

CHink Academy Newsletter 2018

January 2018

Georgina and I spent 3 weeks in Kenya as there was a great deal to accomplish whilst we were there. The annual school party was a priority for the children, something they all look forward to. All the entertainment, food, disco and cabaret was all organised for the big day. The party was held on the Friday afternoon so as not to interfere with the lessons.



I assisted in the kitchen and together we concocted a delicious "chicken sausage pilau". Clean plates all round. The Animation Team from the hotel were great in amusing the children with the disco dancing and playing games. The acrobats put on a very good show and some of the children joined in. What a laugh. All the expense for the Party came from the customer collection jar in CHink Charity Shop, thank you all for your wonderful donations.

There were repairs to the school van as the Air Con Unit was making a disturbing noise, but this was rectified with a trip into Mombasa, the whole day was spent there. Nothing is simple and easy in Kenya.



The computer expert from the hotel had started his holidays on the second Saturday so it was another trip into Mombasa for 12 reconditioned computers, complete with tower, monitor, keyboard and mouse, all for £95 each, with windows 7 installed. A second visit to Mombasa was needed for the main server and wall monitor for teaching. We also purchased 4 new batteries for the solar panels.

Another project was to take some children shopping. Rachel, Gina and Philip who accompanied us for 2 weeks, had a wonderful time with the whole experience of what the charity is all about. They assisted Georgie in distributing pants, underwear and socks and new school uniform to all the children in the school. All the children who do not receive gifts from their sponsor had the pleasure of clothing from England that is taken to Kenya which is donated to CHink charity Shop. If anybody is willing to purchase underwear for our children in Kenya we would be most grateful.



There was a visit from "Always", girl's sanitary wear, who gave an in-depth presentation about their monthly periods and cleanliness and how to use their products. All the girls in classes 4 to 8 received free samples. As all the girls who attend CHink Academy are poor and needy, we are looking for sponsorship to provide these luxuries

While the family were staying at Bamburi Beach Hotel, it was nice for all our sponsored children to have the pleasure of a day at the hotel. 13 children in total all enjoyed their time there, from being in the sea, riding camels, swimming in the pool, lounging on the sunbeds and having a lovely lunch, before we had to take them home, they all enjoyed "pizza & chips". Sometimes I wonder if this is the right thing to do, giving the children something that they cannot afford or can never have, knowing that after such a good time and enjoying the luxuries in life, that these poor and needy children have to return to their mud huts, sleeping on a bit of old mattress or piece of cloth on the mud floor. There again, if they work hard in school, these pleasures in life are something that they can achieve by doing well in their education.



A visit to Chink Academy by Shanay and Tracy in October 2017 lead them into raising funds for the Kindergarten Children's Play equipment.



One of our first tasks to undertake in October was the installation of the Solar Powered hot water system. An easy job you might think! Obtained a quote from Davis and Shirtliff, agreed a price and all seemed well. The job involved moving the water tank from the kitchen roof to the roof of the toilet, so the water can be gravity fed to the new water heater, complete with new piping. All went well until the water was turned on – no water!! Took over a week to get the company back, by which time the water in the tank on the roof got so hot it blew the tank. A bit concerning that a hot-water tank blows up due to heat, but a new one ordered – fingers crossed it works this time.



The boy's urinal was the next job to be undertaken by Gilbert the plumber. He started the Monday after school broke up, hopefully by the time Rachel and Gina get home it will be completed and working.

The next job was to obtain a photocopier, due to all the paperwork undertaken in the office, this is a must. A 1½ hour job turned into ½ a day in Mombasa, but ordered, delivered on time and the staff were shown how to use it, so another tick.

The dining room Sails needed new wire ropes again, due to the strong winds. The side that gets all the weather was double stringed. Other jobs included netting the store vents in the kitchen to keep the mice and geckos from entering. The Poly Play was moved from the middle of the children's play area and into the corner where it originally should have been put. With our experience of work in Kenya, everything has to be done 2, 3 or 4 times before they finally get it right.



New shelving was erected in the Sewing Room for School Uniforms and T shirts, and a new dining table needed, due to children sitting on table during presentation day. The children had a great afternoon singing and receiving their prizes. The Number 1 student from each class was treated to a day at Bamburi Beach Hotel. All the 12 children had a great time swimming, eating and gaining new experiences.

Before the school break we had lots of admin to take care of, Parents meetings, Staff Meetings, Interviews for new Teachers and School Secretary, the biggest item on the agenda was taking all the children's photographs for their sponsor, as usual, these are time consuming.

Class 1, 2 and 3 gained new experiences with a trip to Fort Jesus followed by a ride on the ferry. Many of the children had never been out of Mtwapa, so there was great excitement. This was followed by a visit to Mombassa to see the Tusks and enjoy very English Chicken and Chips washed down with Pop. All this for 46 children, 3 Teachers and the bus driver for the grand total of £75.

Exams for class 8 went well with great hopes that they all pass for High School. After the exams, the 20 students had their last meal at CHinK academy of Chicken and Chips at a local Café. We will wait the results eagerly between 20th and 30th November.



All the children with Christmas Money went shopping. Around 75 of the 200 sponsored children were lucky enough to visit the Market and food shops. Most had new shoes, Jeans and T shirts, depending on how much they had received from their sponsor. The older ones were encouraged to work out their budgets, how much they had spent and how much they had left – a good exercise in how far the Kenyan Shilling would stretch.

The school van with new rear windows.



Lastly, at the end of term, all the children received a food parcel to take home for the "Summer Christmas" holidays. Because this break is quite long we worry that some of the children aren't adequately fed when at home.

At the end of another year we would like to thank everyone who has made a difference to these Children for all your support and look forward to January with more updates.

Have a Great Christmas and a Happy New Year.