

## Re-opening of schools in Uganda in 2022

It was with great joy for Uganda to re-open schools after one year and a half for some learners especially primary one, two and three who never got chance to come back to school after the first lockdown in March 2020.

The announcement of schools re-opening made in mid-December changed the mood of everything in Uganda including Christmas celebrations. After having a full dead academic year, lots of questions were running through the minds of parents and heads of schools especially about which classes would students study from? The ministry resolved to have automatic promotion, though schools should organize for remedial lessons to teach the topics that were left out in the previous classes.

The ministry of education organized for refresher courses for teachers and schools held different meetings in preparation. The curriculum being followed now in teaching is called a “bridged curriculum” whereby topics from the former lower classes are taught in upper classes. The term will go on for four months, normally it would be three.

Like other schools, Coloma re-opened on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, more than seventy five percent of the pupils reported. We had different orientation sessions with the pupils in small groups and then general orientation at the end of the day.



School Assembly

A few of the girls transferred to day schools because after the lock-down parents who had lost their jobs during the lockdown could not manage the requirements and school fees. Some paid half or came to request for a grace period for their daughters to be in school while they go to work for school fees.



Craft and Music Classes

We have started the fourth week of the term; all the activities are going on smoothly, learners are very eager and concentrate especially the upper classes who understand that they missed a lot. Although there are some flu and coughs and malaria among the pupils which is normal for this time of the year, they are healthy.

## Celebrations

We had a Covid safe celebration of good results (Staff only). Candidates who were supposed to sit their Primary leaving Exams (P.L.E) 2020, did them at the end of March 2021. We were blessed with very good results where the best pupil excelled with Aggregate 4, (top grade) the second had aggregate 5, the third were five girls with aggregate 6, and the rest of the class passed in division one and two. These results were exciting to us as a school, to pupils and parents. We could not let it pass without a celebration. Because of the restrictions of COVID 19 and since the students were already in their respective secondary schools, one parent represented all the past students. She attended the thanks giving Mass.



P7 pupils and Sr. Justine



After mass staff prepared a special meal of the local food, matoke and millet which are delicacies in this western part of the country. This was a way of appreciation for the hard work and an encouragement to all of us.

The lockdown, though difficult, gave the school a good opportunity to continue construction work and development. In April 2021 we had the commissioning for a large underground water tank that was part funded by Rotary International and has helped to solve our water problems. Section 1 of the dormitory was completed thus providing for an extra 50 children. The second part of the dormitory is also under construction as is a new staff house. Of course, all this is thanks to the school donors and we are forever grateful for such generosity.

As we begin this new school year, please keep us in your minds and prayers.

Asimirwe Justine