

Operation Imprezza

HELPING THE EDUCATION OF AFRICA'S FUTURE

[www.operation-imprezza.org](http://www.operation-imprezza.org)

Registered Charity Number: 1113535

## News From Kenya and Home

The Trustees and everyone involved were delighted that the school opened on time at the end of January. Well done to all our supporters, without you it would never have happened.

Three years before the school opened the main concern was keeping everyone safe from the fighting, we now own land and a school building, this is almost unbelievable.

Catherine was invited to attend a training course in Washington DC in February, not an ideal time with the school opening at the same time but as all funded by USAid too good an opportunity to turn down. Catherine found it very beneficial and is confident the school will benefit.

While Catherine was in the USA the next teacher exchange took place, with teachers from a local primary and secondary making up the team. (more from them later)

We have been trying to build up our team at the site to support Catherine

(similar to the team in place when in Nairobi). In Catherine's absence everything went well, Bob and the other teachers from Devon were very complimentary about the standard of teachers recruited, and quality of lessons, along with Penina and Rose who were running the admin operation, all doing a brilliant job. We are all delighted about this to know a good team is back in place.

With the school running well and continuing development at the site we are delighted with progress.

Our only disappointment is that the two bore hole drillings have failed to find water. Our temporary plan B is that we have employed two women to carry water to the site all day. It is a 3/4 hour round trip walking plus filling the 20 litre container which returns balanced on their heads, the only positive thing in this situation is that at least two people now have a job who did not before. What is Plan C? Currently this is under review. It might mean the purchase or formal lease of land further down the hill and nearer the river but we are at the 'taking advice and thinking about the problem' stage currently.

Again our thanks must go to you, our fantastic supporters, without your efforts and generosity there would be no school! We hope that the report from the teacher exchange will be encouraging.

Chris, Catherine and team.



**Students at the new Imprezza Academy**

*Our Mission is to enable students, both boys and girls, who would not otherwise have any access to secondary or decent primary education to succeed.*

### Operation Imprezza

14 Elm Grove  
Teignmouth  
Devon  
TQ14 8SA

Phone: 01626 777419

E-mail: [info@operation-imprezza.org](mailto:info@operation-imprezza.org)

'even those without hope  
can excel given the  
opportunity.'

# Operation Imprezza

HELPING THE EDUCATION OF AFRICA'S FUTURE

[www.operation-imprezza.org](http://www.operation-imprezza.org)

Registered Charity Number: 1113535

Check out the **NEW** website for news and fundraising events  
[www.operation-imprezza.org](http://www.operation-imprezza.org)

## Some Urgent Needs

- We urgently need to raise the money to enable us to complete and equip the science lab.
- The primary school has grown to 150; food costs over £70 per week for one meal a day. With more funding for this we could provide 2 meals per day.
- Until the school has established and is able to be more self-sufficient, we will always need regular donations for the general running of school.
- If you feel you would like to get involved, maybe by organizing an event such as a coffee morning, then please get in touch. Every penny raised is important and all funds go towards Imprezza.

## February 2011 at Imprezza School, Matayos

We embarked on our condensed, week long tour with an air of excitement – we had heard that the new school was up and running and all four of us were impatient to arrive and experience a school day at Imprezza.

Our first day at the school was amazing. We were all tired from a 6 hour drive from Nairobi to Busia the previous day, yet anticipating what the school would be like. We were; Joe Baxter (Teacher at Stokeinteignhead Primary, South Devon), Bob Cross (ex Head Teacher at Stokeinteignhead), Iain Davison (ICT wizard from Newton Abbot) and his wife Teresa (Teacher at Torquay Girls Grammar School).

Our main objective for the week was to work with the children at the school and introduce a project we were overseeing for The British Council, which mainly explored the use of solar ovens to reduce the need for burning wood and fossil fuels when cooking.

As we approached the school on a hot, dry and dusty mid morning, we instantly understood that all of the fundraising and promotion that had been undertaken in the UK had been worth it – the new school stood tall and proud! Bright, clean and colourful new buildings sat on neat, permanent concrete to give the feeling of pride, privacy, security and strength, but most of all a REAL school. There were two classrooms full with children sitting at wooden desks, with young, fresh and energetic teachers pointing at neat writing on vast blackboards.

There was a third classroom that sat empty and awaiting a few finishing touches. There was the

foundations of a fourth classroom and the beginning of a pathway to the future flagpole that will look over Imprezza.

During our short time at the school we had amazing fun, and more importantly a strong sense of achievement as we taught the attentive and intelligent children to build solar ovens out of cardboard and foil. We branded the exercise a competition – whichever team heated their pot of water to the greatest temperature would win a small prize. This unleashed the desire to succeed in these children (and teachers), as they busily worked over their ovens in an attempt to make theirs the best. Iain used his data logging equipment (that was donated to the school, along with eight laptops paid for with money raised at Torquay Girls' Grammar) to track the increase in temperature. As we took a step back to watch the children and teachers at work, we gave knowing glances to each other – the activity was a great success and there was a chance that the skills that the children were learning here might make some sort of difference – either to the consumption of fuel for burning, or simply to the confidence and self-esteem of these resilient people.

We gave prizes to all of the teams in the end. Everybody deserved something.

As we left for our return journey to England at the end of the week, we knew that with continued support, this small school at Matayos has a very bright and positive future.

Joe Baxter (teacher – Stokeinteignhead Primary)



Students proudly displaying their Solar Ovens

## Whats On!

### Easter Eggstravaganza

On 16<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 2pm there will be a Fund Raising "Easter Eggstravaganza" at Teignmouth Baptist Church. There will be some stalls, morning coffee and lunches available. There will also be a series of fun activities for all children of primary school age. You can bring your children and leave them whilst you relax, shop, have coffee and/or lunch. The church is also supporting the giving over the weekend by allowing us to collect also at the Sunday services.

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May

This day will be a very busy day for fundraising for Imprezza Academy in Teignmouth.

Early in the morning a group will set off on a **Sponsored Walk from Lyme Regis to Teignmouth!!** This walk is being supported by Rotary and organised by Kevin Peters (01626 777677). The walk will end at the Carlton Theatre where the other activities are happening during the day.

**Year 6 Challenge** will be the University Challenge quiz for Teignmouth Primary Schools starting at 9am and ending with the final at 3.15pm.

**Coffee Morning and Sale** will also take place at the Carlton during the day. In the evening there will be a **Grand Variety Show** at the Carlton starting at 7.30pm.

*The star of the evening will be **Mark Price** ably supported by the **High Seas Community Choir** from Cockwood, **Kay Roberts** Teignmouth's young singer, **Brian Hodge** – challenging your 6<sup>th</sup> sense and **Footlights Dancers**. The compere for the evening is **Tony Dillon** magician and entertainer from Dawlish.*

Please come along and bring your friends for an excellent night out. Tickets are £8 or £6.50 concessions and can be obtained from the Carlton Box Office or Brian Hodge on 01626 862445

[bhodgeawlish@aol.com](mailto:bhodgeawlish@aol.com)