



Child Africa Newsletter

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Child Africa Newsletter: Term 1 2013

As in every first term of a new school year; there was excitement, expectations, smiles and tears.

The 2012 P7 national Primary Leaving Exam results were released in late January. The results were excellent; Child Africa pupils achieved only division 1 and 2 grades. Sixteen pupils achieved first division and twenty nine pupils achieved second division; all of the Child Africa staff and younger pupils shared in last year's P7 pupil's joy. Child Africa pupils are aware of the importance of this certificate for their future, and know the results depict where a pupil will be offered a senior school place.

Before the start of the new school year, Ugandan based founder and managing director Julie Solberg visited Kenya. In rural Kenya, many children's education is disrupted due to the state of the school buildings and lack of facilities. She met several head teachers to discuss renovation aid from Child Africa. Nyangoro School is one of several schools that Child Africa has chosen to give renovation aid. The needs of each school are assessed individually; water collection towers have been purchased and set up at one school.



Norwegian based Child Africa employee Rosemary Søyland; was at the Child Africa Equator School for the first week of the new school year in February. She then travelled on to spend three weeks at the Child Africa Junior School in Kabale. She worked daily alongside staff at all levels, following up sponsored projects. Giving teacher and administration guidance were among her many other tasks during her visit.

The Equator school rabbit breeding project was started late in term 3 2012. This educational project is a great success with all the classes participating. The coordinator's enthusiasm for horticulture and agriculture shows in the flourishing school kitchen garden and banana plantation. Even the rabbit manure has proven to have a positive effect on the growth of the banana trees. The two school cooks show great pride in producing a balanced and filling diet for the pupils and staff. A comment from the Norwegian visitors in February that the best Ugandan meal they tasted was the one prepared by and served at the Equator School, made the Equator Child Africa team very proud.



Thanks to a Norwegian veterinary clinic; a goat breeding project was started at the Equator School. There were shrieks of delight when the two goats arrived on the back of a motorbike and were introduced at the school assembly, using the names chosen by the sponsor! The pregnant goats are thriving among the pupils and on the land around the school. Everyone is looking forward to the arrival of the kids.



The new headmaster at the Child Africa Junior School, Kabale settled in quickly and his years of experience as a headmaster are proving to be a huge asset to the everyday management of the school and the children's education.

Three weeks into the new school year; four visitors from Strand A level college in Norway visited Child Africa to look at Strand Play Park. Over a three year period the pupils have raised funds to build the play park. A Norwegian group Barne - og idrettsglede" funded the bulldozer to level the sports fields which is part of the play and sports area. On 25th February two pupils representing the Norwegian college of education and the Child Africa head boy and head girl cut the ribbon and declared Strand Play Park officially open. Parents and guardians who have helped with leveling and turfing were as proud as the visitors and pupils. A few short speeches, singing and dancing marked the morning occasion.



The school sports day the same week caused equally as much excitement as pupil school teams competed against staff and visitors. The team cheerers added to the electric atmosphere.



Building of the new school in Kabale has taken much longer than Child Africa had hoped; but due to inflation and worldwide economic instability the start date has been postponed several times. Slowly funds are being raised and now the sports fields and play area attached to the new school site are in use. Many thousand bricks for the new school have been made from the clay hill which was once part of the sports fields.



Maurice Hasa has joined the Child Africa team; the famous Ugandan singer values the work of Child Africa and has offered his support. Hasa spent several happy days at the Child Africa schools, singing with and to the pupils. Everyone appreciated his presence at a graduation ceremony, the opening of the Strand Play Park and his participation in the sports day football match. Hasa, fascinated by an elderly member of the Child Africa team; decided to write a song about her. His initial chat with Mama Saturday about her childhood was so emotional for him and the Child Africa children who listened to her story, that he decided not to do another interview but to use the live recording of his chat as a film to go with the his song when it was written.

[The song has now been released on YouTube](#) (Iwaki nze-maurice hasa youtube). Watch the film carefully and you will understand the content of the song. Unfortunately such mistreatment of children is still going on by stepmothers or guardians, this song brings the problem to surface and will help many. Hasa is now making a song with some of the Child Africa choir.



The pupils with hearing disabilities who are integrated in the Child Africa Junior School in Kabale traveled to Kisoro in mid March. There they were fitted with free hearing aids by the Starkey Hearing Foundation team. The deaf children were thrilled to meet deaf children from other schools; they signed confidently, laughed together and were so proud of their school uniforms. The benefit of each child's hearing aid will be assessed at their follow up appointment in June. Photos from the occasion can be seen on [Child Africa International Facebook](#).

The Child Africa uniform was designed by the founder Julie Solberg and is unique; the green colour represents vegetation and the yellow represents the sun, both need each other just as a child needs a sponsor. The meaning behind the yellow braiding design is the path of life, its ups and downs, after a down there is an up. In short, Child Africa encourages the children never to give up no matter how tough the going gets.

Yet another disadvantaged young lady has achieved her goal though Child Africa. Thanks to a Norwegian sponsor who has supported her throughout her education, Confidence celebrated her graduation ceremony in February with her guardians, Julie Solberg, visitors from Norway, the school choir, Maurice Hasa and other earlier Child Africa graduates. Confidence's sponsor has given her work prospects and a future. Two other Child Africa children are in the process of creating their dreams; Ronald is now setting up his own mechanics enterprise and Sharifa has set up her own tailoring business. Neither Ronald nor Sharifa would have achieved this without their sponsor's continual support throughout their school years.



Child Africa makes a difference with your help. Thank you!



Child in Uganda thrive through Child Africa education sponsorship program