

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

Hullo again to all our friends

How quickly the time has flown. Of course, the fact that we have shortened our term by 1 ½ weeks has added to the flight mode. So, the long-awaited trip to the UK has arrived, and by the time you read this, Mirriam and I will either be securely strapped into our plane seats or already treading the turf of the isle!!!

This entire term has been devoted to preparing for the trip with varying degrees of success and stress!! However, I am assured that all I need to do is to arrive and for us to just be ourselves and everything else should fall into place! Hope I can do just a little more than that.

Our fundraisers towards making up the shortfall were very successful and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who were involved in any way with assisting us to raise the money, for all their effort and kind generosity. Thank you so much for making this opportunity possible for us! The itinerary is concentrated mainly in four counties with a total of at least 22 appointments. We will start our trip in North Herts., then on to Burton upon Trent, then on to Cambridgeshire and then on to London. It would seem that we are to be hosted mainly by families involved with the churches or organisations we will be visiting and they have, of course, allotted time for sightseeing and relaxation as well.

We would like to thank three companies for their sponsorship and assistance with the purchase of luggage, logo-ed clothing, etc. Please support them if you can. See the special AD SPACES in this edition of our newsletter.

Our term started with yet another visit from Simba the Lion so that the children who were unable to come in during the strike were able to have some fun with him. He spent the morning with us and the children returned to class with no intention of settling down at all.

We also had Wade Howard back this year to take our school photographs and he produced a stunning set of candid shots of each child at play in the schoolyard. Our very sincere thanks goes out to him for his very kind and generous support of the school as well as the time he offered up out of his very busy schedule to bless our families with these beautiful memories.

We were blessed with the services of a wonderful maintenance man in Clive Stanley, who was with us for a short while, before he became very ill and has had to take a long leave of absence from very strenuous work. He managed to knock off so much from our list of “things to do” and we are so grateful to him for all the time and effort he put into the work. We are praying for a speedy recovery and for an even speedier return to our premises.....

Our fundraiser at the Barnyard was also a very enjoyable evening. We booked the theatre for the show “The Boys are Back in Town” and we would again extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who supported the show and therefore the school.

Our next fundraiser will be a Golf Day on Thursday, 13 September 2007, at the Royal Durban Country Club. If anyone would like any further details with regard to this function, please contact Sonja Carlyle at 083-779-8019.

Lumka Mahlangeni has been released from her duties in the kitchen so that she can focus completely on her duties at Aftercare. Three teachers have also gone onto a roster to assist her in the afternoons. Our sad news is that Thobeka Hlakanyane has left us for personal reasons. We are very sad to have lost her and she is sorely missed by her class who absolutely adored her. However, we have had several enquiries for her position and we are sure that her position will be filled with the right person before the beginning of next term.

That pretty much sums up the news for this short term. All that remains is for me to appeal once again to the generosity of our friends to support us, once again, in the preparations for our year end function. We will again be purchasing school shoes for our school leavers and are hoping to receive enough in donations to cover the costs of 35 pairs of "First" school shoes. Of course, it would also be great to be able to purchase gifts and school stationery for the children again, but that will depend upon how much money we are able to raise for these purposes. Please diarise Saturday 17 November for our function, which this year falls under the theme of "Rag Time Babies". The children are in the throws of preparations for this event and I am becoming more and more excited about it as I watch their progress. Please join us for this really great time of blessing as we see what the children we have been supporting have been able to accomplish.

The fat lady is about to sing!!!!!! I'll catch up with you again at the end of next term!!

Always Fishing
Kathy.

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