

News from the Lakeshore

Bbale Village, Nabugabo, Uganda

December 31st 2015



Greetings to all sponsors, visitors, supporters and friends,

Everyone here at Nabugabo extends their very best wishes to all our friends around the world, for a safe, healthy and happy New Year. It is hard to believe that NCLC is entering its fourth year of operation. The 'Field of Dreams' has been transformed into a fully functioning, well stocked and organised, passionate, joyful primary school and community learning centre. Here at Nabugabo, life remains positive, proactive, dynamic and ... as always ... never boring; in fact, *it remains somewhat / totally unpredictable at times!*

We are delighted to announce that our standardised tests show strong academic improvements amongst virtually all the children; we are all very proud of their achievements. Moreover, the pupils' open, trusting, happy and confident demeanour is a feature of the school that is commented upon by all visitors. We are all extremely proud of all the children and staff at NCLC. Once again, the year culminated in parent teacher conferences, a joyful celebration, and the all-important Nursery to Primary Graduation ceremony, attended by proud pupils, staff, parents, guardians, local head teachers with their staff and Bukakata Sub-County M.P. representatives.



There are now 100 children enrolled for 2016 with more children registered on the growing waiting list. Plans for 2016 essentially centre upon 'consolidation' where NCLC will maintain 4 classes (P1-P4) to ensure that we may offer more extensive professional development programmes locally and truly maximise all available time, resources, facilities, skills and talents of the school, children, staff and community.

This newsletter aims to not only outline recent developments but, most importantly, attempts to express the community's sincere, heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you from all of us here on Nabugabo lakeshore, especially from the children, parent(s)/guardians and staff at NCLC. Simply expressed, NCLC would not exist without your continuing support; please visit us soon; the doors are always open and a very warm welcome is always guaranteed.

With deepest appreciation, best wishes and warmest regards for a wonderful New Year ahead,

Dave, Judy, NCLC children, staff, parents/guardians and the Nabugabo community at large.

HUGE News

Our HUGE (Helping Uganda Educate) trustees, together with Caroline and Andrew Bond, joined us for an Arts and Crafts week at school in late October. Timetables were abandoned, sleeves rolled up, paint splurged and crafts of all sorts produced. Arts and crafts are rarely taught in primary schools in Uganda so NCLC staff and children experienced some very different, dynamic approaches to teaching and learning ... a massively productive, creative and joyful set of experiences for all involved



The team also brought yet another HUGE consignment of school resources, clothing, footwear, medicines and other vital supplies; all of which are truly valued as little is available locally, or even in Kampala. To everyone who contributed to this most generous set of donations – Mwebale nyo, nyo, nyo (Thank you so, so much.)

Thanks to The HUGE Partnership (www.thehugepartnership.org), NCLC is now the extremely proud owner of a ten-seater Toyota Hiace minibus – with permanent 4-wheel drive, essential in the rainy seasons. This wonderful addition to our community will have multi-functional uses, including acting as an ambulance, community project ‘wheels’, town ‘taxi’ and in-service transport, it will also offer a great opportunity for NCLC children to escape the classroom and travel to yonder fields.



Most NCCL children have never visited Masaka just 25 kms distant from Nabugabo by dirt road, in fact, very few children have travelled much beyond Lluvule trading post just 8 kms away. Beyond acting as a community ‘emergency vehicle’, the minibus bus will open up new horizons and open doors to new experiences for all. To all whom helped raise funds to enable NCLC to purchase the minibus, thank you so much on behalf of so many.



News from Pangbourne College, U.K. We are currently busily planning for the visit of Pangbourne College staff and students in July, 2016. RSM Colin Hearn is driving the planning and expedition with vision, amazing energy and simply awesome commitment. A raft of fundraising projects are already underway, including a dinner for parents and friends of the College with Sir Ranulph Fiennes, early in 2016, who is, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, “The world’s greatest living explorer”. What an event!

Colin Hearn and Andrew Gidden, a member of Pangbourne College’s Board of Governors, visited Nabugabo for a memorable, enjoyable, productive and thought provoking whirlwind four day set of adventures in October, at the same time as the HUGE trustees visit. Andrew envisioned a myriad of projects during his visit, one of which was a ‘coffee connection’, in partnership with HUGE and Pangbourne College which has already taken shape.



Many thanks to all at Pangbourne College for making change happen so rapidly, proactively and positively. Inspirational!

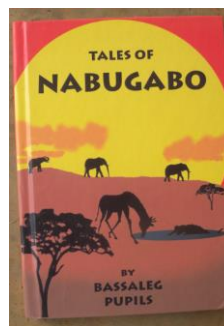
International Schools do 'Make a Difference'! Without the support of International Schools around the world, NCLC simply would not exist without their formidable commitment to global solidarity and 'Community, Service and Action'.

