



Help Lesotho Schools Helping School Program

www.helplesotho.ca

Issue 4

December 2008

Corpus Christi School

By Cindy May



Again this school year Corpus Christi is working to raise funds to assist our twin school in Lesotho: Katlehong Community School. Students at

Katlehong need school uniforms and shoes, desks and basic school supplies and food vouchers. We are also raising funds to make essential infrastructure repairs at Katlehong.

This Fall's fundraising will include a coin drive that began on Monday, December 1st and runs until Friday, December 19.

We are so excited to have the opportunity to assist our twin school through our Advent Project. Our efforts to raise funds for our friends at Katlehong is a wonderful way to bring the spirit of the Advent/Christmas Season to life.

Help Lesotho calendars will be sold by Corpus Christi students at the Corpus Christi Christmas Concert, (Wednesday, December 17). The calendars are beautiful and make a truly meaningful gift for family, friends and neighbours.

Parents and families are also being invited to give teacher gifts in lieu, by making a donation to our Help Lesotho Advent Project in the name of their child/children's teacher(s). The teachers greatly appreciate this honour.

We will also be selling beautiful Christmas cards handmade by Corpus Christi students. These will also be available at the Christmas Concert and on Parent-Teacher Interview Night – (Thursday, December 4).

Doug Thicke will be taking to Katlehong a collage of school pictures to present to the students there. A few of the pictures that were used are shared here.



Pictures taken on November 11, 2008



Tecumseh School

By Dianne Merkley

We are excited about our upcoming fundraiser on December 12/08 where we will hold a "White Elephant Sale".

Students have been asked to bring in lightly used items that can be purchased by the children in the school for their Christmas shopping.

This will allow children to do their own shopping for family and at the same time re-cycle items rather than contributing to consumerism. We will also take the opportunity to sell Help Lesotho items such as jewellery, calendars and dolls. We hope it will be a really successful day!

We will also be making a gingerbread house which we plan to raffle just before

Christmas.

The "Me to We/Help Lesotho" club will provide treats and cider to the guests at the school's Christmas Concert. December will be a big month for us, and then we will re-group to make plans for 2009!

We wish all the other Help Lesotho fund raising schools a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season!

Inside this issue:

<i>Corpus Christi School</i>	1
<i>Tecumseh School</i>	1
<i>Parkdale Heights School</i>	2
<i>Turnbull School</i>	2
<i>Riverview Alternative School</i>	3
<i>John McCrae School</i>	3
<i>Rockcliffe Park School</i>	4
<i>Editors Message</i>	4



Students involved with Help Lesotho fund-raising.



Parkdale Heights Elementary School

By Gary Branch

The school year 2008/2009 marks the third year that School District #15 in Northern New Brunswick and Parkwood Heights Elementary School, one of the schools in the district have been involved in supporting "Help Lesotho". The first year saw the district schools raising \$25,000 and the second year \$12,000 was raised for "Help Lesotho". It has been the School District's goal to not only take part in fund raising, but also to raise the awareness of students and staff to the needs of the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho. Last year the school district received a C. I. D. A. grant to develop study units based on the Millennium Development Goals and these units are now part of the grade 6-12 Language Arts curriculum.

Parkwood Heights Elementary School has had an active "Help Lesotho" Committee which recently met to plan activities and fund raising for the 2008-09 school year. Our committee chairman, Gary A. Branch, worked at Bokoro Primary School in Lesotho in the fall of 2008. He will be doing presentations on his visit for students, staff and community groups. The committee

which also includes teachers Dawn Blanchard and Debbie Walls has a goal of exceeding last year's total raised for "Help Lesotho" of \$3054.61.

Fund raising events planned for Parkwood Heights Elementary School for this year include: a collection bottle in the school lobby where students, staff and visitors can make a donation; "Caring Hearts for Lesotho" where students and staff make a special donation of birthday money, money saved, or money earned; a sale of used books; donations to "Help Lesotho" instead of a gift exchange by the staff at Christmas; a donation from our "Casual Friday" fund; donations from community groups; a "Get Wet for Lesotho" fund raiser in June where students can purchase a glass of water to throw at a staff person of their choice;



and funds earned by staff from working at a

community bingo. An event which combines both fund raising and global citizenship awareness is our "Parkwood's P.J. Literacy Party for Lesotho" scheduled for an evening in February. When families arrive dressed in their pajamas, donations are accepted for "Help Lesotho". The evening begins with a general assembly and a presentation on global citizenship. Then students of each grade level and their families meet with a guest reader who reads a story on our theme. This is followed with a sing song, the awarding of door prizes, and a snack. One of the highlights of last year's events for "Help Lesotho" was having well known writer, Sherri Fitch, read from her work including her book – "No Two Snowflakes".

The words of Helen Keller still serve as an inspiration for our committee – "I am only one, but still I am one; I cannot do everything, but still I can do something."



Turnbull School

By Yvon Carriere,



Turnbull School have a few fund-raising projects on the go this Fall. In November we started the

Pearls for Girls project with some of our grade 8 students. They have learned how to make the bracelets quickly, and are poised to sell them before the Christmas holidays. The profits go to support Help Lesotho girls' leadership programs. We are off to a great start with this initiative.

We sent class posters and cards along with Peg to Sefapanong School in early October. We trust that they got there safely and that our friends are now enjoying them on the walls of their school. We are waiting until the students of Sefapanong return to school in January before we send out written letters (both individual and class-based letters).

