



**March 2013**

**Greetings from Kenya to our friends Overseas!**

We hope that all schools have had a very good 'Spring' term- if rather cold from all accounts!

**The Challenges.....**

Term one in Kenya has been busy- and as ever a little challenging! The election process meant two weeks of closures so term will extend well into April. If elections continue to Round Two we can expect a little more disruption to come.... the other disadvantage of elections is that they are very expensive processes meaning no government money has come to the Laikipia schools this year.. as ever teachers and children just get on with doing what they do best: *teaching , learning and having fun!*

Last term's teacher strikes meant exam result came out very late so the Secondary Form One students were very late starting school and the college students even later.

Finally with record high temperatures for the past three months drought is hitting hard, and there have been some massive bush fires on some of the nearby ranches. Thank goodness that the new Kimanjo borehole is holding out.. though queues are very long..... but clouds are building fast now and rain will be here any day now....

**And the fun....**

This term we have handed out over 1,100 pairs of trainers to kids in 6 schools with our friends from Smile Africa .. and Olympic silver medallist and former World Champ Douglas Wakiihuri – who came to Lentille to motivate a new generation of children into running- we look forward to some great future developments with Douglas starting with a team of runners for the Sotokoto Half Marathon..... the big plan is a running track and training centre in Kimanjo!

The new administration block at Kimanjo secondary school is complete and looking great and the science laboratory is under construction. As the new 2013 intake settles in the teachers are relieved to have their own offices at last.

Kids at Nkiloriti are very happy with their new class.... Still awaiting their new Head-Teacher (another casualty of elections of course!) and have had a great deal of fun making masks with guests from Lentille. They also had a great day learning about stars and the moon sharing with their friends from Knavesmire Primary School, UK.

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All classes now have Health Monitors sporting smart new badges in charge of organising hand washing regimes, latrine cleaning rotas and litter collection. With thanks to all the BAF Health Teachers who are so active in schools.

Kimanjo Secondary GIRLS and Ol'Donyiro Secondary GIRLS took part in the first girls football tournament – all playing admirably and entertaining us to some great music, dance and poetry as well. Kimanjo took home the trophy- but all girls received a pair of trainers and certificates for their great performances.

The two fabulous new boarding houses at Ngabolo have their first “double decker” beds- with great thanks to their friends at Preston Primary school.

Conservation trips to Lentille have taken place for Raap, Kimanjo and Naiperere schools this term.. with many elephants, Greater kudu and the endangered Grevy zebras seen by all pupils and with a pack of the endangered African Hunting Dogs and giraffes seen by one lucky group. Conservation clubs in all schools are now flourishing. Gardening clubs have been closed due to the drought, but will hope to resume for term two.

Musul school had fun making music with their friends from Sherston Primary school... you can view the results on the Musul school website [www.sherstonmusul.com](http://www.sherstonmusul.com)

The new Conservation Resource Centre is growing its supply of books through kind friends. Children and adults from around Kimanjo are accessing it on a regular basis.

We look forward to sharing the first BAF newsletter with all schools next term.

We have had a lot of fun making the Ol Lentille Trust film with the children .. next week this will be posted on the Ol Lentille website at [www.ol-lentilletrust.org](http://www.ol-lentilletrust.org) and on YouTube at TheOILentilleProject for you all to view... you can catch up with Lentille school news on the Ol Lentille Facebook page and Ollentilletrustblogspot.com

If you have any pictures that you would like to share with us please do send them to [michelle@becomeafriend.net](mailto:michelle@becomeafriend.net) we would love to add them to the Become a Friend website.

***Wishing you all a great end of term and a very good Easter holiday!***