

**(a sample letter)**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our class has begun the initial phases of a unique learning experience which will allow our students to learn about other people and cultures and connect with them in a personal way. We have been invited by ***Connecting Countries Adopt-a-School Foundation*** to take part in a *Pen Pal Letter* exchange with a school in rural Kenya. This program supports the (*grade \_\_\_\_ curriculum*) literacy expectations in both Kenya and Canada.

Classroom Preparation/Presentation

We have read the book Ryan & Jimmy and the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together which emphasizes building relationships between students in different countries through letter writing.

A team from the ***Connecting Countries Adopt-a- School Foundation*** will visit and offer a presentation to (*our class/school*) on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

Highlights may include:

- A PowerPoint presentation called “Differently Similar” designed to:
  - i) introduce Kenyan primary schools and their students and
  - ii) show how Canadian and Kenyan schools/students are different yet very similar.
- Brainstorming webs - What do we want the “Kenyan Students to Know About Us”, and “What would we like to know about Kenya and Their Students”
- Pen Pal draft letters
- Edited letters (including illustrations)

Letter exchange timeline

Our class will send two letters this school year in Oct./Nov. and March/April.  
Kenyan letters will be returned in Jan./Feb. and May/June.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

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(Classroom Teacher)