

2018 Coloma PS

Newsletter



P7 School Leavers



Crested Crane



Coloma Dmj Sisters (Sr Teresa on Right)

Message from Sr Theresa Bateta, Headteacher

- Greetings of Peace this Christmas and may all good come your way as the New Year begins. Remain blessed in all you are, do and plan to do.
- The school year has just finished at Coloma PS. Children were happy to return home to be united with parents/guardians, siblings and relatives, especially grandparents, as they prepare for Christmas.
- We are progressing well since the beginning of Coloma School in 2010. To date, 140 pupils have progressed to different secondary schools. Our first group of P7 leavers have now completed Senior 4 and have sat for their national exams at 'O' level.
- The number of teachers has increased from 3 in 2010 to 16 in 2018 while support staff has also increased to 50 including farm and plantation workers to meet the needs of over 300 children.
- While we maintain a very good academic standard in all classes, we aim for a holistic education by including lessons in craft and agriculture in our timetable with music and sport as extra-curricular.
- Children, teachers and Sisters in administration wish you God's blessings. We are all most grateful for your support.

Coloma has been blessed in 2018/2019 with a variety of **extra-curricular activities**.

Sports: The children love sport - timetabled twice per week but the weekends are also colourful and noisy. Added to this are **football matches** played every weekend between the men of the school and the local teams. Coloma is yearly improving and recently received a **gift of red jerseys from Ireland** of which the team is immensely proud.



Volleyball Team



Staff Football



Brownies



Picnic Time

Craft: Children from P1 to P7 can regularly be seen on the compound **making mats, baskets and pottery and doing knitting and crochet**. This year, there was a great display of their work, with **knitted 'dolls'** being a great favourite.



Pottery



Knitting Coloma Scarfs



Knitted Dolls



Mat Making

Food: Over the years, **Coloma has been recognised for good child care and good feeding**. The main food offered is posho (milled maize), beans, rice and groundnuts (peanuts). These are always served with various greens, tomatoes and onions. On **special days** the children get meat, millet and cooked bananas (matoke). For breaks, they have porridge or tea with milk and sugar.

Food needed for one year for approximately 300 children and 65 teaching and support staff is very great, eg for 2018

Beans	= 13,400 kilos	Maize	= 21,150 kilos	Millet	= 5,800 kilos
Groundnuts	= 7,650 kilos	Sugar	= 2,500 kilos	Rice	= 5,750 kilos

Greens are produced at school as are some of the beans, maize and banana requirements during Agricultural classes. The remainder is bought from the local farmers.

Brownies and Guides: Always a great favourite. For the past 2 years Sr Justine has taken groups of **Guides camping to Kaazi** - a great experience, including being flooded out by rain! These girls perform a very useful role on Visitors Day acting as **school stewards**.

Music: Nicholas remains a very dedicated musician with a special interest in **choral and church music**. He also trains the girls in good **professional traditional dance**. Happily this year a second keen musician, Augustine, has joined the staff. The children also enjoy **traditional musical instruments** with Edward while others learn **keyboard, guitar, recorder and melodica**. For open day in Oct 2018, parents and visitors were treated to a varied musical performance.



Words from Sr Mona Maher

- ✓ **Thanks to Sponsors & Donors:** A special word of thanks to the sponsors and donors of Coloma - without your help this school could not support all our orphan/vulnerable children nor continue to develop. During 2018 the school offered **total sponsorship to 87 children and partial sponsorship to 16**. For this latter group their families all fell into financial problems sometime during their children's presence here and without some assistance, intended to move their children out of school. This is always painful for us as administrators and thanks to you we have been able to offer some

help to top up what the parents could afford. It is wonderful to see the expression of joy and peace on the faces of the parents when help is offered. **On behalf of the administrators I thank you sincerely.** We are always happy to receive new donors as it is only when we have funding that we can accept more orphans/vulnerable children who are always needy. We wish to hold our sponsorship funding at **Euro 300 per year** or **Euro 100 per term** for a child.

