



PATMOS JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

Dear Friends of Patmos School,

As the school year comes to a close we reflect back on what has been another busy few months for the teaching staff and children. At the start of the Autumn term the Headmaster attended a two day educational workshop which was run by Tusome, a government led initiative to boost early-grade learning.

For the first time this year three children in the Grade 8 class sat their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams in November. We are hopeful that they will achieve good grades to enable them the opportunity to progress into secondary school education.



Children reciting poems for some of the many visitors the school has received in 2016

Car Boot Sale – funds raised for story books

With funds raised by supporters at a Car Boot Sale in July the Headmaster was able to purchase an assortment of story books in both Kiswahili and English for the school.

The books have proved to be very popular with the children and has encouraged reading amongst all age groups.



Some of the children with their new story books



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An afternoon of Operatic Arias – Fundraising recital by supporters

In late July guests at St. Mary's Church, Penzance, UK were treated to an afternoon recital by two Friends of Patmos School. With funds raised at this event the Headmaster was able to purchase a handmade traditional drum and costumes for use in the Dance and Drama Club as well as a supply of English easy learning bilingual books for the children.

It is hoped that in the future children from Patmos School will now be able to enter inter-school dance and drama competitions.



The drum was made locally by a skilled craftsman in Mathare

Vacation Bible School

In August during the school summer break a group of 33 children from Grades 2 – 8 , accompanied by 3 teachers, attended a week long Vacation Bible School. As well as children from Patmos School there were children and teachers from several other community schools at this event. The children were collected each day by school bus from Mathare and taken to the venue where they received lunch and snacks throughout the day.

During the course of the week there were motivational speakers at the event providing instruction and guidance. It was also an opportunity for Patmos School children to interact with children from other schools.



Some of the children who attended the Bible School



Headmaster visits Maize and Bean Farm

In late August during the school summer break the Headmaster visited the school Maize and Bean farm. He reported that the first harvest of beans had been completed and yielded 16 x 90 kg bags of beans. A second crop was then planted which will be harvested in early December. The maize crop is due to be harvested shortly.

In 2015 a total of 118 x 90 kg bags of maize were harvested on the farm and 24 x 90kg bags of beans. The maize and beans grown at the school farm are used to help support the School Feeding Programme which aims to provide a daily meal for all 100 children who are enrolled at the school. The children also receive a daily breakfast of porridge.



The headmaster with some of the 16 x 90 kg bags of beans.

Medical Mission Group from USA visit school

In September during a visit to Kenya an Orphan Outreach Medical Mission Group from the USA took time out of their schedule to visit Patmos School whilst they were passing through Nairobi.

In early November the school also welcomed another couple from Washington USA who spent the morning with the teachers and the children.

The children and staff are always delighted to welcome visitors to the school as these visits always prove highly motivational for the children.



The children singing traditional songs for the visitors.



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Orphan Outreach fund exercise books and stationery

In September with funds donated by Orphan Outreach the Headmaster was able to purchase exercise books and stationery for some of the children for the Autumn term.

In response to the school website appeal, a kind donor also provided the funds for school uniforms and shoes for some of the most needy children at the school and these will be distributed to those children at the start of the new term in January.



Children with their new exercise books.

Fresh Life toilets

In late September with funding received by a kind donor from the USA two Fresh Life toilets were installed at the school. An operative from the Fresh Life team visited the school to demonstrate the importance of personal hygiene and the use of the hand washing facilities. The waste from the toilets is collected regularly and is taken to a centralised facility where it is converted into useful end-products such as organic fertiliser and renewable energy.

In October a teacher and 10 children from Patmos School were invited to attend a Global Hand Washing Day event which was organised by Fresh Life toilets.



The newly installed Fresh Life toilets.



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School Health Programme

In November children from Patmos School once again attended at the medical clinic of Dr Dan Okal Busela for a further course of de-worming and oral vitamin supplements. Under the School Health Programme which is funded by two supporters from the UK, the children also receive end of term health checks with the local doctor. School based de-worming is one of the most cost-effective means of increasing school attendance and improving health in areas where intestinal worms are endemic.

The doctor was pleased to report that apart from 15 children who needed treatment for minor conditions the majority of children seemed to be in good health.



Dr Dan examining one of the school children.

School Uniform and Maize Appeal

Patmos School has put an appeal on the school website highlighting the need for school uniforms and shoes for the children as well as for bags of maize for use in the School Feeding Programme. Whilst we have received a good response to this appeal from school Friends and Supporters, there is still a need for further help with funding for these items. The uniforms are made by the Patmos Women's Tailoring Group which is an income generating initiative set up in 2014 to help some of the mothers and guardians of the children at Patmos School.

The maize and beans which are grown at the School Maize Farm are used in the School Feeding Programme.



School uniforms made by the Patmos Women's Tailoring Group.



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End of term

The general school progress report has just been compiled by the Headmaster from the end of term exams. The report shows a general mean score for the school children as being a Grade B. This is once again a tremendous achievement for a school with limited resources and is testimony to the hard work of the teachers and the children.

On the last day of term the children were treated to an End of Term party which was funded by one of our kind sponsors from the UK. Each child received a bag containing, cakes, cookies, a lollypop and a drink.



End of Term School Party.

Thank you for your support

The Headmaster and teachers at Patmos School are dedicated to providing a good education and a safe learning environment for the 100 orphans and vulnerable children who are enrolled at the school. They are also committed to providing a breakfast and daily meal for the children. With the continued help and support of our Friends and Supporters of Patmos School the children will have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The autumn term finished on 17th November.

The Patmos School Christmas party will be held on 6th December, 2016. The new school term starts on 4th January, 2017.



Patmos School will resume classes on 4th January, 2017.



The Headmaster and teaching staff at Patmos School.



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To read more about some of the topics in this Newsletter, please take a look at the Patmos School website: www.patmosschool.org
On the Home page you will see the 'Recent School News' where you will see listed all articles on recent developments at the school.

On the "News Log" you will also see a full archive of all activities, visitors to the school and events that have taken place at the school over the years.

The Headmaster, teachers, children and the whole school community are looking forward to building on the progress that has been made so far this year. We would like to thank you for all your help and support - you really are making a real difference to the lives of the children at Patmos School.

Carol Halbert

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