



TOFTA and LMVC News Bulletin

TOFTA: 'EDUCATING THE LESS FORTUNATE'

LMVC: 'REACH HIGH THROUGH HARD WORK'

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January/February

2011



Director's Message

Let me start by wishing you all a Happy & Prosperous New Year! We are starting the 10th year of the existence of Lords Meade

Vocational College (LMVC), and we are looking forward to receiving many more students in Senior 1 & 5 classes.

During the recent university graduation ceremonies we have been blessed with many of our former students receiving their degrees.

The Kibirige family succeeded in having a son graduate from Gulu University as a medical doctor, and the same week his younger brother graduating from Makerere University. This should have been a month of only happiness for the family, but sadly the last born son died in early February, and we offer our sincere condolences.

We are always glad to see our old students visit us again. Recently I had a visit from 2 old boys from my Kasasa days: one is now a Lieutenant in the army and the other is a lecturer at Makerere University in Kampala. It is a pleasure to hear them say that without support they would not have been able to become useful citizens in their communities.

The New Year brings new challenges: more orphans & disadvantaged children needing help with their education. The loss of a parent or guardian often means the loss of a child's education - unless there is someone else ready to share a little and help make a school drop-out into a useful person who can then cater for his or her family.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

John Kirkwood

Director of LMVC and Tofta Educational Trust



Message from the Administrator of Tofta Educational Trust (TET)

Dear Friend,

TET has continually moved from good to better over the past 10 years: never static. This is because we are constantly working to see how we can better carry out our mission: how we can better ensure the less fortunate of our society re-

ceive an adequate education. Many of the changes we have introduced are the result of the situation in our society. In 2008 we enlarged our scope of service to include empowering disadvantaged families to help them pay for schooling: popularly known as the holistic approach.

While promoting secondary and vocational education has always been a big part of what we do at TET, we are now looking at not just sponsoring education but also assisting families and guardians with income generating activities so that they themselves can better afford to pay for schooling for their children.

Finally, I would like to re-tell the story I heard of a little girl living in an orphanage. One Christmas many presents were brought into the orphanage, such as toys, clothes, sweets, food, books, and puzzles. But when she was asked, "what do you want most for Christmas?" the little girl said, "I want somebody to hold me." Maybe that is the best gift for all of us - someone to hold us.

As the year begins, there are many disadvantaged students who need somebody to be beside them to help them through their schooling. We also need you to be beside us as we continue *Educating the Less Fortunate*.

Thank you for all you are doing to help us to give others an opportunity to continue their education to O-level, A-Level and tertiary colleges.

With best wishes,

Josephine Okello (Mrs.)

Administrator of Tofta Educational Trust.

QUOTATION FROM KIRUI ARAP KOECH—OB STAREHE *One needy child educated is contributing to a proper future secured for the entire society.*



Headmaster's message

The dawn of the new academic year gives us an opportunity to reflect on the year just gone by 2010 and to look ahead on the prospects and challenges for 2011.

We at Lords Meade Vocational College extend our sincere good wishes to all our stake holders: the Board of Governors, parents, students, staff, well wishers, and our local and international friends who have had a big role in ensuring the success of the school during 2010.

We added further facilities last year and look forward to another year of progress in 2011.

As we begin the 10th year of our existence, we are focusing our attention on making this institution the very best in this new district of Buikwe by continuing to provide comprehensive secondary education to our students. We have a number of additional enhancements that we are planning. These

include:

- *Additional classrooms, dormitories, laboratories and workshops.
- *A library and computer resource centre.
- *A modern kitchen and dining hall.
- *Additional staff houses so more teachers can live on the school campus.
- *Enhancing staff benefits to improve their living standards.

We are strengthening our ties with the British Council, to provide training in leadership and environmental protection to our students. One of our students, Francis Mugoya, travelled to India in January for an international climate change camp in Goa, courtesy of the British Council. So, 2011 is promising to be a very busy one but we are counting on every one to play his or her role and we shall surely have a very good year.

We wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2011 and call upon you to give us your advice and support as we prepare to celebrate 10 years of our existence in 2012.

"Ad Astra Per Ardua"

Best wishes, Mark Malinga, Headmaster, Lords Meade Vocational College.



Mr. Peter Kalibbala on the right, handing over the mosquito nets to the Headmaster and the house mistresses.

Girl's dormitories receive mosquito nets from Rotary Club of Stafford Knot

Lords Meade Vocational College girls' dormitories received a total of 200 mosquito nets in a bid to reduce cases of malaria at the College. These nets were donated by the Rotary Club of Stafford Knot, through Rotarian Mina Crisp, a former resident of Jinja. The nets were formally handed over by Mr. Peter Kalibbala.



Appreciation

My name is Kizito Kizire. I am an orphan from the Mama Jane orphanage, in Jinja. I convey my sincere appreciation to **TET** and to my sponsors; **Mr. Joe** and **Mrs. Martha Goralka** for the financial assistance given to me for the last four years. I sat for my O-level exams last year, and I am hoping to pass to A-levels this year. It's a dream come true since I am an orphan and no-one was going to pay for my education. We hope that they will continue assisting many other needy youths like us. All my life I have lived in an orphanage as I was abandoned at birth, and **TET** have been acting as my parents especially at school. I am so grateful for being given the chance of becoming a useful member of my community and for not being forced into becoming a street child. I hope later I will also be able to assist someone else in the same way as I have been assisted.