Once again our heartfelt thanks go out to **Sotogrande International School (SIS)**, Spain, and their in-house NGO - The Kindred Project, for their continued support this year in so, so many ways. SIS, you laid literally laid the foundations for the school; your continuing friendship means a massive amount to our community. We all look forward to welcoming you back in the not too distant future.

We must also express sincere gratitude and thanks to **The International School London, Qatar**, for their unwavering help, commitment and passion alongside the sponsorship of so many children once again. ISQL, you are truly transforming lives and helping to build a better future for both the children of Nabugabo and the community at large. On behalf of all, Mwebale Nyo! Massive thanks and do please visit us soon.

'Tales of Nabugabo'.

The Wales – Nabugao Connection. So many visitors to NCLC are truly amazed to see 'Tales of Nabugabo' on our book shelves and enamoured by the stories. This delightful book was the work of pupils at Bassaleg Secondary School in Newport, UK. The tales tell of the adventures of the menagerie of Tingatinga animals who come life after the sun sets.



The tingatinga animal paintings adorning the school were created by teams of grade 8 students from ISU (the International School of Uganda, Kampala), over a period of three years, led by Mshana, a leading Tanzanian tingatinga artist. What great collaboration across continents ... a truly amazing initiative which never fails to delight visitors, both young and old. To both Bassaleg School and the International School of Uganda- thank you so much for your ongoing formidable support.

Acorns International School (AIS). AIS, Kampala, continues to be super-supportive in many ways, beyond fund-raising and offering generous gifts of food, clothing and children's sponsorship they have opened their school to offer hands-on in-service training with NCLC staff. Last September, 6 NCLC staff spent two days at the school working alongside AIS staff to learn more about the IB, PYP programme and inquiry based

learning. All NCLC staff returned to Nabugabo 're-charged' with big changes in approaches to teaching and learning implemented within days, with impressive results – a brave, radical move for a school within Uganda. Special thanks to Mr Jasani (Director), Ameena, (AIS CEO), and Shawn and Chelsea (PYP/Head of Early Childhood respectively) for facilitating this ground-breaking move forward; we look forward to returning in February. Many, many thanks.

Special thanks must go to Miss Megan and her entire class for a wonderful fund-raising event at their United Nations Day last October where they sold jewellery they had created to appreciative parents and friends of the school.



They raised an amazing sum of 170,000ugx for NCLC ... what a phenomenal result! The funds raised will be used to go towards repairing the NCLC 'fleet' of 12 bicycles loaned to children living distant from the school. Well done Miss Megan and all the young social entrepreneurs in her class who made positive change happen in a most positive, constructive win-win manner. Remarkable!

Visitors to NCLC. Beyond the HUGE visit and Pangbourne College recce, it appears that the global Nabugabo community is growing. In September we were delighted to welcome Talya and Ziv, young travellers from Israel.



These two intrepid explorers/ passionate, experienced, community workers brought an invigorating breath of fresh air to the school for

two weeks. They kick-started and embraced many projects including: clearing and planting a variety of vegetables in the kitchen garden, playing new sports with the children, building bike stands and benches for water cups, introducing hands-on, interactive science lessons in the field, and offering extensive health care across the community ... along with some great Israeli recipes at home! Ziv and Talya, you are missed by all.

In the past we have had several siblings of visitors returning to Nabugabo, but for the first time, Nabugabo was delighted to welcome



John and Kathy Swindley - parents of Joe and Sam who visited us in 2012 and 2014 respectively with Sotogrande International School teams.

Within one week, way beyond becoming great personal friends they embraced Nabugabo and also initiated meaningful change. John (Chief Engineer), with the able assistance of Mansweti Superman, Michael and Martin, created a sheltered area for Justine (the school's chef) to protect her and her helpers, when cleaning dishes/cooking food, from the vagaries of the weather – both sun and rain. This has proven to be a very real asset. Kathy made her mark with community computer lessons, reading sessions and art and craft sessions with the Little Stars Class. Moreover, the Swindley family has left the legacy of a new home for Ronald and his Grandma – what a gift. Likewise, you are missed by all.

We truly look forward to not only Ziv, Talya, John and Kathy, but all past visitors, returning 'home' as soon as possible ... never underestimate the impact and joy you bring to one and all.

From one community to another – 'Hands across Continents'. The Andalucian mountain village of Comares, Spain, held their second fundraising event for NCLC on December 13th. The first event, held last July, raised the phenomenal sum of 1,780€ and also sponsored three children.

