



# The Kaghan Flame

A Quarterly Newsletter of The Kaghan Memorial Trust

Autumn 2008

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- Marathon in Munich for KMT
- Dates and venue for Tour of The Himalayas 2009 announced
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## The Kaghan Memorial School Starts Classes



We are extremely pleased to announce that September 15, 2008 saw the soft opening of the foundation classes of The Kaghan Memorial School (KMS), the primary project of The Kaghan Memorial Trust (KMT).

The initial 62 children are divided into two classes. Kindergarten, with 30 children, 16 boys and 14 girls, is being taught by Shireen Lakhani (see profile on page 6) and local teaching assistant, Azra Jabeen. Given the ages of these children, ranging from 3 1/2 to 5 years, the emphasis is on learning through play, educational songs, craft activities and the use of multimedia. By creating a sense of fun in the classroom, the teachers hope to develop a love of learning in the children.

Grade 1 has 32 children, 17 boys and 15 girls, who, being in an older age group of 5 to 6 year olds, are able to follow a more formal style of learning. Teacher Ruth Suffield and local teaching assistant Shazia Farooq are introducing alphabet and number concepts with encouraging results, even in the first few weeks. By the third day, the children proved to be so receptive that a rendition of 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' was performed flawlessly for visiting Trust staff.

The foundation term is giving this first batch of children a chance to adapt to the environment and the style of learning at the school. Just as importantly, this period also gives KMT and the school staff a few months to fine tune the operations at the school and

to make any necessary adjustments in the academic model and curriculum based upon the responsiveness of the children to the teaching environment and methods.

Following this foundation term and the subsequent winter break starting at December end, the school will formally open for its first full year in March 2009. The current 62 students will be joined by another 60 children divided into two additional sections of Kindergarten and Grade 1. These 120 students will go through a full academic year, graduating to the next level at the end of the academic year in December 2009.

An additional 60 children will be inducted into two sections of Kindergarten each following year in March.

## The Managing Trustee's Column

Dear friends and supporters of KMT,

September 15, 2008 was a landmark date for everyone involved with The Kaghan Memorial Trust. On this day we delivered on our promise to the people of Kaghan and also to our donors and sponsors by launching our first two classes at The Kaghan Memorial School. This promise was first made in January 2006 when we registered our Trust in Islamabad, and the start of classes has raised a big burden of debt off the shoulders of the Trustees. Today, The Kaghan Memorial School is no longer a concept or an idea; it is a functioning institution giving education to the children of Kaghan.

I am sure that I speak for all of KMT's Trustees who visited the school in the first few days after its launch when I say that it is difficult to explain the satisfaction that we felt in finally seeing the children in their classrooms. Seeing these young and vibrant children (ok, some maybe not that vibrant as they stood bawling in corners for their mothers) adapt so quickly to the new environment of the school and to their teachers was really something. All the stress, the risks and the efforts of the past three years were well worth that feeling at that moment. It was pure pleasure seeing the excitement of the children for their new school; I have no doubts that God willing, most if not all of them have bright and promising futures ahead of them.

To give them this future, KMT continues to work hard to build and sustain the institution that the children require. We have readied four classrooms for the initial launch, but several years of construction work lie ahead of us before the school is complete and all structures and facilities are built. We will continue to raise the finances for this ongoing construction through our fundraising plan, and in particular through our large donors programme. Our Sponsor A Child programme is where KMT plans to raise money for running the school on a day to day basis.

As always, we thank all donors, sponsors and volunteers for your valuable contributions to the Trust and the School. We will continue to rely on your support as we move forward, one step at a time.

With best regards,

*Khurram Khan*

*October 22, 2008*



**“All the stress, the risks and the efforts of the past three years were well worth that feeling at that moment.”**



## KMS logo unveiled

The Kaghan Memorial School now has its own distinct logo and motto. The memorial flame in the logo represents the memory of the children lost in the earthquake of October 8, 2005. The three Arabic letters that form this flame, Alif, Laam and Meem are the first three letters of the Holy Quran; in this logo they symbolise knowledge and a beginning of learning. The motto, “Persevere and Prevail”, speaks for itself and aptly stands for the promise of a better future that the school offers to its children in the face of the adversity that they and their families deal with every day of their lives.

