

News from the Lakeshore

Bbale Village, Nabugabo, Uganda



August 28th, 2017

Greetings to all sponsors, well-wishers and friends of the school,

As we approach the end of our fifth year since inception, we extend our very best wishes and sincere thanks to everyone who has helped create a Ugandan School with a truly global perspective. Term two finished on August the 25th and we are now enjoying a holiday in readiness for the last term of the 2017 academic year: September 18th - December 8th.



We - all staff, children and parents/guardians at NCLC - are safe, happy, indebted and grateful in so, so many ways for the kindness and love of friends both overseas and here in Uganda. Without you, we simply would not be here.

Our school and class photos lie below. Apologies ... very heavy rains arrived on 'photo days' so some of us are missing and, as you can see below, some of us are very muddy but there are 'miles of smiles'!



NCLC Staff



Primary One Class



Primary Two Class



Primary Three Class



Primary Four Class



Primary Five Class



The Ark. We are delighted to welcome Maria Namande, a trained nursing assistant and experienced matron, who joins NCLC to assist Irene in The Ark (NCLC's dedicated temporary home for disadvantaged children), assist teachers and supervise the Sick Bay. Joan, Brenda, Jane are Nowena are radiant and now enjoying a break with their parents, guardians and family friends.



The Welsh Connection. Sincere thanks to two dynamic visitors, Karen Teale and Simon Pierce, who recently spent a whirlwind two weeks at NCLC leading some great work, including building stoves, building water purifiers and presenting art and design lessons for children and workshops for staff. Simon is an engineer, consultant and lecturer in Neath, South Wales; Karen currently teaches Art and Design at the International School of Basel, Switzerland.

Kyle Mero (Acorns International School, Kampala) also kindly joined us, once again, for over for a week before setting off on an interesting trip from Mwanza, on the south shore of Lake Victoria, across Tanzania to Zanzibar.



Health matters. For some reason, not completely understood by anyone, malaria continues to revisit in waves with no discernible pattern. Mosquitos are hardy critters and breed in the smallest patch of water. Last term, the NCLC health care scheme assisted 54 children who were laid low with malaria - 17 in one week. Thanks to good care by dedicated staff at Ssunga Health Centre, all children are now well.

Last month, thanks to an injection of funds from the Malaria Consortium and USAid, the Uganda Government distributed nets to all within Nabugabo. Let's hope they are used for the purpose they were designed for and not sold on, used for fishing, poultry pens, nursery beds and/or curtains! We are currently checking all NCLC children's' homes to ensure sleeping areas are well protected.

EnviroNews. The unique biodiversity within Lake Nabugabo, the surrounding wetlands and diverse ecosystems have long been recognised as areas of unique global significance. In 2004, the Lake Nabugabo area became an officially designated Ramsar Site covering 22,500 hectares. In practical terms, efforts to preserve the natural environment have been limited due to lack of funds. Over-fishing and illegal logging was rife ... until recently.



Times have now changed thanks in great part to affirmative community action over the last few years. 'Nabugabo Ramsar Site Management Policies and Plans (2017-2027)' were distributed to all community members, at village meetings, in July. A handbook, written for locals focussing on sustainable conservation issues, will soon be completed and distributed at a series of workshops. For further details, go to <http://www.natureuganda.org/L.%20Nabugabo%20Wetland%20System%20Ramsar%20Site%20Launch.html#> For news regarding the '2017, Uganda Biodiversity Report', go to <http://www.natureuganda.org/downloads/presentations/BD%202017%20Indicators%20Report.pdf>

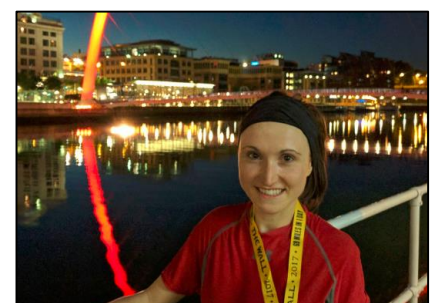


NCLC Runners. Once again, a team of 11 NCLC staff, children and community members participated in the Uganda Marathon in Masaka in June, amongst other local events. Our team did well, especially the children in the 10km event.

Bosco came in second place in the full marathon; he has now been chosen to train with the Uganda team in the west Kenyan high altitude training camp near Eldoret. Outstanding!

Very Special Mention. Emme Haycock, supported by her family and a super-positive HUGE backup group, recently ran an incredible 117 miles in 'The Wall' mega-challenge across northern England.

Moreover, Emme raised funds, with the help of most generous supporters, to sponsor twelve children at NCLC. Words fail to truly express our massive, deep gratitude to Emme and her friends. Breath taking, amazing, phenomenal ... inspirational!





Sustainability is a fundamental goal for not only the school but also the entire Nabugabo community. The local community currently makes little in terms of arts and crafts, other than functional grass mats and baskets. The photos show the traditional process of making bark cloth, from stripping the bark, bandaging the tree, cutting the outer bark off, boiling, 'bashing' with a mallet and stretching leading to bark sheet and final products. Bark cloth production is a dying art both locally and across Buganda.

We are now exploring ways of reviving this skill to generate quality products which might then be sold overseas. 'Bark cloth is a 100% sustainable plant fibre; an authentic organic "living" cloth at the interface between textile and wood'. Additionally, water purifier production looks promising. More news soon.



New construction. Bats continue to present a problem at NCLC leaving rather unsavoury, potentially dangerous, 'calling cards'. The store room recently proved especially badly infected and action was swiftly required to construct a permanent ceiling. Thanks to a generous contribution from the HUGE Partnership (www.thehugepartnership.org), consistent partners for the past four years; work has now been completed. Derrick 'Superman' and his team have succeeded in making the storeroom totally batproof. One day we hope that all classrooms will also have ceilings.

Balikudembe 2. After three years of erratic restoration with the help of many visitors, the school boat has finally been launched and begun taking tourists on the lake from all three lakeshore resorts. The boat is strong, floats well and is powered by an outboard borrowed from a friendly neighbouring lake resort. The skipper, 'Captain Lawrence', who was instrumental in leading the rebuilding project, shares 50% of all profits made with the school. A great win-win scenario.



In Closing. Congratulations to Irene and the newest addition to the NCLC family - her beautiful new baby, Daphine. The new term offers exciting new developments with a number of incoming visitors: Margy Cockburn, an experienced teacher trainer, two 'gap year' young ladies: Chloe and Caroline, and Andrew and Caroline Bond. A number of community events and professional training workshops have been planned while the older children are looking forward to investigating the wonders of the equator which lies just 30 kilometres north of Nabugabo.

Once again, heartfelt thanks to all sponsors, visitors and supporters who continue to make such positive impacts both within the school and across the community. The time, energy, passion, advice, commitment, resources and/or hands-on support on the ground each of you have invested in NCLC recently, or since the beginning of the project, is recognised and sincerely appreciated by all at Nabugabo.

With warmest regards,

David & Judy Batten, Moses Oroni (NCLC Headmaster), all staff, pupils and parents/guardians.