This amazing little community has some very gifted musicians and no less than three bands offered their talents to help raise over 1,000€ for NCLC and the Nabugabo community on Sunday, December 18th. Amazing! Massive thanks to Jackee Hughes, and her husband Pete (alias Santa who arrived with gifts on a donkey), Becky, Encarni and Sebastian, the bands, contributors to the raffle, the Camping Bar and all at Comares for their passion, energy, organisational skills, concern for the community here and most amazing generosity.



Health Matters - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). In line with the Uganda Ministry of Health's current focus on WASH in rural areas and also being seriously concerned about local conditions, Isaac Seembatya (our Community Development Officer) carried out an extensive survey on the use and availability of latrines and hygiene in the community.

To say that the results were "sadly worrying" is a massive understatement. Only 45% of almost 100 households surveyed had personal pit latrines, almost 20% of household use the bush to relieve themselves, only three latrines had water in a jerry can available to wash hands and only one household latrine offered toilet paper with soap alongside a water container.

Of all pit latrines surveyed, only one was deemed clean and hygienic. These worrisome observations go some way to account for the continuing and increasing prevalence of typhoid outbreaks which, most regrettably, are more often than not complicated with accompanying malaria. At NCLC we are working hard on hygiene issues; we have clean latrines, plentiful tap water and soap to wash hands. We also provide personal cups for every child alongside clean drinking water which is available in every classroom, all day. We have



organised anti-malaria/typhoid community health sessions with the village health team and staff from Ssunga Health Centre while also counselling individual families but we still need to do more.

We are delighted to report we will be working in partnership with Pangbourne College who have taken up this mantle. The plan is for Pangbourne students, and staff, to plan and construct communal latrines in some of the most desperate areas close to NCLC during their three week visit next July. The community, Bbale village Chairperson and Committee, Bbale village health team and the staff at Ssunga Health Centre all send heartfelt thanks for such a generous, meaningful and potentially life-saving initiative. Formidable!



A new house for Jaja Ronald.

The International school of Uganda (ISU), Kampala, continued to support the Nabugabo community with two amazing initiatives. Following the collapse of Ronald (an NCLC



pupil) and his grandmother's mud house in the last rainy season, ISU fund raising enabled us to lay down foundations for a new home. The home was completed last November thanks to the generosity of the Swindley family. Both Ronald and Jaja Ronald are 'over the moon'... thank you Team Swindley and ISU.

Last Easter, ISU, alongside The Huge Partnership, helped construct a desperately needed new home and latrine for Charles, who is aged, lame and lives alone; his former flimsy shack sadly also collapsed due to heavy rains. ISU continues to support Charles with basic foodstuffs which are delivered to him on a regular basis. Sadly with the Presidential elections impending, our good friends from ISU will not be able to spend a week with us in February; they will be missed by everyone. Hopefully we will meet up once again later in the year.

Community News

School gardens replanted. The PTA and community rose yet again to the challenge of hoeing weeding and planting over an acre of beans in our school garden close to Bbale village.

Hopefully, baring monkey raids, flooding in the rainy season and/or drought during the dry season, we should have a plentiful crop of beans for the school kitchen in early February. Many thanks to all the NCLC parents and guardians who gave up valuable early morning hours, six times, to help the move the school a little closer towards becoming self-sustainable.



'Karmakarmachameleon' ... a new friend found in the school garden.

Afternoon / evening computer lessons at NCLC. Thanks to the generosity of the Jasani Foundation, and donations from visitors, the school now has 5 computers and four laptops in a dedicated I.T. room which, when electricity is available, offer a most valuable asset to all classes at NCLC.

Due to pressing interest from staff, parents / guardians and other community members, NCLC introduced afternoon / evening computer lessons at the beginning of last term. This initiative has been hugely popular with two teams of IT students completing 15 x 2 hour lessons over two 6 week sessions. Many thanks to Sembatya Isaac and all those volunteers who helped to ensure the programme's success.



The Nabugabo runners, who began training at NCLC earlier this year, move from strength to strength. Spot the team amongst almost 20,000 other runners at the 12th MTN Kampala Marathon held last month.



Team member Bosco ran 24 kms in just under 3 hours, brilliant! In October, the Nabugabo team were presented with their second award for 'Best Team' in the Nyendu – Nabugabo 10km run. Watch out London and Boston in 2016!

The Nabugabo Community Drummers and Dancers hold three, two hour, evening training sessions every week in the school's roundhouse. To date, they have been invited to perform at three local weddings and seven large events at Sand Beach, Nabugabo.



The group is now financially independent and looking aforward to performing at the National Cultural Festival in Kampala next year.

Nabugabo is blooming thanks to the many visitors who have brought over wild flower seeds from Spain and the U.K.

