

# CHinK

## NEWSLETTER 2015

All the children have to be measured for their new uniforms ready for the new term in January. Richard, the uniform man was so slow that Georgina took over and the whole school was done in less than a hour. Much to the delight of Richards assistant that there was time for her to



enjoy a school meal. All the children had their photograph taken for their sponsors, this was done class by class to save a lot of confusion. Later that day there were several meetings with the staff, head teacher and the cooks. Some of the teachers wanted to discuss problems with the trustees on confidential matters, Several meetings took place with the builders about the unfinished work and other small jobs that are wanted to make the school more safe and secure.

About 70 children who received money from their sponsors were taken shopping on the Saturday morning with the usual visit to the local café, Muntaz, for a plate of chips and a soda.

Classes 1,2,3 , for their outing had a walk along the beach, from Pirates to the hotel, where they had a splash about in the sea which they really enjoyed and after a quick shower it was into the hotel pool for a swim.



Many of the hotel guests joined in with the children and everyone was very happy, After

the swim the children had sausage and chips before returning back to school.

On Prize Giving Day all the top 3 children in each class were awarded gifts for their efforts over the last year. There were a lot of new candidates put forward who we never thought would make any grades, a great achievement for the school with the exam marks. All trustees and teachers are very pleased with the results.

It was a very sad moment, as the children in class 8 who have been with CHinK from the beginning will be leaving at the end of term. *We will miss them .....*

Other little jobs that take up a lot of time, depositing money into the bank, discussing the health of the children with the Doctor and paying the bill, collecting all the children's reports, shopping at the market for fresh fruit and vegetables, Appointments with the accountant and the Insurance Rep. Arranging with the joiner about new tables and repairing damaged desks etc. Our visit to Kenya came to an end very quickly having achieved 95% of the tasks on our agenda.

Over the last year the charity has lost several sponsors through bereavement, family matters and financial situations. This has had a big impact on the charities finances. All these children need as much help as possible from CHinK to stop them falling back into poverty but to give them a better life in the future. Please help as much as possible. **THANK YOU.**



### January 2015



The first task that had to be done was organising the School Christmas Party. The music and entertainment was booked through DJ Sam, who was very good last year and joined in with the children to make the day special. Ingrid, our Belgium friend also helped and paid for half of the party, she also brought gifts of pens, balloons and toys for the children. Mombasa Lions Mvita also attended the party and supplied boxes of books to the school. Villa 9 Salon girls also gave books, pens etc. for the school



Mombasa Lions Mvita handing the books to Teacher Bernard

Villa 9 Salon and Moureen from Kay Adventure Tours



Next on the agenda was to order uniforms for the new children who started school at the beginning of the new term.

Pay the doctor for all the children's medical that had accumulated since the last visit at the beginning of November. This can be very costly depending on the time of year. 2 of our children, (sisters) had to be admitted to hospital with Anaemia, both have recovered from the ordeal and are back to full health.

A trip was scheduled to see the "Taxman" in Malindi, who now wants to see the accounts for the school. This seemed a vast waste of time as there is no income generated from the school, if the accounts are not submitted on time then a large penalty is imposed.

There were several meetings with building contractors over the 2nd and 3rd floor build which is funded by the North Sea Lions, and overseen by Mombasa Lions Mvita. All seemed to be going to plan, but very very slow in getting started. The finishing date was for the end of July, not sure which year though.....



The academy was assessed by Britta Insurance, the school, teachers, visitors and all the children are covered

## May

As usual the visit to Kenya was very busy. Rachel and Philip accompanied Georgie so that they could see their sponsored children. When they visited their mud-hut it was in a right mess, with clothes everywhere. So on Sunday morning Rachel decided to clean their hut out and to get the clothes washed. To their surprise the hut was cleaned and the 2 boys had started to wash the clothes. Juma got a lecture on home management on how to keep the hut clean and tidy and do the washing on a regular basis.



For their annual outing, Kg 1, 2, 3, 4-6 year olds went to the Butterfly Park. Afterwards it was to the hotel for sausage and chips, then a splash around in the pool. Some of the children had never been in water but all had a great time. On the way back to school they all had pop and cake.

On the 2nd. week Lion Graham and Beryl arrived to see at first hand what the charity has achieved over the years and to monitor the 2nd. and 3rd. floor build that the North Sea Lions have funded. Lions Mombasa Mvita are overseeing the building project..

The boundary wall is about finished and all to do is relocate the double gates. There was several meetings with Fairdeals,(the main building contractors)



over all aspects of the build, ie, tiled floors, glazed windows, type of doors and colour scheme for the classrooms. There are other building projects that have yet to be quoted on, Charcoal store, guard house etc. and the tiling of the toilets.



**Rachel and Philip got engaged while on safari**

6 new children have started in class 6 and 7 as the academy has to have a minimum of 18 pupils by the time their final exams in class 8. Faith, a new girl who started would not go to any other school except CHinK Academy, she cried and cried until she was accepted and now comes to school with her older sister. The charity is desperate to get these children sponsored A.S.A.P, All 6 children had their mud huts assessed by Georgina to see if they are eligible to attend CHinK academy. All the children attending the academy are hand picked, as they qualify as being poor and needy. The majority are orphaned or have 1 parent or are looked after by other family members, village elders or by other people living in the community.

As the academy is growing, there is a need of a dinner lady to assist in the preparation of food, helping to plate up the children's food, washing pots and general cleaning of the dining area.

On a previous visit to Kenya we met up Clive and Linda, (an English couple) who spend a lot of time in Kenya and live near the school, they have offered to purchase fresh vegetables from Kongawea market. They also supply the children with bananas every week. The meals are going very well as the new menu is a big hit with the children.



***Isabella and Linda with fresh vegetables and bananas for the children***



All the children that received money from their sponsors for birthday went shopping for either food or clothing. During the school holidays a large number of children only get fed one meal a day, if they are lucky, that's why they go shopping as food is a lot better than toys or fancy clothes. After the shopping escapade, where as many as 12 children are taken at a time, it was to Muntaz, a café where the locals eat, for a soda sausage and chips. The prices are very, very reasonable, Coke, 300ml- 25p, sausage and chips- £1. chicken and chips - £1.50, The portions are very generous.



Linda's daughter on her visit in May brought football shirts, socks and footballs. When trustees visit Kenya, the suitcases are full of clothing, toys, sports equipment and educational books that are of use to the school. All the items are donated to CHinK charity shop, which is very popular with the village community.

## October

This is the busiest time of the year for the trustees visiting the school. There is such a large amount of running about and if the schedule does not go to plan it could knock you back a day or two. Luckily all went to plan and we had a day spare, this was taken up "Tree Planting" with Mombasa Lions.

The first night in the hotel was a complete shambles, 2 hours to cook a meal. The following morning we booked into our usual Bamburi Beach Hotel. This took up most of the morning so our plans changed slightly. A visit to the bank to sort out all the transactions of where the money was being spent was brought forward. Everything was in order which was a relief. Then to the school to see how the building was progressing. We were not very happy as we were expecting all to be completed and only the ground work to be landscaped by our close friend Rina from the Mombasa Lions Mvita Club.