## New Contributors July to September, 2008

### Donors

- Wilde Ganzen Foundation, Holland
- Energiewerk Stiftung, Germany
- IBM

### Child Sponsors

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| • Mr. Faisal Butt                                | 4 children |
| • Ms. Maryam Khan                                | 3 children |
| • Dr. Aslam Ilahi                                | 3 children |
| • Dr. Shehla Ahmad                               | 1 child    |
| • Mr. James Hampshire<br>and Ms. Nadine Spearing | 1 child    |
| • Ms. Rukhsana Ahmad                             | 1 child    |
| • Mr. & Mrs Arif Humayun                         | 1 child    |
| • Ms. Tillat Farooq Khalid                       | 1 child    |



## 1,000 run for KMT in Munich, Germany

Close to 1,000 students, faculty and friends of the Carl-Orff Gymnasium school in Unterschleißheim, Munich, Germany ran in the "Run for a Life" marathon in aid of The Kaghan Memorial Trust on July 30, 2008. This race was organised by Isabel Puchinger, a professional triathlete and cyclist who has participated in two of KMT's fundraising races in Pakistan in the past. Isabel is also a full time teacher at the Carl-Orff Gymnasium, and she spent several months organising this event with the school.

The race was a huge success, and not just in terms of the



number of people who ran in support of The Kaghan Memorial Trust; at the end of the day, almost € 14,000 had been raised. This substantial amount was generated by the runners, who each earned €1 for the school for every kilometre that they ran. Family and friends donated these

"earnings" on behalf of their respective runners, and in many cases race participants and others also handed in additional donations at the end of the event. Local sponsors also contributed by covering the organisational expenses of the race.

As per the wishes of the organisers and participants of the marathon, the funds raised from this race will be used to build and furnish a classroom in the Junior section of The Kaghan Memorial School. This room will be dedicated to the students, faculty and friends of the Carl-Orff Gymnasium school.



## KMT Trustee wins Dutch Speedskating Championship

KMT Trustee Daniëlle Bekker is both a champion speedskater and a professional cyclist. Daniëlle has been the Dutch National Outdoor Marathon Speedskating Champion every year since 2003. This year Daniëlle added to this already impressive record by winning the National Indoor Championship. Daniëlle has also won the prestigious

Essent Cup, an international outdoor speed skating series based on points scoring, in 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Daniëlle's triumphs are not limited to speedskating; she races on the professional cycling circuit during the summers as a member of the top DSB Bank Team of The Netherlands. Recently

Daniëlle has also taken over as manager of this team.

Daniëlle's public profile in Holland helps promote and publicise KMT, as she regularly talks about the Trust during her public and media appearances. Her speedskating team also displays the KMT logo on its promotional materials.



## Major Donors

- The Australian Direct Aid Programme
- Sui Southern Gas Company Limited
- Bank Alfalah
- Askari Bank
- Pakistan State Oil
- Cashmere for Kashmir, USA
- Khurram Khan (Trustee)
- Government of the North West Frontier Province
- The competing cyclists of The Tour of the Himalayas 2007
- The students, staff and family members of the Carl Orff Gymnasium, Munich
- Energiewerk Stiftung Foundation, Munich, Germany



## Tour of The Himalayas 2009 Mountainbike Race to be organised in the Kaghan Valley - September 25-27, 2009



**".. the reccie took the cyclists through some of the most remote and spectacular regions of the country.."**



Two international cycle champions joined the KMT team in late August on a reconnaissance trip to Northern Pakistan to decide the courses for KMT's fundraising mountainbike race planned for 2009.

Robin Reid, National Time Trial Champion of New Zealand in 2006 also represented his home country in both the Athens Olympics in 2004 and the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006. Janneke Vos was Dutch National Women's Road Cycle Race Champion in 2005. KMT is grateful to both these friends for taking time out to come to Pakistan and help with the course selection.

Covering the valleys of Gilgit, Hunza and Kaghan, the reccie took the cyclists through some of the most remote and spectacular regions of the country, allowing them to ride over and check out several uniquely challenging trails; an experience that they will not soon forget.