Now that the rains have arrived, for the second year running, we have discovered that cucumber; radish, basil, coriander and courgettes all thrive in a tropical climate and offer a novel, new



addition to the local diet. But ... *have we introduced exotic species that will run amok?!?*

Bats! We have had an ongoing problem with 'herds'/'congregations' (!) of bats sharing staff quarters. These furry little creatures have firmly taken up residence in the school compound. We have tried many humane methods of dealing with this problem but we have been consistently thwarted by the bats resolve to make staff homes also their homes. Over this holiday we are adding false ceilings to all the staff quarters to gently separate man and 'beast' – with regular clean-ups in the attics! Many thanks, once again, to The Huge Partnership for helping to cover this unexpected additional cost.

Humps! With more and more traffic visiting the three resorts close by on the lakeshore, we have become increasingly concerned for the safety of NCLC children, parents/guardians, cows, goats and the community at large who walk this roads daily. In order to help drivers become more cautious and considerate for other road users, NCLC staff (Michael, Martin and Isaac) are currently constructing two 'humps' (speed bumps/sleeping policemen), with warning signs strategically placed, on the road leading through the hub of 'Downtown Bbale' to the NCLC Community Learning Centre. We would like to thank Nakanwaji Teopista (our local Village Chairperson) and the local police for their support in this project.

The dairy herd and school farm moves from strength to strength. Thanks to the initial generous contribution of 45 Friesian cross heifers to deserving zero-grazing stall holders/Nabugabo community members by the Jasani Foundation over one year ago, we now have 76 cows and calves with numbers rising monthly. We shall soon be producing milk in viable quantities to ensure sizeable incomes for all those within the Nabugabo Dairy Community Cooperative. The school's one acre of eucalyptus is nearing maturity and the 3 acre gardens should produce a range of produce from napier grass (cow fodder), tomatoes, peppers, cassava and beans to complement the school's posho (maize meal) lunches. Meanwhile, we have created a small coop for some 12 chickens and 8 ducks who happily keep the vegetable garden free of pests and share the school grounds with staff and children.



Importantly, almost last but not least, finally ... BIG thanks to Mr. Iain Roache. Almost 50% of the 'start-up' costs for the NCLC project was provided by a formally anonymous benefactor. Now we can officially thank Mr. Iain Roache, a formidable friend who is based in Gibraltar / World Wide. Iain generously stepped in to meet the initial shortfall we had in terms of funds to build the first part of the Nabugabo Community Learning Centre. At that time, Iain requested that his outstanding donation remain confidential. Now, with his kind permission we can now publically extend a massive thank you to Iain for making such a positive difference to our small, rural community. Iain, without your passion and support, we would most certainly would not have been able to offer a home to the our first intake of 60 delighted, enthusiastic and grateful young people ... youngsters who otherwise would never have been able to receive an education or a healthy future. Clearly, words simply can not express the depth of all our gratitude to you from not only the children of Nabugabo but also their parents/guardians.

Finally, MASSIVE thanks to: all those friends, sponsors, supporters and administrators, staff, parents and children around the world who have demonstrated unconditional trust in this project and enabled the Nabugabo community to move forward with pride and self-determination. We simply do not have space to

name all those that have, and continue to support this project but rest assured, all our thoughts are with you.



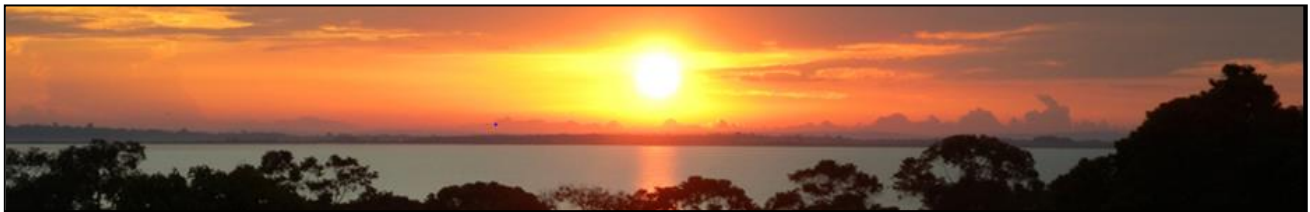
As always, 'our doors are always open here and visitors are welcome at any time of the year, you are guaranteed of a very warm welcome indeed. We close with photos to follow and send our greetings, deepest thanks and very best wishes to one and all for a most wonderful New Year ahead.

NCLC Nursery Class Graduation, 05/11/2015



Preparing food for more than 300 guests at the Nursery Class Graduation was an all-night event for the 12 chefs and 19 assistants. The night's work was ('automatically') accompanied with invigorating Ugandan disco music which also helped keep most of the community on their toes in readiness for the big event the following morning!





Past and present snapshots of Nabugabo and further afield



