



Report 21 April 2012

This report covers the work that has been done in the Vanessa Grant School, the Rongai Vocational Training School, Gogar Primary School and St Michael's Nursery School.

Vanessa Grant School

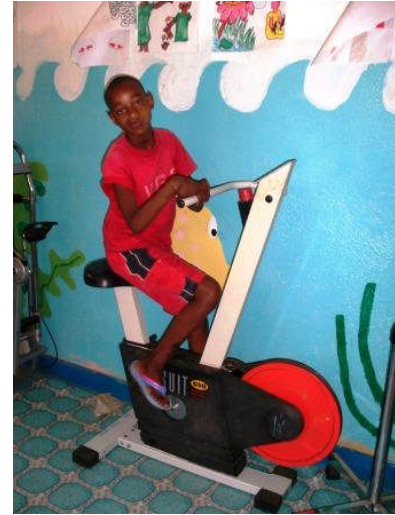
Sponsorship: we have been very fortunate to have had the involvement of Sarah Darling (Vanessa's sister-in-law) for a month. She put in hours and hours developing the system for linking the school with sponsors and training some of the staff to be able maintain this communication. We are also delighted that she has agreed to become a trustee in the UK.

Development: the dhobi area is almost complete, thanks to Emily Jeffs' kind donation and is now ready for the water to be connected. The challenge here is to ensure that there is sufficient pressure and that the water is clean enough to do the job. Except in wet weather, the water comes from the farm and is brown. However with some alteration to the guttering and piping we think we can designate one big tank to supply this area. We also plan to use a top loader with a separate spin option that will enable the school to maximize efficient water usage. A generous donation by the Langmead and Lucas Rowe families has given us funds for this project.



The Langmeads and the Lucas Rowes ponder about water pressure.

The school has employed an excellent physiotherapist who works with the children four days a week and has been training staff to carry out a simple daily routine.



The therapy room and, the physiotherapist Mr Koech and Mr Njoroge.

Vocational Training School

The boarding accommodation is increasing and the extension the teaching facilities is slowly expanding. Unfortunately I forgot to take photos before the school closed for the holidays.



New classrooms with rabbit hutches.



The rainwater tank.

Gogar Primary School

Sadly the boarding section has had to be closed temporarily. The additional cost of boarding has been more than parents can afford given the long drought and the ever increasing inflation. However Sister Hiltrude is confident that she will be able to access government funds that will enable the boarding to reopen in a more affordable way so the cow, rabbits, ducks and geese have been kept and their shelters maintained. I hope to be able to have a more positive report in the next newsletter.

The school achieved its best ever exam results in KCPE this year, which Sister Hiltrude attributes to high staff morale, largely thanks to the ever improving teaching conditions and facilities thanks to the support given by the VGST. I would say that she is being generous and that it is her inspiration and leadership, backed by the support that the VGST has been able to give that has achieved this. And it is the wonderful support from Cheltenham College and King's Edgehill School, along with all the volunteers who have given so generously of both their time and with donations that has made this possible.

The improved results have enabled students to proceed to some of the best schools in the country, which was unheard of a few years ago. Sister Hiltrude sees the establishment of the boarding as central to this growth and the best way of offering the really talented

children the best chance of success and to protect the children from the ‘social evils that increase daily’.

A highlight for Sister Hiltrude recently was the Prize Giving Day at the Vanessa Grant Girls’ School, when Mercy one of the ex Gogar girls won the Maths Prize.



Sister Hiltrude with Mercy after she won the Maths Prize.

St Michael’s Nursery School.

The school has just closed after its first successful term and what a delight it is to visit as the children are beautifully behaved and very keen to shake one by the hand. There are now 115 children with 3 teachers including Agnes, a cook and a watchman. The grounds are developing despite three months without a drop of rain. The water supply from the river via a portable pump is working well. Now we hope to see the rainwater tanks filled.

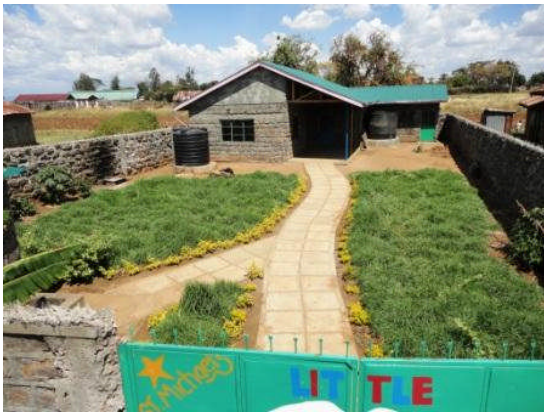
The next development is a simple kitchen so that lunch can be prepared in a shelter and more fuel efficiently. At the moment there are three stones and a large sufuria (cooking pot).



First day of the first term. January 6th 2012



Rushing into class for the first ever lesson.



Grounds development in the drought. 10th April 2012

Site for the new kitchen.



A little angel?



Fred the contractor at the latrine block and basin.

www.vanessagrattrust.org

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J E O April 2012.