Following 10 grueling days, the cyclists advised that the race be held over three courses in the Kaghan Valley. This decision was based on their assessment that going further north than Kaghan, while visually stunning, would pose serious complications relating to logistics and long travel times. Given Kaghan's own natural beauty, the suitability of its terrain for mountainbiking, its proximity to Islamabad, and the location of the school itself in the valley, they felt this to be the best venue for the race. Everything considered, in their opinion there was no need to put both riders and organisers through the considerable trouble of driving to northernmost Pakistan when the Kaghan Valley had everything that a mountainbiker could hope for.

Accepting this recommendation, KMT can now announce that the Tour of The Himalayas 2009 Mountainbike Race will be held from September 25 to 27, 2009 in the Kaghan

Valley. 10 to 12 international teams comprising of 3 men and 2 women per team will be invited to participate. KMT will provide full logistics in Pakistan, including room and board for up to 7 nights, to all invited competitors free of cost. The Trust will also reimburse US\$ 500 per rider for air travel expenses. Any additional air ticket costs will be borne by the riders themselves or by their teams.

Alongside the race, The Tour of The Himalayas 2009 will also feature an amateur cycle tour, open for mountainbike enthusiasts and adventure tourists from around the world. Individuals interested in participating in this tour may do so for a US\$ 750 fee that will cover their logistics.

Information on registering for the race and for the tour can be obtained by writing to [info@kmt.org.pk](mailto:info@kmt.org.pk). A detailed race brochure will be available for circulation by the end of December 2008.

## The Wilde Ganzen Foundation of Holland donates to KMT



KMT received € 5,000 of funding from the Wilde Ganzen (Wild Geese) Foundation of Holland. This organisation funds small-scale projects worldwide that aid disadvantaged people.

Wilde Ganzen only considers projects for funding that are introduced and endorsed by Dutch nationals, and KMT was fortunate enough to be nominated by two friends; Francis Linthorst, a competitor in both of KMT's mountainbike races, and her husband Casper Helling, World Record holder in marathon speedskating and also a competitor in KMT's

Tour of The Himalayas 2007 mountainbike race.

KMT would like to extend its gratitude to Wilde Ganzen and to Francis and Casper (who also both became proud first time parents of a boy, Klaas, this October!! Well done both 😊) The Trust is using this money to fund the ongoing construction of the school.



## Going Green: Solar technology being implemented in the school thanks to Energiewerk Stiftung

### energiewerk Stiftung

Energiewerk Stiftung, a German provider of green energy solutions, is sponsoring the installation of solar energy solutions at The Kaghan Memorial School.

Mr. Ekkehard Pascoe, the head of the foundation, participated in the "Run for a Life" Marathon organised in aid of KMT in Munich this past summer (story on page 3). His interest in the school and the ensuing correspondence with KMT led to an approval by

Energiewerk Stiftung to donate € 9,600 to KMT for the installation of solar hot water boilers at the school.

KMT is also in the process of preparing a proposal for the installation of Photovoltaic solutions to power lights and fans on campus. This proposal will be submitted for consideration to Energiewerk Stiftung and to other donors.

By pioneering the extensive use of solar-energy on cam-

pus, KMS will be able to reduce the financial burden of utility bills and secure a constant electricity supply in an area subject to regular power cuts. This will also position the school as a pilot project and a model for eco-friendly and sustainable energy use in this region.

KMT once again thanks Mr. Pascoe and his foundation for their generous support, and also sends its best wishes to Isabel Puchinger for her initial introduction to Energiewerk Stiftung that made this donation possible.



## IBM selects The Kaghan Memorial School for its KidSmart Program



Having computers in the classroom is a relatively new concept; one that is still very much a dream in most rural areas of Pakistan.

KMT had decided from the outset that The Kaghan Memorial School would provide education based upon contemporary teaching methods, and consequently that the school would be properly equipped with computers and other teaching tools required to prepare its children for the modern knowledge economy.

Along these lines, the Trust applied to IBM in February of this year for a donation of computers through its KidS-

mart Program, a worldwide initiative of IBM to provide specialised early learning computer hardware and software tools to non-profit schools working with underprivileged children. It was an exciting moment for the Trustees when word arrived in September that IBM had selected KMS for a donation of two KidSmart Computers. Only a handful of schools benefit from this program every year, and with its selection, KMT has now become a member of the global IBM KidSmart community of schools

The KidSmart program is not just about supplying computers to schools. Beneficiaries of KidSmart grants receive a whole package of technology and services from IBM that include, in addition to

equipment and software, faculty training and networking with other KidSmart schools for information and experience sharing.

