

One School At A Time

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One School at a Time co-director Patty Gilbert, her daughter Carly, and intern, Kierra Peterson, spent this past June in Uganda. While there, they accompanied Jane Kibuuka, head teacher of Kukanga School, on a special outing to purchase locally made drums (Thank you, Kierra, for raising the funds to make this possible!). This school now is a proud drum owner AND has instantly become more attractive to students. Not only does Kukanga school have music, but it also has on-site potable water, newly renovated classrooms, soccer balls, a sanitary kit, a first aid kit, a uniform program for girls, a farm and garden program, and more.

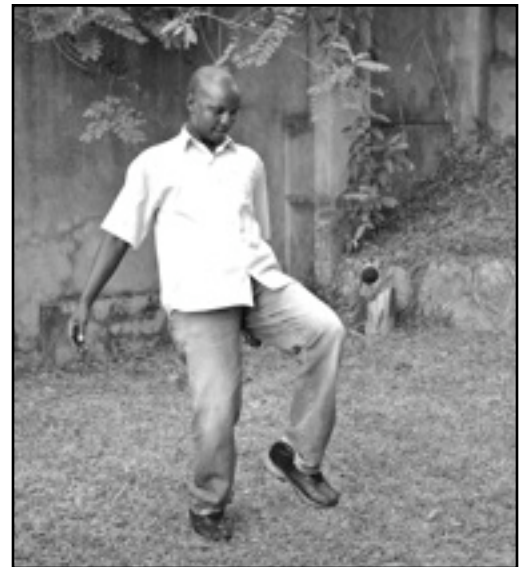
During Patty's visit, she participated in a special ceremony to deliver sanitary kits (containing re-useable cloth sanitary pads) to all the older girls at Kukanga School. The parents were so deeply appreciative that a simple thank you would not do. Instead, they awarded Patty a live chicken, a truly honorable gift in their culture.

Rural Ugandan families have cell phones? A humble school-based business generates much needed funds.

Each time we partner with an impoverished Ugandan school, stakeholders (teachers, administrators, parents) first create a five year school development plan- essentially a road map of where they want their school to be in five years time. In this remote and rural area where households are making about \$1/day, the concept of planning ahead is indeed foreign. How can you possibly plan for five years in the future when you are not even sure how you are going to feed your family tomorrow? The fact that our partner schools have a long term plan is a source of great pride for all! Included in these plans is a small school-based business project to generate much needed operational funds. Ugandan public schools receive annual governmental funds based on the number of pupils enrolled. For a school of 300 students like Kukanga,

HACKIE SAK

When Kierra Peterson, student intern at 1SAT, was packing for her recent trip to Uganda, she threw in a hackie sak. That hackie sak helped break the ice with their exceedingly quiet driver, Malek. Little did Kierra know that Africans are incredibly talented at hackie sak. Malek quickly impressed them all with his great technique and from that time on, Malek was no longer shy.



Malek shows us Americans how to hackie sak.



Malek averted a crisis when Kierra forgot the hackie sak one day. He improvised with an old sock and some twine.

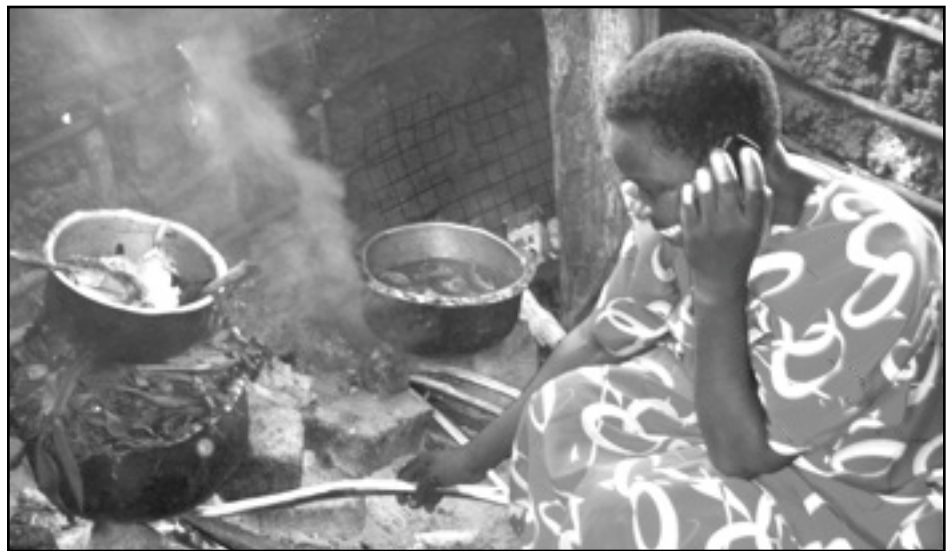


KIDS HELPING KIDS

After co-directors, Bay and Patty's third annual presentation to 5th graders at Mesa Elementary, student Logan Abbot knew he wanted to do something to help. Logan saw photos of typical conditions in Ugandan schools, and he learned just how important education is to the children there. The previous Mesa Elementary 5th grade class had already been a big help- in 2011, they raised money to renovate a classroom. Logan took his passion for helping less fortunate kids to new levels by organizing a school raffle. He solicited donations from local businesses, and worked diligently after school selling raffle tickets. He had such prizes as pizzas, beauty products, gift certificates, and, best of all, the chance to be principal for a day at Mesa Elementary! With all these great prizes and his own hard work, he hoped to raise \$500. Much to his surprise, he raised \$2,300! What a wonderful help for his peers in Uganda! Thank you, Logan- you are such an inspiration to us all.

