

School Aid

NEWSLETTER

Summer/Autumn Issue 2010



Enjoying School Aid month at Cafe Africa



SCHOOL AID WELCOMES TANZANIA HIGH COMMISSIONER

Tanzania High Commissioner to Britain says achievements of School Aid and other small charities working on the ground in Tanzania are invaluable

Her Excellency Mrs Mwanaidi Sinare Maajar visited the warehouse and met volunteers and trustees on 22nd April. Accompanied by the High Commission's NGO officer Mr Allen Kuzilwa, Her Excellency spent over three hours meeting with trustees and volunteers, and touring the School Aid operation. Over lunch she explained how vital the work of small NGOs is in Tanzania, as they

reach different communities at grassroots level across the country. Tanzania has a very positive attitude to NGOs and the High Commission is keen to respond to inquiries. Mrs Maajar was very enthusiastic and grateful for School Aid's work. We wish her well in her new posting to Washington D.C..

Joining this special day was Dominic Grieve QC, MP for Beaconsfield, who was appointed in May to be Attorney General and Privy Councillor. Mr Grieve toured the warehouse and joined the High Commissioner for lunch. He wrote afterwards '*I was most impressed by the work being done at School Aid*' and offered to support School Aid in the future.

SCHOOL AID AWARDED 'HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION' GRANT

The Federation of American Women's Club (FAWCO) Foundation has awarded School Aid a development grant to support new projects in rural regions of South Africa. The award was voted on by international members of FAWCO at their annual conference in Boston in May. School Aid was nominated by the Chilterns American Women's Club.

NEWSFLASH -- RECORD NUMBER OF BOOKS SENT IN 2010!

Since January School Aid has shipped over 2,155 boxes of school equipment to underprivileged African schools in Eritrea, Tanzania, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia. This means over 43,500 books have been saved from pulping to help children learn. Thank you to all School Aid's donors and volunteers for your support.

MARATHON RUNNERS RAISE OVER £6,000

A huge thank you to Adam Zellick and Steve Estreich. Adam and Steve ran the April 2010 London Marathon on a very hot day in excellent time. The School Aid team and all our African partners (see Ebomini School, South Africa, right) greatly appreciate the fantastic efforts of the two runners and the terrific funding received from their many supporters.



HANDS-ON SCIENCE MAKES A BREAKTHROUGH FOR CHILDREN'S LEARNING



Recent reports from sister organisation School Aid South Africa share the excitement of students and teachers when they received a School Aid shipment from the UK last October. Five schools in townships near Johannesburg and Pretoria received complete sets of basic school laboratory equipment donated by Lab Aid along with science textbooks from School Aid.

A volunteer (see left) from School Aid South Africa writes: *“Bokomoso High School in Tembisa is typical of many township schools - its classrooms are overcrowded and there is little storage space. The Principal, Mr Pitse, expressed his gratitude for the science equipment which means that the pupils are able to see for themselves the experiments which had before only been pictures in books. The equipment donated will last for quite some time and so benefit many children as they move through the school.”*

Nandipha, a Grade 10 pupil at Inqayizivele Secondary School, said how happy she was to perform her own experiments for the first time. She really liked testing for the presence of starch in foods. Mrs Mphahlele, Head of the Science Department, is delighted now that groups of two and three children can perform experiments instead of just watching.

SUCCESSFUL SIX YEAR PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS ERITREAN EDUCATION

As refugees return to Eritrea from Sudan, local schools are facing a rapidly growing population. The Anseba region on the western border of Eritrea is home to School Aid partner Anseba Development, founded to support education in the region. School Aid has worked with Anseba Development for six years providing much needed school resources. In January 2010 another 20-foot container left the warehouse in Buckinghamshire filled with books and football kit. The consignment arrived in March in Keren, capital of the region, and is now being distributed among 50 schools and libraries.



A DOOR CLOSING IN THE UK, A DOOR OPENS IN AFRICA

When Loxford School of Science and Technology in Essex closed their doors in April, they sent out a call to the local Rotary Club for help in finding a new home for 100 tables and 200 chairs. Tony Betts of the Rotary Club of Redbridge contacted School Aid, and within a few days the furniture was collected and transported to the School Aid warehouse. School Aid contacted partner Link Ethiopia who immediately arranged for a 20 foot container to ship the school furniture directly to Gondar in northern Ethiopia for distribution to local schools via the Link Ethiopia local team. School Aid volunteers loaded the container in mid-April, a week later the furniture was on its way to Ethiopia.

WORDS FROM OUR AFRICAN PARTNERS

“The library books are fully utilized. They are a treasure we cherish whole heartedly as they are a great benefit to the present and future...we greatly appreciate your contribution towards the development of the school” *Herzel, Mary Ward School, Zimbabwe*

“It takes one book to educate generations so this (donation of books) comes as a wonderful tool in the quest for making our children better educated for the future” *NF Nkata, Principal, Lwazi Primary School, South Africa*

“We do very much appreciate for everything contained in the container... the books enable us to boost our school library which has been our cry for some years now, many of the books are being used by our students” *Esther Malyeta, Head Teacher, Ikuzu High School, Tanzania*

“Thank you very much for the wonderful work you have already done; you have made a significant difference and life-changing experience in various schools in Tanzania and elsewhere in Africa” *Daniel, Mukidoma School, Tanzania*

THANK YOU TO ALL SCHOOL AID VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS!

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