Volunteers arrive

Five new volunteers have arrived in Jinja from the UK, to help at LMVC this term. We are very pleased to welcome Ed Thomason from Rendcombe College, Alexander Tomkins & James Clarke from Haileybury, and Gaby Ryan & Alex Wake from Wolverhampton Grammar School. We greatly appreciate their willingness to volunteer at L.M.V.C. and to assist us in their various fields. We hope they will enjoy their time here in Uganda, including the opportunity to learn about the Ugandan way of life. Volunteers are always welcome at L.M.V.C. as we value the chance to exchange knowledge & cultural understanding with them.

On the 2nd Oct. 2010 there was an P.T.A. A.G.M. for the parents and teachers at LMVC. On this day, parents were first taken around the school to look at the various projects done by the students. After the meeting, there were elections for the new executive board, which is led by Mr. John Stephen Dhizaala.

Right : Students exhibit their hand-made art and crafts. LMVC is the only school in Buikwe District where after O- level, students also attain a Level One crafts certificate awarded by the Directorate of Industrial Training, at the Ministry of Education and Sports.





FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING: When the fire extinguishers need their annual service what better way of emptying the extinguishers than by giving a display and practice on how to use the extinguishers! With such practical sessions the LMVC students are better able to handle a fire should one break out. The students were also instructed that in case of fire they should crawl along the ground to avoid inhaling the smoke and to find the oxygen which is available at floor level. Photos from these training sessions are shown above.

VISITORS

Philippe Lamoise, Rotary Club of Torrey Pines, California.



Philippe is a regular visitor to LMVC. He comes over here About every 2 years on a Rotary visit.

In 2007 he planted a tree (left) and identified his tree in 2009 (right). He recently visited

LMVC , bringing with him a group of Rotary Volunteers from District 5340 (San Diego, California). Again he identified his tree!

Philippe kindly set up the LMVC / TET website which he continues to manage.





Kelly Campbell paid a return visit in January, and kindly brought with her some goodies which she shared with Mark Malinga, the Headmaster of L.M.V.C.

Kelly brought with her a group of volunteers to work at a primary school near Kampala.

L.M.V.C. benefitted from her previous visit when Kelly, Greg Beck and their group kindly painted part of the girls' dormitories and planted many fruit trees.

Left: Kelly with the Headmaster in his office, showing some of the gifts brought by Kelly & the group.

Kelly and Greg are kindly sponsoring Patrick Okello at his computer studies course in Kampala.



Left: Larry Rhodes (centre) and a group visited in February. Larry, who comes from Eugene, Oregon had previously visited about 5 years ago and was pleased with the positive progress he saw. He was leading a group who had run a medical camp in Northern Uganda



Left: A model of the proposed new LMVC library & computer centre which will cost approx. US\$177,000. On Dec 15th 2010 a fund-raising event in Kampala raised US\$ 8,000 towards the project. Any contribution towards this or for other facilities will be greatly appreciated, and may be forwarded either through the website or directly to the Secretary of TET.

GRADUATION FOR TET BENEFICIARIES



Many of the Tofta Educational Trust (TET) beneficiaries have continued to reach academic heights they would not otherwise have attained.

In the photo; **extreme Left is Mr. Samson Egaru**, at his graduation party. He was sponsored by **TET** to attain A Diploma from a teacher's college. With his Diploma, he was employed as a teacher at **LMVC**, and was therefore able to afford the tuition fees to study for his degree in Bachelor of Education. He graduated in October 2010.

He teaches physics and mathematics at LMVC. His mother, **(2nd from right)** appreciates TET and the donors for the tremendous work they have done for her family, as she could not afford to educate Samson. "He now cares for me and his sisters in school! Thank you Tofta!" she said.

CONDOLENCES.

We are sad to report the death of the Headmaster's mother, Mrs Malinga, who passed away on 4th February 2011. We are also sad to report the death of David Kibirige, the youngest son of Lucy & Sam Kibirige, who passed away on 8th January 2011. Lucy is the Deputy Head at L.M.V.C. In addition, we are sad to report the death of Mr Juma Ouma's brother, Emmanuel Ouma in a road accident on 2nd January. Mr Juma Ouma is the Dean of Studies at L.M.V.C. Our sincere condolences go to all three families.

CAN YOU HELP? Please donate so that the Tofta Educational Trust's work can continue to help talented yet vulnerable young people to obtain an education, as well as help with accommodation and health services, so they may have an independent future and contribute as leaders in our society.

STERLING DONATIONS: Please make out cheques to "Tofta Educational Trust" and forward to:
The Secretary, Tofta Educational Trust, Flat 302, Bridge House, Sion Place, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4BW

ON-LINE US \$ DONATIONS:

If you prefer an on line option, please donate on line via the Torrey Pines Rotary Club Foundation at:

www.lordsmeade.org You will receive a 501(c) 3 receipt. Email: toftatrust@yahoo.com

Phone: +256 772 412345/ +256 774 225355

Please state if you would prefer to support a boy or a girl student.

www.lordsmeade.org