Combined with the 2012 proceeds from the Mesa snack cart (thank you 5th graders!), over \$2,800 was raised. These funds will be used to construct maize granaries at our Ugandan partner schools. These granaries are urgently needed to provide an alternative to storing harvested corn in the classrooms.

this is about \$900/year. These funds can't possibly cover Kukanga's operating budget. Another source of income is required. Two small, school-based businesses are currently in the works to help address these needs. The first began in 2011 with the planting of 168 mango trees. The community plans to sell the mangoes as a cash crop by the year 2014, and direct the profits of that endeavor to the school. The second, believe it or not, is a solar-powered station to charge cell phones. Parents in this rural area may be poor but just about every household has a cell phone! The time it takes to walk to the nearest local village, wait for the phone to charge, and then walk home takes up a good part of the day. A local charging station, therefore, is invaluable for the community. By providing cell phone charging capacity at school, community members can keep their phones operational, save time AND support their local school. Teachers, with good attendance records, and parents receive a reduced rate, an additional incentive for all.



Jane, head teacher of Kukanga School, talks on her cell phone while cooking a meal- just like we do in America!

New Teaching Techniques for Ugandan Teachers

In Uganda, school is taught traditionally: the teacher stands at the blackboard and talks, and the students sit in rows and listen, doing their best to memorize the information. Enter Dr. Joe Bishop and Vanessa Lancaster. Dr. Bishop is a professor in the department of Social Foundations of Education at Eastern Michigan University (EMU), and Vanessa is a PhD candidate. The two visited our partner schools in May of 2012 and ran workshops for the teachers. *What if, they queried the teachers, students were divided into small learning groups and left to accomplish a task amongst themselves?* This revolutionary concept was embraced enthusiastically. When Bay Roberts, co-director of *One School at a Time*, visited Kukanga School three months later, the head teacher reported that most of the teachers were now using small learning groups. The students were learning more and the teachers were getting a well deserved break during class time. She finished by asking, "When are those EMU guys coming back to teach us more?"

Latest News from Uganda

One School at a Time has rented a very nice little house and office in Kampala, Uganda for Hussein Tadesse (our Ugandan Project Manager) and his family. Hussein's work situation is now vastly improved since he no longer endures the long 5 hour bus rides east to spend time with his family in Mbale. Hussein is now working more efficiently and effectively and his family no longer suffers from his long absences!

One School at a Time has added a new partner school to our network, Bbinikila Primary, and are vetting another. We anticipate that by 2013, we will have a total of four partner schools in our work area. We are seeing the benefits of creating a network of partner schools- the schools are already beginning to support and learn from each other, attend each other's events and view each other as resources.

We love going to School! by Ken Driese

Can you imagine your 10-year-old begging you to let her go to school in the morning? Or your young teenager bursting into tears because they might not be able to attend classes for lack of school fees? Here in the U.S., most of our kids take their educations for granted. School is often seen as a chore that must be endured. In Uganda, kids, perhaps even more than adults, recognize that their education is critical if they are to succeed, and success *vs.* the status quo is not an abstract concept for them. Success means escaping from a subsistence lifestyle with economic and physical well-being vulnerable to everything from the price of a pig to climate change. For girls, the status quo is likely to mean early marriage, children, and a life spent caring for them with limited resources.

Kids in Uganda take their educations seriously. They study at night by tiny LED lights or kerosene. They attend special classes on weekends if they have the chance, to help them get ahead. They grieve when school is taken away from them.



This morning, I dragged my daughter out of bed at 7 a.m., reminded her that she needed to hurry and get ready while I fixed her a waffle in our electric toaster as she read a Harry Potter book by one of the many lights burning in our living room. She made it out the door on time, not complaining, but not begging to go either. I wonder what Ugandan students would think if they could watch our morning routines?

Make a difference in the lives of 400 Ugandan children: Bring clean drinking water to Bbinikila Primary School!

The newest addition to *One School at a Time's* network of partner schools, Bbinikila Primary, has an urgent need: clean water. Girls at the 400-student school must walk 30 minutes to a contaminated hole to collect water. They miss valuable class time and can be vulnerable to assault. To remedy this, *One School at a Time* will partner with Bbinikila to construct a rooftop collection system to harvest rainwater.



The system will be connected to a 40,000 liter above-ground cistern, which will be built with an innovative pressed earth brick developed by Dr. Moses Musaazi at Makerere University in Uganda (<http://tinyurl.com/c537ahx>). Trained brick makers from both of our previous partner schools will train the Bbinikila parents how to press these bricks. We look forward to drinking potable water at Bbinikila School! Donate at <http://tinyurl.com/af6xqh3> or just write a check to *One School at a Time* and use the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your support.

Thanks to Ken Driese for the use of selected photos in this newsletter.



How to Help

By donating to *One School at a Time*, you are doing so much more than helping a poor Ugandan school. You are bettering the life of every child that attends, and their families and community. A little support goes a long way.

Helping schools succeed in Uganda is not about dumping resources on problems and moving on, it is about building strong partnerships with local communities to harness the remarkable intelligence, vision and commitment that they share for education.

Join with us in this beautiful work! Go to 1schoolatime.org and click on: *How to Help* or make a donation using the enclosed envelope.

95% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to help targeted impoverished Ugandan schools. We pride ourselves in keeping overhead low-- all North American staff are volunteers.



Ugandan student with plastic bag for a backpack



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