

June 2008

THE  SCHOOL

82 Montclair Road
Montclair
Durban
South Africa
4004

Banking Details:

The Udobo Ed-U Foundation
First National Bank – Mobeni (221026)
Account No.: 620 613 514 42

Tel : +27 031 469 0029
Fax : +27 031 469 0029
E-mail : udobo@polka.co.za
Fundraising No.: 031-161-NPO
Web: www.udobo.org.za

Dear friends

And so, once again we are at the middle of the year, facing the winter holidays and the beginning of the race towards the end of the year. We have had a busy term with lots of water raging under our bridge. All the staff are feeling the desperate need for their holiday to recuperate from the war-zone known as the Udobo Grade R School.

Let's get the big news out of the way so that it does not crowd my thoughts. WE HAVE A BUS!!!!!! We, firstly have to extend a huge, big, enormous thank you to the UK Friends of Udobo, who really took our cause to heart and raised ALL the funds necessary for the purchase of the bus. How inadequate the words "thank you" are in this case. Our next thank you goes to Mrs. Laura Taylor from Toyota who provided our contact, making the purchase possible. Next, we need to thank the Paw-Paw Foundation for providing for the insurance and tracking device for the vehicle. We have been so blessed by the community involvement that we just feel we want to burst open at the seams and ooze the blessing over others too. Please see the pics at the end of the letter.

Our next blessing, for which we have to thank Archway Methodist Church in Islington, London, is the provision of funding for putting up awnings on the other side of our buildings. What a wonderful surprise it was to receive the funding so soon after I mentioned my regret for not having done that side of the building in the first place. We are so protected against the elements now that come rain or shine, our little ones can school in comfort. I would never have dreamt that God had such wonderful friends waiting for us in the UK when we left for our trip in September last year. So, our prayers are that God our Father would bless them all most abundantly as they continue to seek ways of supporting us.

Chassis Straightening Specialists must also be heartily thanked for their sponsorship of school bags for our children. We feel very smart indeed carrying our very own logo-ed schoolbags.

Further developments have been the laying of ceramic floors in the kitchen, the offices and children's ablution facilities. The pantry is now completed and has provided us with much needed space in the kitchen. The creative room's shelving capacity has been extended – and over and above that a tremendous amount of maintenance work has been done. Where would I be without my blessed Themba.

We had a rather distressing time with our children this term with the discovery (by unwarranted confession) that older siblings are using some of our little ones to shoplift for them. This is done because the older children know that absolutely no action can be taken against the little ones. We then spent a week discussing the issue in all the spare time we had with the children and then arranged with our local police station to have Inspector Ellapen and her team visit the children to further talk to the children about this devastating paradigm in which our youth are being raised. They were absolutely wonderful and I would recommend that all schools have a morning visit by them. They were quite clear in their message and conveyed it in a successfully child-oriented manner. We are really grateful for the time they gave up

The Udobo School is funded through the Udobo ED-U Foundation, a Charitable Trust established for this purpose.

Fax & Telephone +27 (031) 469 0029

E-mail: udobo@polka.co.za

for their visit to the children. We have also made contact with Bobbi Bear in Amanzimtoti to visit us early in the new term to talk to the children about molestation and HIV and AIDS. We look forward to a new relationship with them.

Our local music teacher has moved out of the area and therefore we no longer have her services available to us. However, the kiddi-gym and the ballroom dancing are continuing with great gusto. Our children participated in their very first ballroom competition on Saturday 14 June and did very well indeed. They very proudly showed off their medals, trophies and certificates. They also did a display of their abilities at the church fair in June, much to the enjoyment of the crowds. Our "choir" also sang their little hearts out at the fair. We are very grateful to the parents who made the extra effort of getting the children to school on a Saturday morning. The only dampener is that our Dance coach is not well at all, having contracted TB and having to fight it with a very low immunity count. However, he is a fighter and does not allow his weakness to dampen his spirit in working with the children.

We, once again, had the privilege of hosting two students from the Ningizimu Special School for children with severe learning disabilities, for their week's working experience. They worked wonderfully within our environment and alternated daily between duties in the kitchen and assisting in the classrooms.

Teacher Daria is bearing a smile as wide as the east to the west, since she is able now to proudly display her certified qualification. The brave girl now wants to look at starting a degree in Education. Teacher Amos is going back to Zimbabwe for the holidays and is hoping to have his wife and baby daughter here with him by August/September. Please pray with us for his safety as well as that of his young family during these very volatile and troubled times in Zimbabwe.

Other than taxi drivers and the issues that follow in their stead, that pretty much sums up our second term of 2008. Until such time as we can finance the tarring of a parking area outside the school gates within the property, all our drivers will now be dropping and fetching the children in the church's parking lot on the opposite side of the property. This is a bit of a shlep (forgive the colloquialism) with regard to supervision and staff gate duties, but does make for much safer arrangements for all concerned. Thank you to all in the community who have come forward with ideas and solutions to a problem we have been struggling with for some time now with the speedy growth in numbers, and therefore traffic, at the school.

Then to close, I would once again like to thank all our faithful sponsors for their support. Without you, we would not be able to extend our work as successfully as we have been able to do.

Always Fishing
KATHY

THANK YOU FOR OUR BUS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



The Udobo School is funded through the Udobo ED-U Foundation, a Charitable Trust established for this purpose.
Fax & Telephone +27 (031) 469 0029 E-mail: udobo@polka.co.za