

August Newsletter 2023

Dear Supporters,

As we approach the end of another busy school term, we wanted to share our news and to thank you for your continued support and interest which is key to the continued development and success of the school and community in Nabugabo.

This term has progressed well with excellent school attendance. Emphasis has been placed on everyone enjoying school life with a positive and constructive balance to academic and extracurricular pursuits. The phonics programme, generously funded by **Sotogrande International School**, is working well, and being enjoyed by the Early Years. There have been some wonderful highlights during the term, and we would like to thank all the staff who have worked very hard together as a team and the children, who have responded with commitment and enthusiasm. Our school values of **Honesty, Teamwork, Kindness, Hardworking, Responsibility and Courage** have been at the forefront!

Sporting success

This term sports have revolved around ball games, notably football, netball, and volleyball. It has been very busy and productive especially on the football front with 6 separate girls and boys football teams playing competitive football. There have been lots of successes including U16 girls football and U12 girls netball who have both qualified for the district finals at the end of the month. In addition, we have two boys and five girls who have been individually selected to represent the district in the national finals in Mbarara, southwest Uganda.

Teacher Sam, who arrived last term, has provided excellent encouragement and leadership on the sports field and he should be congratulated on his hard work and commitment.



Sewing Bee

One of the biggest challenges in Nabugabo has been sourcing appropriate home clothes especially for girls. We are very grateful to a raft of schools who are incredibly generous with supplies of second-hand uniform, trainers, t-shirts, and sweatshirts etc. However, one initiative which was started this term was the making of wraparound skirts and Irene, our Safeguarding Officer, has seized the new sewing machine with much enthusiasm. She has prioritised making skirts for the girls in the Ark and Beatrice House. Well done, Irene! Next term – dresses! All donations of material for dressmaking would be very much appreciated.



Drop Everything and Read Day

With the new phonics reading programme, there has been a big push to encourage reading across all ages, both individually and together in the classroom. We are very fortunate to have a well stocked library boosted by a fantastic donation of culturally appropriate reading books by **Pangbourne College**. In order to embrace reading into the school routine, the staff have introduced **DEAR Friday, (Drop Everything and Read)** where the whole school gets actively involved in reading.



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.** All the children are happy and most importantly enjoying learning at school. A number of the children in S3 are already expressing an interest to sit A Levels which is very encouraging. As we have emphasized before, without your help, these children would not have this opportunity and indeed would be forced into difficult and challenging work environments.

We would like to thank **Sotogrande International School** who continue to fund a vital initiative in respect of **female hygiene products.** Without this programme, the girls at St Kizito and Nabugabo would have an extremely unhappy time and lack of these products is often one of the reasons for girls to drop out.

Pangbourne School Trip

One of the major highlights this term was the visit by 16 students and 4 staff from one of our partnership schools, Pangbourne College. They were a fantastic, hardworking, and dynamic team who achieved so much in their 10 day stay. This included valuable work in the classroom and on the sports field (with special thanks to Jo Follett from St Andrews Berkshire), weights and measures, IT upgrade, book covering, painting, the teaching skills and inspiration from Pangbourne science teacher, Jo Hart and under the leadership of Richard Follett, the construction of a community house. In addition, 400 KGs of second hand uniform, sports resources, underwear, and new library books were brought out by the team. Most importantly, the students embraced Nabugabo life and showed the children and staff kindness, respect, and empathy. In Nabugabo we don't say goodbye but "See you Soon" and we very much hope that Panabourne will return next year.



Recycling Programme

As we have mentioned in previous newsletters HUGE is very keen to build a sustainable environment in and around the school in Nabugabo. We are in discussions with Ecobrixx, a plastic recycling plant which collects primarily plastic bottles (which would otherwise be burnt) and recycles into building support substitutes which can then be used in a number of areas such as construction, furniture, and fencing. Not only do Ecobrixx recycle sustainably but they have a fantastic diverse employment programme. We are looking forward to working with Ecobrixx in the future.



Fundraising Thanks

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to **Oratory Prep School** who raised a significant amount by all the students walking to and from school in June. Thank you!

We would also like to thank **St Andrews, Berkshire** for donating a very large amount of new underwear which was so gratefully received. It was very much needed, and we thank all the parents for donating and Jo Follett, for organising.

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. We are very much hoping that Sotogrande will visit Nabugabo next Summer which will be very exciting.





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, recycling and female empowerment.

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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