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Dear Friends of Udobo

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My word, we're at the middle of the year already! I am beginning to feel that this statement is a cliché since I begin all my newsletters in this way, but honestly, I am always stunned at how quickly time flies in this place. It is unbelievable that the time has come for another newsletter.

It is wonderful to report again on the amazing progress of the children of this school. School is such a contrast at this time of the year with the permanent buzz of "child-noise" compared to the relative quiet for the first few weeks of school. It is always awe-inspiring to see how quickly these little souls learn and how quickly they grasp the new language. I do put it down to the presence of an adult with their mother tongue in every class and to the unusual privilege these children have of so much individual attention. It really does make for an environment of assurance and comfort, which, in turn, makes for happier, easier learning to take place.

Our two Grade R classes are moving steadily along through our programme and the teachers have all benefited tremendously from the workshops they have attended, dealing with the New Curriculum Statement. It is an interesting time our country is going through and I wait in anticipation to see whether our government will achieve all the goals it has set with regards to the reception year in all schools. Somehow, I think they will still depend heavily upon independent schools for this service – it will be interesting to see the outcome of this forecast.

Our bridging class has been a very successful venture and an eye-opener to my teachers, who have become accustomed to dealing with 5-6 year olds only. The difference in maturity from 4 to 5 years is enormous and it has been a wonderful growth experience all round to have these "babies" in our midst. They are incredibly spontaneous and wear their hearts on their sleeves – we have really enjoyed them. They, too, have achieved great things in just this short term. Sponges – every one of them!!!!!!!

This year has been a particularly moving one in terms of the children's birthdays. So many of these children don't even know that it is their big day, and when we surprise them with their crown and their cake, it is most humbling to watch the joy grow on their little faces. We take so much for granted, don't we? We have had so many letters this year, expressing the parents' gratitude for the half of the cake that is sent home. Little did we realize what a blessing this ministry would be to the families when we started it.

We also had 2 senior girls from the Ningizimu Special School spend a week with us for work experience. They really did very well and fitted quite comfortably into our environment and proved themselves most capable of completing tasks set out for them.

We have had 2 very successful parents' work parties this year. The turnout of parents has been great and we have managed to do an enormous amount of maintenance work around the school, in conjunction with the many folk who come over from the Montclair Methodist Church to do the more major tasks. We are a very blessed school and we thank everyone involved in assisting us.

I, sadly, have to report that Taryn Kimble has found that she can no longer assist us as a staff member, and has decided to move back into the Tourism trade, for financial reasons. She has been a wonderful asset to the school and we are very sorry to see her leave, but God, in all His wisdom, anticipates and prepares us for all things. We now know why he sent Daria to us. She will be taking over as the teacher

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of the bridging class, which means that we have an opening for a teacher's assistant and we wait with bated breath to see who that person is to be. Taryn has this to say to the sponsors of our school: It has been a great privilege and a wonderful experience working at Udobo School. My life has been enriched and I take with me, new friends, and more knowledge of how to care for Jesus' little ones. My husband and I have faced many challenges while I have been here and, unfortunately, due to financial reasons, I need to seek other employment to better support our family. Thank you, to the sponsors of this school, for the wonderful opportunity of having served at your school.

Thank you to all who responded to our Operation Pizza appeal last term. Our sponsorship list is growing steadily, but we are always seeking more. If you have not joined Operation Pizza as a sponsor, please may I appeal, once again, that you consider helping a child in this manner. (Document attached – emails only). If you need further information in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

At last.....it is official.....our website is up and running!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You can read all about us at [www.udobo.org.za](http://www.udobo.org.za) !!!! We are very proud of our website and would appreciate any comments / CONSTRUCTIVE criticism, etc.

Thank you again to all for your continued interest and support.

Always fishing

Kathy



Sine is five years o-old today, she's fi-ive years o-old this morning...and so we light five candles bright.....



Happy birthday, my darling child!!!

The reason I write this letter is because I just wanted to thank you and your staff for such a big surprise you gave me. I couldn't believe how Christ could be so great right at that very moment when I needed Him. I was complain since 21 May that I didn't have money to buy Mandy a birthday cake up until the birthday came and I still carried on feeling sad that morning (24 May) but when I got home from school there she was so happy meeting me right at the gate (1<sup>st</sup> time she ever done that) and she told me I must come and see her birthday present from school. I entered the house I couldn't believe she showed me her cake and told me that at school they made her a party something I wanted to do but I couldn't. I felt so blessed because I had prayed and God just had so much mercy on me that He did such a wonderful miracle. I just wanted to say thanks and may God bless you and your staff. Sending all my heart which is so full of joy.  
Ms. P.S. Mncwango

Thank you so much for birthday party and cake. Words cannot express my gratitude, may the Good Lord be with you all. You made my daughter feel sooooo special. (Amanda's Mom)