



## Adopt-a-School News Update (Fall & Winter 2009-10)

As always, great things continue to happen at Connecting Countries Adopt-a-School!

### Pen Pal Letter Writing Program

- ✓ Over 440 Pen Pal Letters have been sent from 6 schools in Canada to Kenya (that's an almost 450% increase from the 100 letters sent this time last year!)
- ✓ Six Ontario schools (Sir William Osler, Ancaster Meadow, Emily C. General School, Lee Academy, Bennetto, Viscount Montgomery) are currently involved!
- ✓ Four Kenyan Primary Schools in Ol Joro Orok complete the Pen Pal cycle.
- ✓ Both students and their teachers are writing letters to their counterparts in Kenya.
- ✓ The Pen Pal Letter Writing Program now meets the Ontario Ministry of Education Curriculum Expectations for classroom literacy activities. Students can have fun and learn at the same time with the "friendly letter" format!
- ✓ The Pen Pal Letter Writing Program is generating interest within and outside the HWDSB.

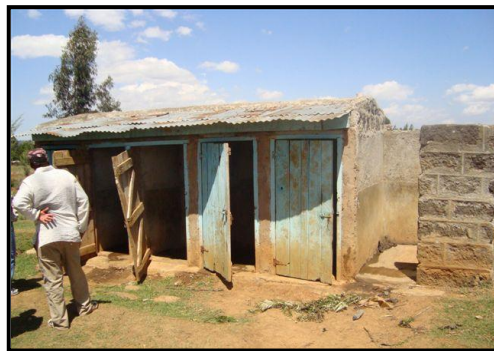
### Sanitation Building Program

- ✓ Providing basic sanitation (latrine building) improves school attendance, basic education and breaks the cycle of poverty in developing countries.
- ✓ **Phase 1 (2005 – 2008) Sanitation Building is complete!** (for a detailed look at what we've already accomplished in our Sanitation Building Program at Madaraka, Kirima Ngai and Kirima Primary Schools, please visit our new website [www.connectingcountries.net](http://www.connectingcountries.net)) Many thanks to our school "building partners": the students from Viscount Montgomery, Lee Academy, Glen Brae and Glen Echo Schools and our organization "building partners": FTC Canada / FTC Kenya (Feed the Children) and Road2Hope. This could never have happened without you!
- ✓ **Phase 2 (2009 and beyond) Sanitation Building is underway!** In 2009, Jacaranda Primary School received 9 sanitation latrines and 1 multi-person urinal.



The new latrines at Jacaranda Primary School. See that half wall? It's called a blinder and it adds extra privacy and enhances dignity, especially for girls. A recent article cited that 50% of girls (in developing countries) drop out of school due to latrine privacy issues.

- ✓ Emergency latrine building is currently underway at Equator Primary School for 9 latrines and 1 urinal. Connecting Countries Adopt-a-School responded to a call for help from FTC Kenya: “the Ministry of Public Health has threatened to close the school due to poor sanitation”, and “the Head teacher, Stephen Njoroge Kihara, has been begging the Public Health Officers for a grace period”.



“The current facilities are ‘too small and cramped’ and ‘poorly constructed’ placing students’ safety at risk. This building has 5 girl latrines on one side and 5 for the boys on the other, ‘providing little or no privacy especially for the girls.’” - FTC Kenya

- ✓ Connecting Countries Adopt-a-School and our “building partners” have improved the sanitation conditions for almost **2000 school children** that attend **5 Kenyan primary schools** through the construction of **66 latrines**. **What an amazing accomplishment!**

## Fundraising

- ✓ Thanks to the many people who pledged funds and participated in the Road2Hope Road Race in November, especially Connecting Countries’ own John Smith (who completed the Half Marathon and thanks everyone who motivated and supported him), and Alison Sawatsky and Lori Botter (who demonstrated their passion for our work by collecting numerous pledges in support of their own Road2Hope race events.)
- ✓ \$2045 was raised in the Road2Hope Race! Way to go!
- ✓ Local schools are already starting their fundraising campaigns for this school year!

- Viscount Montgomery organized a picture day with Santa, sold home-made suckers and in June will hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Climb-a-thon on the Kenilworth stairs up the escarpment.
- Glen Brae Middle School will host their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk/Run-a-thon on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Lee Academy will have a school/restaurant “Eat-Out” and a themed Gift Basket Raffle.
- Students at Sir William Osler are collecting pennies to fund much needed classroom supplies for their new Pen Pals in Kenya.

## Volunteers

- ✓ A huge THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers who raise funds, design our website, speak about Connecting Countries Adopt-a-School at different events, coordinate our Pen Pal Program, sit on our Board of Directors, or do one of the many jobs that always need doing!
- ✓ We are always looking for passionate and interested volunteers with a few hours a month to share. Are you interested in fundraising ideas? Newsletter development? Marketing / promotion and media? The Pen Pal Program? Donating to our cause?
- ✓ Contact us at: [info@connectingcountries.net](mailto:info@connectingcountries.net)  
or  
[www.connectingcountries.net](http://www.connectingcountries.net)  
or  
(905) 529-9799

On behalf of the children,

John P. Smith OCT, MEd  
Board of Directors,  
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