 – S3. **There are 25 female students.**

Being at secondary school is a very challenging time for children generally in Uganda, and much time is spent by the staff encouraging all to remain in education by emphasizing the benefits of learning and the opportunities this will provide. **This is particularly important for girls** who are more susceptible and vulnerable to certain pressures especially as they reach adolescence, which can lead them to drop out of the secondary educational system. To date, Over the last 3/4 years, we have only had one drop out which was a boy, whose parents wanted him to work rather than receive an education.

Recycling Programme

Following his retirement as chief sustainability officer at JLL, a global real estate firm, Richard is exploring new initiatives and partnerships to help the school and Nabugabo become more responsible for their community with an initial focus on the recycling of single use plastics. To date, the most common way to dispose of such products in Uganda is through burning, so new practices will be welcomed to help create a safer, healthier environment.

Looking Forward to Pangbourne College trip

We are excited to be welcoming Pangbourne College back for another trip to Nabugabo. This will be their third visit and will involve 20 students from Lower Six. They are currently preparing much needed resources in relation to the new literacy programme together with maths and science aids. While they are out in Nabugabo, they will be building a house and working on classroom activities.

Fundraising Thanks

We have been very fortunate to have had several fundraising initiatives which have made a significant difference to 2023. Firstly, a HUGE thank you to **St Andrews, Berkshire** who held a very successful hockey Tournament in aid of Nabugabo with a staggering 158 players in 17 teams. Thank you to staff, children and to Emma, Fiona and Jemima for organising. **Dulwich Prep, London** the boys in Lower School and Middle School are undertaking a sponsored swim for Nabugabo and have already raised a significant amount. Thank you, Rob Monteith, for leading this initiative. Similar sums were raised by Mel Batten, one of our trustees, who completed a solo 125 mile sponsored walk along the Cornish coastal path.

We are extremely grateful to our two partnership schools in Spain and the UK, **Sotogrande International School and Pangbourne College** for their ongoing fundraising efforts and, their creativity in new ideas and initiatives. The Nabugabo community is stronger with their continued help and support. Thank you.



Helping **UG**anda **E**ducate



The HUGE Partnership

The HUGE Partnership is UK registered charity which has been set up to make a difference to children in Uganda. It specifically provides financial and resource support to the **Nabugabo Community Learning Centre**, a private NGO set up originally by David and Judy Batten solely to provide free education and support to vulnerable and disadvantaged children, who would otherwise not be able to attend school. Now in its 12th year, NCLC provides umbrella support to the **Nabugabo Community Primary School, the Secondary Education Fund and ongoing initiatives in the community** relating to education, welfare, female empowerment and recycling.

The governing principle of HUGE is to provide children, most at need, with a caring education, a confidence in their own abilities and genuine belief and ambition that they can contribute to the future success of their lives and those of the community.

If you have a specific query or would like to speak to one of the Trustees please email **Mel Batten** at melanie.brandon@icloud.com.

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