

## December Newsletter 2023

### Dear Supporters,

Happy Christmas! In the midst of ongoing global challenges and complexities, your support for Nabugabo over the last year is very much appreciated and has allowed **HUGE, working together with the Nabugabo community**, to continue to make a meaningful impact in a variety of ways for the **200 children** at primary and secondary school.

The third term at Nabugabo Primary School finished on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and staff and children are now enjoying a very well-earned break. Looking back over the last 12 months, it has been an extremely busy year and we set out below some of the highlights.

### Progress on Academics

Much progress has been made with the **Read for Life phonics programme** which has been embraced by teachers and children alike. In parallel with this, there has been a commitment to more regular reading, both individually and together, and the use of the library which is now very well equipped thanks to generous donations. In 2024, we hope to make similar progress on the maths side especially in the early years.

In early November students from Primary 7 sat the Ugandan Primary Leaving Exam, which is a national examination that must be taken by students at the end of Primary education. It assesses students' understanding of subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. This year we had **20 students** sitting the exam, **14 of whom were girls**. This is the **largest cohort** we have had sitting these important exams since the school started which demonstrates the growth and development of the school. The results of the PLE play a significant role in determining whether a student is eligible for secondary school. We are extremely proud of all the students for their hard work and commitment throughout the year and particularly to all the staff for their care and teaching in getting them properly prepared for these exams. Results will be out in January!



### Extracurricular Activities

A range of sports and extracurricular activities have been taught and played throughout the year **including girls' and boys' football, netball, volleyball, athletics, drum and dance, not to mention dress making at the weekends.** Many of these have been done competitively and the students have represented Nabugabo, at District and Regional level, with keen spirit and always with enjoyment. We thank all the staff for their willingness to participate and help but especially Teacher Sam for his excellent commitment and coaching skills.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October all the staff and 10 primary school students (and one of the trustees!) completed the **Independence Day** run from Masaka rugby ground to Nabugabo which is 21K. A fantastic achievement and a fitting way to mark this important day within the community.





### St Kizito Secondary School

We currently have 41 children at St Kizito Secondary School, which lies approximately 5k west of Nabugabo in Luvule. 25 of these are girls. Remarkably, in 2024, we will have **9 students sitting O levels**, which without your help would be only a distant dream for these children and their families. Thanks to your generous support, we are breaking barriers and providing these students with the opportunity to pursue their ambitions and provide opportunity.

### Community Engagement

As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, HUGE is very keen to assist in building a sustainable environment in and around the school in Nabugabo. In conjunction with **Ecobrixx, a plastic recycling plant** located in Masaka, we are now collecting all plastics which are then transferred to Ecobrixx. These plastics, rather than being burnt, are subsequently recycled into building support substitutes which can then be used in a number of areas such as construction, furniture, and fencing. Ecobrixx are currently exploring the provision of recycled plastic play equipment to a nearby refugee camp, as well as the development of a recycled plastic fishing boat to enable fishermen to go to the deeper waters of Lake Victoria rather than exhausting the shallower breeding grounds in their dug-out canoes.

### Lake Nabugabo Ramsar Site

You may be interested to know that Lake Nabugabo is a site of special international interest. It is known for its rich biodiversity and serves as a habitat for various species of birds, fish, and monkeys. There are two types of monkey, **the vervet and the black and white colobus** and they have been the subject of research for approximately 30 years led by the University of Toronto. In addition, the University of Berlin in conjunction with Toronto are leading the research on an extraordinary fish, called **Mormyrid Weakly electric fish** which have a unique ability to generate electric fields which they use for communication, navigation and sensing their environment.





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

## Fundraising Thanks

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to our many supporters who have contributed during the year either as a result of a fundraising event or as a regular donation – none of the above would be possible without your continued support.

We would like to thank the following schools for their financial support, uniform donations and educational guidance in 2023 - **St Andrews, Berkshire, Oratory Prep School, Headington Prep and Senior School and Englefield Junior School.**

We are also 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.

Finally, we would like to wish Amy Batten all the very best on her climb of **Kilimanjaro for HUGE** in January 2024 <https://www.justgiving.com/page/amy-batten-1699747144895>. Thereafter, Amy will be travelling from Tanzania to Uganda to work at the school.

**With growing numbers at primary and secondary and the impact of rising costs, there is an ongoing need for future funding. All donations, large and small, are always very much appreciated** <https://www.justgiving.com/hugepartnership>.

## 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. About to start its 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:melanie.brandon@icloud.com).

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