The aim of this program is to introduce children to information technology at an early age. By developing these skills primarily for children of disadvantaged communities, IBM hopes to address their social needs in the modern world. The long term goal is to reduce the 'digital divide' between children from low income families and those with more opportunities.

KMT would like to thank IBM Pakistan for this grant. We look forward to building a long and productive relationship between our two organisations.



**" This will .. position the school as .. a model for eco-friendly and sustainable technology use in this region."**

## New Staff Profiles

### The Kaghan Memorial Trust Office, Islamabad

*Sara Sehbai — Programme Officer*

Sara Sehbai has spent most of her life living and working in Pakistan, aside from the fourteen years she was employed in Washington DC in the field of Early Childhood Education. Her varied teaching history has included being the first Kindergarten teacher at the Lahore Beaconhouse School. Sara also served as the first Headteacher of the British Playgroup, formerly a crèche facility. In her most recent position prior to joining KMT, Sara was working with the Washington Child Development Council, a Resource and Referral Agency as a Family Home Coordinator. Part of her job was to coordinate and facilitate teacher training and the procuring of a license to set up a child care business from the Provider's home.

In addition to teaching young children, Sara comes from a background of music and acting. In 1987, she created Sangat Shah Hussain, the first private academy in Islamabad offering classes in the Performing Arts. Under Sara's direction, this group delivered memorable performances for the Asian Study Group and numerous embassies.

Over the past two years Sara has also offered her services to the Volunteer Women's Organization (VWO), an NGO that provides primary education to disadvantaged children in the suburbs of Islamabad. She strongly believes in every child's basic human right to an education and especially in VWO's credo "educate a girl, educate a generation". She says, "KMT. with its strong belief in offering quality education to not only boys but also girls, is an inspiration to me."

Sara joined KMT as a Programme Officer based in the Trust's Head Office in Islamabad. While her primary role at KMT is fundraising and liaising with potential donors, her expertise in multicultural curriculum design and Early Childhood Education also allows her to serve as an advisor to the KMS teachers on curriculum development.

### The Kaghan Memorial School, Kawai

*Shireen Lakhani — Volunteer Primary School Teacher*

A dual US and Pakistani citizen, Shireen emigrated to the US from Karachi, Pakistan as a child. Her family originally settled in Houston, Texas, moving to Washington D.C. recently. Through the years, they have maintained strong connections with their family members back in Pakistan, and having always spoken Urdu at home Shireen is fluent in the language.

Shireen graduated in 2006 from the University of Houston with a Bachelors in Political Science and a minor in Business Administration. In her final year of studies, Shireen also completed an internship in the Office of African Affairs at the Pentagon. On completion of her programme, she was recruited by IBM Global Business Service as a consultant.

In her spare time, Shireen has an extensive history of volunteering with her local community. This has included assisting children's groups as part of the Red Cross; advocating equal rights for the 'Women Professionals in Government'; one-on-one tutoring for disadvantaged children with 'For Love of Children'; and being a Head of Instruction at her local mosque.

As a TEFL qualified teacher, Shireen volunteered to serve as one of the first teachers at The Kaghan Memorial School. She says that she was inspired to take this assignment in order to reconnect with her Pakistani heritage and to help contribute to the long term development of the Kaghan Valley.



### Friends of KMT (2008)

#### Pakistan

Munawar B. Ahmad  
Meraj Humayun Khan  
Dr. Murad Afridi  
Mansoor Khan  
Faridullah Khan  
Raza Ullah  
Jawwad Abbasi  
Imran Hayat  
Shahbaz Rana  
Ahsan Mahmood  
Hassan Khan

#### Germany

Isabel Puchinger

#### New Zealand

Nathan Dahlberg  
Robin Reid  
Britta Martin

#### Holland

Francis Linthorst  
Casper Helling

#### USA

Amanda Lawrence

#### United Kingdom

Jeremy 'Jez' Cox





# Sponsor a Child



KMT is looking for individuals and organisations to sponsor the educational expenses of the children studying at The Kaghan Memorial School. The school offers education completely free of cost to the destitute children of the Kaghan Valley, and it covers the operational costs of the school through this "Sponsor a Child" Programme.