- ✓ **School Development:** Our second group of precious benefactors are those who help us in the development of the school. In the past 2 years much has been achieved - a **new clean and smokeless kitchen** has been built with **8 energy saving stoves**. These were expensive to construct but as a third of the firewood previously being used is now saved the initial cost will soon be recouped. With the world climate changes, the school also has faced water shortage. Thanks to our donors a **borehole** has been drilled and at a depth of over 100 metres a plentiful supply of water was found. By means of **solar power** (also donated) an immersible pump carries the water to **reservoir tanks** from where the water supplies the school by gravity. During 2018 there was no water crisis, a greatly reduced water bill and fewer nerves were frayed among the administrators. Thank you all for this great gift.



Old kitchen

New Kitchen with Solar

Energy saving stoves

Drilling the Borehole

- ✓ **Land:** Land has also been purchased for the **firewood necessary for cooking**. Presently the land is being planted and very soon a firewood rota will be established. Again our sincere thanks.
- ✓ **Construction:** As we come to the end of 2018 big plans are under way to have the **1st floor of the new dormitory** ready for an intake of 40 extra children for primary 3 class. Again we are blessed to have donors who have made this work possible and it is our hope and wish to have children sleeping comfortably when the new year begins. In preparation for this additional class, a new staff house has been constructed and as I write this, solar lights and power are being installed in both. Now can't you see what a great gift you, our donors, are to us! **We remember you in our prayers and will be ever grateful to you.**
- ✓ **Contact:** If you wish to contact me on any of the above, please do so at: mnimeachair@gmail.com

QUOTES FROM PRESENT STUDENTS

- ❖ **Isabella, Headgirl:** I like Coloma because the teachers are friendly and helpful. We play a lot of sports and have a big, flat playing field. I am very good at netball. We had no water shortage at Coloma this year because we got a new borehole in 2017. We have a good, balanced diet at school and good, healthy sleeping areas.
- ❖ **Denise, P6:** I came as a new pupil to P5. I was made very welcome by the other girls. The first thing I noticed was craft activities - every class participated. Since then I have made a bag, an apron, a sweater and a doll.

- ❖ **Paul, P6:** In the wet season, the grass is very green but the ground is muddy, the flowers and crops grow very well. Sometimes we go to the plantation to weed or we harvest beans. Around the school, there are many big and small birds - crested cranes, heron (snake bird), noisy ibis, sparrow, pigeons, doves, wagtails, weavers.
- ❖ **Mary Lync, P6:** I like Coloma because in P5, I discovered I liked and was good at music. I began to learn keyboard and this year, I played the keyboard for the carol concert. I hope that I can continue with music when I go to secondary school.
- ❖ **Clare, P6:** I like Coloma because we have a lovely compound - flowers, flowering shrubs, orange trees and mangoes. The small children love the swings, merry-go-round, monkey bars, see-saw, slides and rolling tyres. My sister broke her arm from the swing!



Climbing Frame Pupil leaving on a bodaboda Pineapples Weeding beans Banana Feast

- ❖ **Allen, P6:** We play football. Our men's team of teachers and support staff is very good and beat the local teams. We get good food daily and for important days, we get meat and fruit.
- ❖ **Clara, P6:** I like Coloma because the teachers are available even after class. Some of the Sisters come from places other than Uganda and speak very good English. There are new buildings every year.

Visitors: 2017/2018 has been a happy year for the school with many visitors from outside Uganda.

2017: Harry Hermans from The Netherlands; A group of 8 from Abingdon in UK; Kathleen and Tim Maher from Ireland; Tadhg Maher and Katrina Sheeran also from Ireland; Andrea and Jade from Siol, Ireland; Trish from Spain (also part of Siol) and Helen Lane, Congregational Leader of DMJs.

2018: Joan Concilla and Jeanne Dore friends of DMJs California; Harry Hermans; Ann and Noel Murray from Ireland, who have a special interest in primary education in the village. Phil from Ireland and Vicky from England, great friends of Coloma who frequently visit to lend a helping hand and do trojan work. Thank you Phil and Vicky.



Knitted Crib



Sr Mona with sponsored pupils