

Linked to: Wadsworth Fields Primary School,  
Stapleford, Nottingham, UK

# UPENDO JUNIOR SCHOOL

Off Kitale-Webuye Road  
P.O. Box 106 – 30209  
Kimini, Kenya

E-Mail: [upendo.school@gmail.com](mailto:upendo.school@gmail.com)

Tel: +254 (0)729 362710

29 November 2011

Dear Mari and all in the School of English Studies,

## Update from Upendo Junior School, Kenya- November 2011

We have just come to end of our 3<sup>rd</sup> and final term for 2011. The teachers have taken deserved break after working so hard throughout the year. Miss Catherine Makonge, the headteacher, has proceeded to Kitale for her Diploma course in Early Childhood Education. The deputy Headteacher, Emmanuel Wasike, is in school to ensure the safety and welfare of the children as they enjoy their games in the school compound during the break.

The year 2011 has been quite eventful for us. Our enrolment increased from 95 children in 2010 to 123 in January 2011, representing 29% increment. The school management hopes to take in at least 37 more needy children in January 2012 to bring the school population to 160. This will represent a 30% increment. We will also have a new class, Std 7 as the children who were in Std 6 were all promoted to the next class. In Kenya, we have 8 years in Primary running from Std 1 to Std 8, and moving to the next class is dependent on a child's performance at the end of each year.

During the year, we held a Harambee (fundraising) with a view to purchasing land for expansion. Although we did not reach our target, we are very grateful to all those who generously contributed to the fundraiser. We managed to raise Ksh.186,000/(£1250.00) against a projected target of Ksh. 650,000 (£5000.00) needed to purchase a parcel of land at the time. We have banked the money and hope to continue fundraising in 2012 until we are able to get space for the much needed school expansion (buildings and playing grounds).

Due to our inability to put up an office/tuition block this year, the old school house was refurbished and partitioned to create room for a book store (thanks to book donation from DFID worthy £3000.00), staff-room, and a classroom for kindergarten children. Due to the changes in the rooms' usage, there is need to redo the floors and plaster the walls afresh. Hopefully this can be done during this school holidays in time when schools open on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

Our international links continued to grow this year. Our partnership with

### ***Our Motto***

In Unity is Strength

### ***Our Vision***

To be a model primary school offering quality education in a loving environment and so as to prepare learners for the emerging challenges at local, national and global levels.

### ***Our Mission***

We wish to:

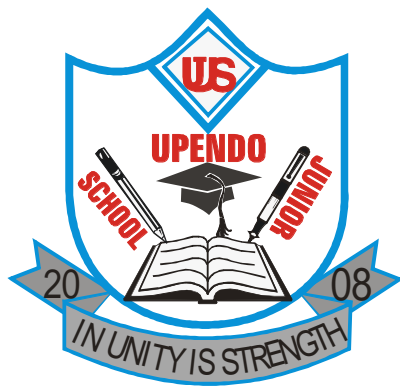
- Create inspired, empowered and active learners,
- Provide an atmosphere of mutual love, respect and trust,
- Help children accomplish their academic, social and personal goals and
- Provide a positive learning environment which encourages the development of self esteem and a sense of belonging.

### ***Our Values***

- Kindness
- Trust
- Respect
- Obedience
- Hard work

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Wadsworth Fields Primary School saw two teachers from Upendo visit the UK in March this year. During their stay, Catherine and Stella, had an opportunity to

hosted by the School of English Studies, University of Nottingham. Later in June, Upendo was honoured by a visit by Mrs. Sally Bates (the headteacher of WFPS) and Mrs. Vanessa Tift who stayed with us for one week. These reciprocal visits were instrumental in strengthening our international partnership and in particular in the developing curriculum exchange ideas for our two schools. Because of the successful exchanges, the two schools have once again won a curriculum development of £6199 for the 2011-2012 academic year to help focus our exchange on social justice, raise environmental awareness and social equity in our two schools. Once again this funding will cater for reciprocal visits. It is expected that Dr. Masibo Lumala and one other teacher will once again be visiting Nottingham in April 2012 with a return visit from Wadsworth later in June/July 2012. During the visit Dr. Masibo hopes to meet with governors, local politicians and the School of English Studies (University of Nottingham) with a view to fundraising towards the envisaged school expansion programme and future curriculum development activities when the DFID funding ceases.

In a special way the school wishes to acknowledge the support received from individuals who have either made one-off donation to the school or have committed themselves to a long term support to Upendo Junior School by setting up Direct Debits. We particularly would like to, among others, acknowledge the continued support from the School of English Studies (University of Nottingham, UK), Holly Fisher (Florida, USA), Diane and Henry Leek (Lincolnshire, UK), Samantha Maw (Kampala, Uganda), Sally Bates (Stapleford, UK), Terry Maxwell (Bradmore, UK), Donna Russell-Snyder (Oakland, California, USA), David Masinde (Maputo, Botswana), Susan Mburu (Washington, USA), Egbert and Heidi Weisheit (Kassel, Germany). Your generous support and selfless gestures to Upendo in 2011 made a huge difference. We pray that God grants everyone good health as we finish the year and begin another and that these and many more will continue to support our cause in 2012 and beyond. We are particularly grateful to all those who have heard our appeal to support individual children's education here at Upendo. We believe that access to quality education in a friendly environment that will significantly make a difference in these children's future lives.

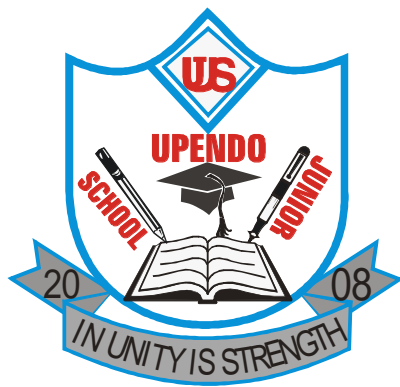
## LOOKING BEYOND 2011

The following will be the major flagship activities for the year 2012 and beyond:

1. Continue fundraising towards the school's expansion (purchase of land and putting up office/tuition/library block);
2. Paint the whole school; and to floor and plaster the old school house;
3. Strengthen the existing international links with Wadsworth Fields Primary school and the University of Nottingham's school of English studies through reciprocal visits (for Wadsworth) and hosting of students on work experience abroad (for School of English Studies);

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4. Seek further sponsorships for teachers' salaries (due to the expected increase in expansion and introduction of a new class, Std 7, the school hopes to hire two more teachers to bring the total number to 11 teachers in 2012 and with this increased salary bill)
5. Buy enough maize and beans for school feeding programme before prices increase (there is an official shortage of 1 million bags of maize in Kenya today with expectation that there will be major food shortage in the country in 2012); and
6. Set up internet connection to the computer room and source for more computers to ensure more children acquire ICT skills and there is improved communication between us and our friends.

## **Our Appeal**

On the basis of the above identified, we wish to make a special appeal to all Friends of Upendo to come to our aid so that we are able to achieve some or all of our targets for 2012. We acknowledge that on our own we may not be able to do much, determined as we may be. Every little help, morally and materially, individually or collectively will go a long way in enabling us meet the needs of every child here at Upendo. As our school motto says, in unity is strength.

May we take this earliest opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a lovely and fruitful 2012.

Ahsante sana.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Masibo Lumala**  
**Director, Upendo Junior School**