

# CHink Newsletter 2014

## January 2014

Many thanks to Guy & Ingrid for organising and funding the 2nd Christmas Party for the children at CHink Academy. There was an acrobat trio as the entertainment where the children took part in the show. Afterwards there was the disco and dancing on the schools flat roof. The party was a very good success and enjoyed by all the staff and children.



On the second Saturday morning all the children had their eyes tested and their teeth checked. This was organised by Mombasa Lions Mvita, who, after all were checked, supplied the lunch for all the children and staff.

The building of the boundary wall was started around the first school block to make the premises more secure and at a later date, when the wall is completed, there will be a 7 strand electric fence around the whole school.

## May 2014

As the charity is looking after 170 poor and needy orphaned children in Kenya, our departure from Kenya was a big shock to all our plans. Most of our schedule was a success but as always, it is the last few days that all the major items on our agenda, fall into place. The Kenya accounts took up most of the time, but in the end everything balanced.

A visit to Port Riese Hospital to see one of our young girls, Stephanie, who at an early age had malaria, meningitis and suffers slight brain damage and has a problem walking. She was so pleased to see us that all she wanted was to come back to Chink Academy.

All the children who are awaiting sponsorship were reassessed to see if their circumstances had changed. This was done by long treks to see their mud huts in the surrounding areas which can take up to 2 hours to visit just 3 homes.

There was a big shopping list for books, school equipment and uniforms. The majority of the items can be bought locally in the town of MTWAPA where CHINK ACADEMY is based. The children who had received money from their sponsors for their birthdays or for a gift, were taken shopping mainly for food, some wanted more, - bicycles were not on the list.

The 36 children from the Kindergarten classes were taken on their annual outing to MAMBA VILLAGE LUNAR PARK. The joy on the children's faces as the bus pulled into the Park was of sheer excitement. They all had a wonderful time on the rides, the best being the bouncy castle. For lunch it was sausage and chips, with pop. Some of the children had only heard of chips and never had any, as their basic diet is Maize Meal (Ugali). There was only one boy who did not like them, apart from that there were empty plates.

Whilst at the park we received a phone call from the Thompson Rep, saying we had to be at the airport by 8pm that evening. What an upset this was after a good morning with the children. Everything had to be quickly arranged with us only having 6 hours left. There were a large amount of issues to be dealt with, and appointments cancelled. A meeting with the Mombasa Lions, the Teachers meeting, the Builders meeting all had to be cancelled until the next visit. The main item on the agenda was depositing the remaining money into the bank for the next 3 months staff wages and the food for the children. By the time we reached the school, most of the children had left. It was very upsetting not to have been able to say goodbye to them. A few tears were spilled as we said our farewells to the senior pupils and teachers. From the school it was a rush back to the Hotel to pack our bags. The majority of our clothes are left in Kenya, as this means we can take more for the school and children from England in our luggage. A quick shower, something to eat then off to the Airport. When we reached the airport the Thompson Reps. did not know what was happening, but they told us that their jobs were in jeopardy but the flights should be operating again by October. Until then the school will run normally as the money for the school can be transferred to the Bank in Mtwapa.

The last phase for the school build was scheduled for November and should take about 3 months to complete. We are all praying for the problems to be sorted in Kenya, so that the lives of these poor children can resume to some sort of normality.

## October 2014

It was nice to be back at the school after the early departure in May, the children greeted us with songs and poems that they had wrote for our return, rather emotional.

Ahead of us was a very busy schedule, firstly was the school uniforms to be made, which took longer than expected. The manager who measured the children must have had an elastic tape measure, in the end all fitted and very smart. While the uniforms were still clean, all the children had their photograph taken for their sponsor. This took three attempts, as we tried to download them onto the computer, the photos kept disappearing. We finally left the pictures in the camera.

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The annual children's outing was a great success with Standards 1, 2 and 3 going to Mamba Village Lunar Park for the amusements. Standards 4 & 5 visited the Coca Cola Bottling Factory for their educational outing, all the pupils were fascinated in how the product is produced. Standards 6 & 7 had the experience of going out to sea, onto the reef, on a glass bottom boat. The majority of these young adults came back soaking wet as they decided to have a swim, fully clothed in their school uniform. *"It was the best time of their lives"* according to the tour rep., Maureen ( Kay Adventure Tours)

Two sisters from the school were very sick and had to be admitted to Coast General hospital for blood tests. It was found that both girls had anaemia. The youngest girl had to have a series of blood transfusions over a period of 5 days. We are pleased to say that the girls are back at school fully recovered.

The Mombasa Lions Mvita, visited the school again to recheck the children's eyes. The optician had misplaced the reports from the first visit in January. All went exceptionally well and of the 156 children tested only 6 had to have glasses, 3 of which had to have further tests for special glasses.

The Annual School prize giving was a huge success with a good turnout of parents and guardians. Two retired ex teachers Grace and Kombe also attended and were very impressed in how the school had progressed since their retirement a year ago, The children performed poems, plays and singing before the prize giving. The top three children from each class received a gift for their achievements over the last year.



73 children went shopping with the extra money that their sponsors had sent for their Birthday/Christmas. The shopping had an educational twist, the children



**Enjoying the rides at Mamba Lunar Park**

had a set amount of money each and each child had to work out how much to spend on food, deduct the amount of cash from their total, then assess how much to spend on other items, mainly clothing and shoes. The amount remaining they received in cash. (Some had overspent by a small amount). Of the remaining children who did not have the pleasure of going shopping, received various items of clothing from the suit cases of goodies that were brought from England. This year we have had 11 new sponsored children and 5 children that have been re-sponsored due to unfortunate circumstances. The academy now has 170 sponsored children, with another 10 poor and needy children on the waiting list.



The CHink Charity Shop was closed for a week in September for an overall and a revamp. New shelving and clothes rails, staff toilet and new carpet fitted, were much needed.

With the new alterations, there is a lot more space available and more items can be on display for sale.

A special "Thank You" to Retford Lions and Mombasa Lions Mvita for all their help and assistance and commitment in helping these children in Kenya.

It just remains for me to say a big thank you to all the people who have donated to help these poor and needy children and to reassure you all what a difference it is making to their difficult lives. If they could be here in person, they would thank you from the bottom of their hearts.