

Don McMath Foundation

Newsletter

www.donmcmath.org

info@donmcmath.org

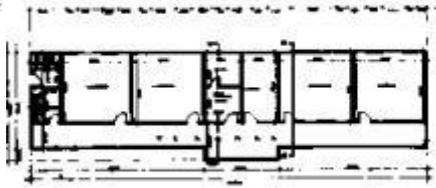
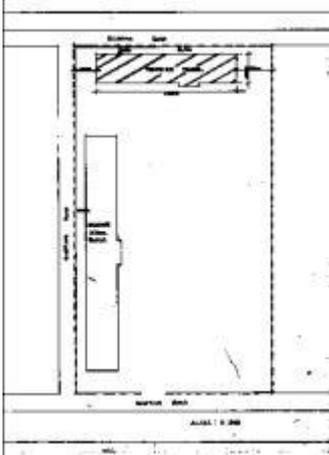
The Don McMath Foundation Newsletter – 12th February 2006

Hello All



The new school is running really well. We have taken in another 10 children, which brings the total up to 150. We have also branched out into Adult Literacy with the first class for over 30 people starting on 16th January. These classes are now bi-weekly and are self-funding, the adults pay 5 dalasies each week (about 10p) and the teacher gets paid 100 dalasies (about £2). As long as we have at least 20 people each week the classes won't cost us anything. It is really fantastic to see the enthusiasm from the adults for these classes, we have had Husaine, Anne's next door neighbour, coming round proudly showing everyone his workbook in which he is learning to write for the first time at the age of forty something.

As we have more children we need to increase the number of sponsors, please pass this newsletter on to anyone you think might be interested.



We have worked out that we will run out of classrooms in the new building in September this year when we take in the next new intake of 30 children. If we are to realize our dream of running a school for 4 to 14 year olds we will need to have 10 classrooms available instead of the 6 we currently have. With this in mind we have started on the construction of a second school building consisting of 4 classrooms, a toilet block, a library and a teachers room. This needs to be completed before the rainy season in June 2007 to be ready for the 2007 intake in September.

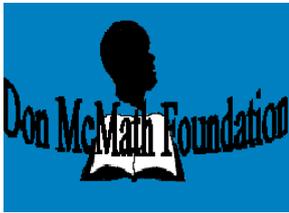


Once again we will be into serious fund raising mode this spring and summer. We will need to raise about £20,000 to complete the new classrooms. We have already made a good start to this and the foundations are complete and the workmen are currently busy making bricks.

If anyone has any new fundraising ideas then please let us know, once again anyone donating/raising more than £3,000 will have a classroom named after them or their loved ones.

Luke, Nat Sole and Paul Nayton made it safely to The Gambia on Friday 13th January after an exciting trip through 10 countries (they detoured to Andorra and Gibraltar to add 2 more countries onto their list)

They managed to raise in excess of £1,500 towards the new school building, that will make an awful lot of bricks.



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A quote from the team “A major concern was the amount of petrol needed to get us through the Sahara – some of the other teams had 5 or 6 jerry cans and we only had 1. However as it turned out we could probably have crossed the desert on one tank! We also accidentally drove through the minefield on the wrong

track, in spite of the remains of blown up cars on both sides of us we were not too concerned as we thought we were on the correct road. However when we met up with some of the other participants at the border we discovered we had gone the wrong way. The only other real problems on the trip were 2 shredded tyres, a broken headlight, a suspension unit falling off in the desert and the amount of money we had to pay out to various border guards (Luke reckons anyone, anywhere who was wearing a uniform) as bribes. One of the best bits of the journey was when we arrived in The Gambia and went to the school, we were greeted by the whole school singing and waving home made banners “



The team would like to thank everyone who sponsored them or helped them with the car, it was a memorable journey which would not have been possible without your support.

Paul Nayton and his brother are running in the Paris Marathon on Sunday 9th April for the Don McMath Foundation. If anyone wants to sponsor Paul they can contact

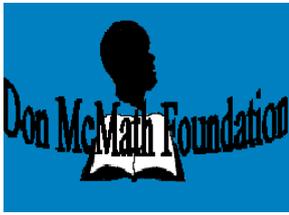
him direct at p_nayton@hotmail.com

To give everyone plenty of notice we are planning the annual Don McMath Foundation Garden Parties at the moment. The Verwood one will be held at Mick & Judy’s house in Verwood on Sunday 23rd July and the Bexhill-on-Sea one will be on a date in August, still to be decided, at Anne’s house in Bexhill-on-Sea. We will be sending out invitations nearer the time. Please note these in your diaries.



One more piece of late news Ous, who is one of our key workers at the school was up a ladder pruning the banana trees at the back of the school when he slipped and badly cut his hand on the security spikes on the top of the wall, he has just come out of hospital after having an operation on his hand for which he had to borrow 5,000 Dalasies (about £100). If any of you who met Ous when you were in The Gambia would like to help him with this then please let us know.

We should have copies of the DVD of the opening ceremony available soon. The DVD is about 30 minutes long and includes all the classes singing their songs plus a short play. Anyone who would like a copy should get in touch with Mick at the above address. We are not selling them but a contribution to the school building fund would be welcome.



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If anyone who currently receives this newsletter through the post is now on email could you please email us at the above email address so we can email you future newsletters as this will cut down considerably on our costs.

Anne, Judy and Mick McMath

12th February 2006