Doug Thicke will be delivering, on our be-

half, a collage of school pictures to our friends at Sefapanong sometime in February.

We are currently selling the 2009 calendars. We will make a big push before school finishes for the holidays to sell as many as possible to support less fortunate in Lesotho. We are selling the dolls and broaches on an on- going basis.

We will have an assembly sometime during the Winter to provide our students with an update on how our efforts are helping our twinned school, Sefapanong Primary, and the people of Lesotho.



Mrs. Turnbull with the tapestry given by the Lesotho High Commissioner.



Some pictures used in the collage that will be presented to Sefapanong Primary



Riverview Alternative School

By Elizabeth Stubbert

The Green Team and some individual classes are creating a question and answer scrap book to share back and forth between Ottawa and Lesotho. Each set of pages will have a question and space for the children at our twinned school Bokoro to answer. We are looking forward to having each school add photos, pictures and text and more questions as this book is exchanged. Doug Thicke will be delivering the book to Bokoro Primary School in January or February and will help initiate things at Bokoro.

A huge bulletin board with over 250 photos of students and staff wearing funny glasses greet all who walk down the front hall of Riverview School. Lettering over the board reads, "We All Have Something In



Common". Doug noticed this display on a recent visit to Riverview. We thank him for

his wonderful idea of helping to continue our link with Bokoro Primary, through a 'funny glasses' project. We are hoping that the funny glasses worn by some students will bring smiles and laughter as part of a collage Doug is taking. He will be taking the pairs of glasses used for the picture with him when he visits Bokoro and will give everyone there an opportunity to wear them and have some fun, i.e. "We All Have Something In Common."



Funny faces

At our upcoming Holiday Concert we will continue to collect coins in painted shoes. In January Riverview will begin planning again for the annual spring environment fair to raise money for school repairs and uniforms at Bokoro School.



Elizabeth Stubbert, the teacher-lead for Help Lesotho and environmental projects and her Green Team



School picture taken on November 11, 2008

Editor's message

Thanks to all those schools who contributed to this issue. Through the sharing of ideas and pictures perhaps a number of schools can benefit in some way.

Just so you know all the pictures had to be compressed. If this was not done then the file size would be huge and unmanageable. Thus they look a bit fuzzy.

I am so excited about representing all of you and Help Lesotho as I visit your twinned schools in Lesotho sometime in February/March. I am looking forward to this rewarding and learning experience.

All the best this Holiday Season and throughout 2009.

Take care,
Doug
(dougthicke@gmail.com)

Rockcliffe Park School

By Diana Carney

This year Rockcliffe Park kids raised \$1,640 for their new twinned school – Mokoena Primary - at the school's annual Book Fair. About 25 children participated in the fund-raising efforts. The children - mostly from Grade 6, but some as young as Grade 2 - approached Book Fair customers to ask them to support Mokoena. Donors were given thank you stickers to show their support.

All the children and the supervising adults were wearing specially printed Help Lesotho/ Mokoena School T shirts to help identify them. The children were full of energy and did a great job explaining the twinning programme and what we were trying to do to help our

friends in Lesotho. Anyone requesting more information was directed to the website and/or an information table conveniently located near the Book Fair café!

2008 was a record year for the Book Fair and a record year for the Help Lesotho collection. We are very grateful not only to the children who did the hard work of collecting, but also to the many, many people who donated. Counting the coins – and notes – was a very exciting task for the Help Lesotho parent group! Let's hope we can do as well as this next year.

Doug Thicke will be taking a collage of some pictures taken at the bookfair to present to the kids and teachers at Mokoena Primary. Here are some of the pictures that are in the collage.



John McCrae School

By Yvette Tendick



Our school, in Guelph, Ontario, has been twinned with the Paray School in Lesotho for a few

years now. We have made a commitment to do fund-raising to help the Paray School in Lesotho best serve their students. For example, two years ago, we donated enough money for the school to purchase shoes for their students. The following year, we raised money to help in their school library construction. This year, we will be raising \$5000 to buy winter clothing for the students in the upcoming winter months. The winters are cold in Lesotho and the children do not have enough warm clothing to stay warm throughout the winter season.

We are very excited to meet Doug Thicke from "Help Lesotho" who is coming to our school on December 12. At that time, he will be collecting materials that our students have been preparing to give to the students at the Paray Schools. Each class has prepared something for Mr. Thicke to take back, such as banners that they made, "Flat Stanleys", pictures albums, picture books of their classrooms, as well as letters to students. Writing letters to the Paray

students is also very popular. Luckily, the letter writing and other activities also meet some curriculum expectations, so the teachers are very excited to participate.

As well, on December 12, we will be hosting an assembly to raise awareness of the plight of the students at our Paray Schools. We are a very excited that two of the parents from our school have actually been to Lesotho. Mr. Jeff Lambkin has just returned from Lesotho a month ago and will be speaking at the assembly. The children will get a very personalized experience with someone who has actually been there.

Further along in the spring, we will be having another Lesotho assembly to kick off our fund raising activities. We hope to accomplish these fund raising goals through our yearly dance-a-thon.. The children love it. They raise the money, and then one day this spring the children get to dance in the gym during the school day. A great time is had by all. This year we hope to make the whole dance-a-thon into an African theme, complete with African music and dress.

We look forward to another year of helping the students at the Paray School in Lesotho. During this holiday season, it is nice to remember to be compassionate and generous to those less fortunate than ourselves.



Story time



Final touches on the banner to go to Paray Primary



One of the many buses to get the children safely home.