Newsletter Issue 21

August 2013 - UPDATE

News From Kenya and Home





Congratulations to Catherine and Daron

On June 29th, Catherine wed the fantastic Daron Kendrick in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sarah writes:

"It was such a beautiful day - gorgeous sunshine, bright colours and of course Catherine with the biggest grin on her face! She made her dress herself - isn't it beautiful? Needless to say, she looked absolutely stunning. The ceremony was outdoors, and it was lovely to see so many of their friends and family braving the heat to celebrate! After a passionate newly-married smacker - well done Daron - we went back into a wonderful historic home to get some fantastic photos and share a lovely meal, kindly cooked by Daron's friends. Catherine had swotted up on American wedding traditions, and managed to mush wedding cake onto Daron after they cut the cake - he got his revenge though! All in all, it was a fantastic day and truly wonderful to meet Daron and get to know him a little bit. They are heading back to Kenya now, to set up home in Busia, next to Imprezza."

Congratulations to you both, and the whole Imprezza family wishes you both all the best in your new life together.





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.



The school site

Torquay Girls' Grammar School/World Challenge visit to Kenya: Imprezza and the students are thriving.

I recently went on a trip to Kenya with an organization called *World Challenge* along with nine other girls from my school, Torquay Girls' Grammar. Our school has supported Imprezza for almost ten years now, but it was difficult to understand the scope or the impact we were having on these children's lives thousands of miles away in England; everything we knew about the school garnered from fifteen minute early-morning assemblies. Seeing Imprezza personally, then, was an incredible and eye-opening experience.

We camped in the grounds of 'the Bungalow' (the house at which Rose and 28 students live) for seven nights and visited the school daily to conduct what we referred to as the 'project phase' of our trip - which included painting classrooms and making windows for the new lab.

Rose explained to us that ten years ago Imprezza was one building, which was when the school was sited in a slum area of Nairobi. This building and contents were lost in the election riots of 2007. The building of the new school commenced building in 2008/2009, after we were able to purchase our first piece of land. This is now a collection of around four classrooms, a staff room, lab, toilet block and temporary kitchens. The foundations for two dormitories were being laid down whilst we were there.

If the school's official motto is 'positive attitude is excellence' then it's unofficial one is to build, build, build! Imprezza is constantly improving, and I was amazed by how fantastic the school looked for a place that was built with stones they had cut themselves, without the help of machinery or electricity. Exams were mainly over whilst we were there, and the students were able to socialize with us for most of the days or we were allowed to play volleyball and football on the school field with them. We found that the children managed to cram an abundance of things into their long day. Generally, the bungalow children were up at four in the morning - washing themselves, having breakfast and doing homework, and then were off to school at around

How You Can Help

- Donate online at <u>www.operation-</u> imprezza.org
- Make a cash donation to one of the Trustees or Operation Imprezza collection boxes around South Devon, (if you know an establishment that would be willing to have a box on display, please get in touch)
- Set up a standing order contact our treasurer Lesley Smith <u>lesley@operation-imprezza.org</u> for details
- Send a cheque payable to Operation Imprezza to 14 Elm Grove, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8SA.

Thank You

seven or eight o'clock with us. The school day ended at about four and back at the Bungalow Rose said that a lot of them had been revising for three hours every evening prior to exams.

Whilst we were there, however, evenings were a lot more relaxed. Some of the nights after tea the children played music and encouraged us to dance and sing with them. It was amazing how steeped in culture everything was over there, and the pride the people took in their traditions and culture. We were often embarrassed because the children wanted to know so much about England - it's history and it's economy - and we felt lazy and ignorant when we couldn't answer many of their questions because we had never been interested in that kind of thing.

Visiting Imprezza definitely made me realize what I take for granted in my life and in my country, especially with regards to my education.

By Lizzie Revell Student at Torquay Girls' Grammar School



Some of the TGGS team at the school

Operation Imprezza

Self sustaining, equal-access education in Kenya

Charity number: 01200449

Company number: 8090833