## Why should you support The Kaghan Memorial School?

The Kaghan Valley of Northern Pakistan is one of the most impoverished regions in the country, and the devastating earthquake that struck this region in October 2005 only exasperated the already prevalent poverty. The Kaghan Memorial Trust was established in the aftermath of this disaster with the sole immediate purpose of establishing a school in the Kaghan Valley in order to support the long term sustainable development of the local community.

Opened on September 15, 2008 in memory of the estimated 37,000 children who lost their lives during the earthquake, The Kaghan Memorial School offers a high standard of education for its students; some of the poorest in the country. Before KMS opened, these children at best could have hoped for a basic government education that would have barely taught them how to read or write. They would be condemned to eventually enter into the semi-skilled or unskilled labour force of the country, struggling to earn enough to make ends meet. This is how their parents lived and the same was true for the parents of their parents. The Kaghan Memorial School is aimed at finally breaking this chronic cycle of poverty for the children of Kaghan and their families by offering its students a comprehensive modern education that will prepare them for the best universities in the country and even abroad. Following their graduation from the school in 13 years, KMT also plans to finance the higher education of those of its children who get admitted into college. The school and the Trust are therefore taking ownership of the education of these children from Kindergarten right up to University level. This education will transform these boys and girls from one of the most backwards areas of Pakistan into productive individuals who can become agents for positive change and development for their families, their communities and their country.

Donors or sponsors contributing to a child's education at The Kaghan Memorial School can rest assured that their money is going towards a well planned and long term programme that is focused on delivering real results in the form of meaningful education for its students.

## How can you help?

You can support the education of one child studying at The Kaghan Memorial School by contributing US \$500 annually. Sponsors are allocated a child and they receive his or her profile, bi-annual updates about the progress of the child, and correspondence from the child directly. Sponsors may also visit the school and meet their child when they like, provided that they give KMT at least two weeks notice in advance of such a visit.

To become a child sponsor, you will need to fill out KMT's Child Sponsorship Form, and send it to KMT along with the sponsorship amount. Child sponsorship forms can be e-mailed to you upon request. These forms are also available online on our website. Payments may be made to KMT through cheque or through wire transfer.

For further details or to request a Child Sponsorship Form, please write to us at [donor@kmt.org.pk](mailto:donor@kmt.org.pk) or visit our website at [www.kmt.org.pk](http://www.kmt.org.pk)





## Contact Us

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**E-mail: [info@kmt.org.pk](mailto:info@kmt.org.pk)**

## About the Trust

The Kaghan Memorial Trust (KMT) is a non-profit Charitable Trust registered in Islamabad in January 2006 in the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake in northern Pakistan. The sole immediate objective of the Trust is to establish a school in the Kaghan Valley of Northern Pakistan that will offer a first-class education to children of this severely hit region. Through the provision of quality education, KMT contributes towards sustainable long-term development in the Kaghan Valley.

## About the School

The Kaghan Memorial School (KMS) is the first of its kind in Pakistan, in that the highest quality of education is being made freely available to some of the poorest children in the country. The resources and facilities being provided and developed in this school will rival those at the best institutions in Pakistan. The Kaghan Memorial School is dedicated to the memory of the thousands of children who lost their lives to the earthquake.

[www.kmt.org.pk](http://www.kmt.org.pk)

## KMT Board Of Trustees

Khurram Khan  
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## KMT owes a special debt of gratitude to..

Ms. Meraj Humayun Khan  
Former Minister for Primary Education, Government of NWFP

Mr. Javed Iqbal  
Additional Chief Secretary, Government of NWFP

Mr. Mansoor Khan  
Chief Executive, MAKABU, Islamabad

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

- December 2008  
Rugby Match  
Islamabad RFC vs. Lahore RFC  
**Islamabad**
- March 14, 2009  
Spring Ball  
**Lahore**
- March 15, 2009  
Polo Match  
**Polo Club, Lahore**
- TBA  
Mountainbike Race  
**Nelson, New Zealand**
- September 25 to 27, 2009  
Tour of The Himalayas 2009  
Mountainbike Race  
**Kaghan Valley**