



The Kaghan Flame

A Newsletter of The Kaghan Memorial Trust
Winter Edition

October - December 2013

KMS Annual Day 2013

On Saturday October 4, 2013, the Kaghan Memorial School (KMS) held its Annual Day which also marked the 5th Anniversary of the opening of the School. In beautiful autumn weather, KMS welcomed its Chief Guest, Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources), along with guests of honour, KMT Trustees, parents, extended families of the students and local community members. Mr. Abbasi and his company, Airblue, have been strong supporters of the Trust for the past several years and it was therefore a great pleasure to have him at our Annual Day.



classic fairytale 'Little Red Riding Hood', complete with wolf ears, a woodcutter's axe and a food basket. Momna Batool and the Head Girl, Amina Bibi, presented a thought-provoking speech about environmental conservation and impressed the audience with their articulate spoken English.



The performances were followed by speeches from the School's Head Teacher, Jonelle Loras and the local Lead Teacher, Faiza Bibi; KMT Trustees, Mr. Khurram Khan and Mr. Junaid Qasim; revered community figure and former Federal Minister from the Kaghan Valley Mr. Syed Qasim Shah; member of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assembly Mr. Sultan Khan and finally the Chief Guest, Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. In their speeches, the teachers and the Trustees informed the audience about the work being done by KMT and KMS to ensure the delivery of quality education and care to the School's students. Plans for future expansion and development were also discussed. All speakers stressed the importance of good education for the development of the area and the country, and they encouraged the parents to ensure the continued education of their children. The guest speakers also appreciated the efforts of the Kaghan Memorial School and KMT for providing free education and care to the local children and they all asked the parents and local community to continue extending full support towards the School.

This year's Annual Day included a variety of student performances, ranging from KG up to Grade 5, and covering topics from almost all subjects; namely English, Islamiat, Science and Social Studies. Our KG students presented a welcome play for all the guests. Grade 1 students acted out the well-known nursery rhyme 'Old MacDonald' which they had learnt in their English class, whilst Grade 2 and 5 students took part in an extensive Islamiat quiz. The audience were also treated to a Grade 4 performance of the



The last activity of the day was an Awards Ceremony recognising Academic and Sporting excellence during the year. Students who had shown

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KMS Annual Day 2013

the most academic improvement and best behaviour were rewarded with books and other educational materials. On the sporting front, the winners of various events during the KMS Sports Day were presented with sports equipment, including cricket bats and footballs. This year's champions, Eagle House, received the most awards including the most prized Champion House Trophy and the coveted Tug-of-War Trophy.

At the close of proceedings the KMT Trustees thanked all guests, and in particular the Chief Guest, for their attendance and for the encouragement that they gave to the children. The guests were then invited for light refreshments and a chance for an informal chat with the KMT Trustees and the school teachers.



Goodbye from the Head Teacher

I can still vividly remember my first day back in April 2010. The children were excited to meet their new teachers, but they were also a little shy and apprehensive to get too close, perhaps because they had previously become attached to international teachers whom had eventually left. However, it didn't take long for the barriers to break down, and because I thoroughly enjoyed working with the children and living in Kawai, I decided to stay on.

Since then, over a period of almost four years, volunteer international teachers have come and gone, but the local staff, teachers and students have been my constant at the school. After I got to know the children, I learnt more and more about their culture, their social norms and the dynamics within their extended families. Although we have quite a large number of students and staff at the school, we are still a very close-knit community, so when someone has a problem, we try our best to find a solution together.



For my final week at KMS, many farewell dinners with staff and families were organised. There were also 'special' assemblies conducted by each class. I especially enjoyed it when Zulqarnain, a Kindergarten student from Paras, stood up in front of the whole school and said "Jonelle Teacher, I am very angry with you because you are leaving this school. You taught my sisters, Fizza, Momna and Lil-e-Numa, and my brothers, Shoaib and Khizer, but you never got to teach me!"

I have cherished my time in Kawai working at KMS - it has been an experience I will never forget. Abdul Rehman and Khadeeja Bibi from Grade 5 A shared their reflections on our time together, "After four years, you have played a big part in our lives as our teacher, our friend, our sister and our guardian. You may live far away from us in another part of the world, but you will not be forgotten." I share the same sentiments. KMT has become a large part of who I am now, and I hope to be able to continue to help however I can from Australia. Jonelle Lorantas

Summary of 2013 Academic Year

Yet again, we have had a very busy Academic Year. We held our Medical Camp earlier in the year, followed by KMT's Annual Sports Day and Annual Day in October. We have also continued to work on improving the quality of our teaching and our academic programme to cater for the needs of the local children of the area.

As KMS students have very little exposure to the outside world (for example with no television, computer, internet access, books or newspapers at home), we continually try to expand and enrich the children's knowledge with new and unfamiliar topics. After piloting this pedagogical approach in 2012, we now use the 'Thematic Approach' in our non-core subjects (Art, Poetry, Library and Multimedia Class). The children explore various topics



each term, which so far have included the Sea, the Rainforests, Famous People, Journeys and Rivers, Dinosaurs, Animals, the Solar System, Australia and Ancient Egypt.

A major highlight from this year has been the 'community projects, carried out by Grade 5 children as part of their Social Studies course. These projects demonstrated how KMS has developed its students' capacity to work independently and with confidence. The Grade 5 students had to create a project that helped people in their community in one of the following three fields: health promotion, environmental conservation/awareness and education. Amina Bibi, from Bela Sacha, chose to organise a litter-pick in her community. She chose this particular project as there is no rubbish collection in the valley, and so many people dispose of their rubbish in the street. Amina, assisted by her father, dug a large pit to put all of the collected rubbish in.

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Summary of 2013 Academic Year

Khadeeja Bibi, from Kawai, started volunteering at a government primary School in Kawai. The school had three teachers, three classrooms and six grades. Initially, Khadeeja volunteered on Saturday mornings as a teaching assistant to the government teachers (when KMS is off but government schools are open) but then she started to teach English to the Grade 4 and Grade 5 girls. She borrowed books from the KMS School library and asked for extra copies of worksheets used during her KMS lessons. She even took some lesson planning sheets from KMS Head Teacher, Jonelle, so that she could properly plan her lessons.

Faisal Asghar chose to organise a health promotion campaign in his village. He visited several primary schools in Paras and gave presentations to the children on the importance of

maintaining good hygiene. He also made posters and spoke about Dengue Fever. Even after the children submitted their project reports, many of them have continued with these activities.



Our Grade 5 students have now completed their primary schooling and will move up to our new middle schools (one for boys and the other for girls) next year. Following the close of the 2013 academic year, the international teachers, with the support of the KMT Trustees, the KMT Head Office team, KMS local teachers and external educational consultants, will be developing the curriculum for Grade 6. We will also continue building and improving on the primary school programme both this year and in the years to come.

KMS Exam Week

The final week of school was exam time for KMS students. These end-of-term exams are used to test the academic performance of each child in all the subjects taught to them during the year, namely English, Maths, Science, Social Sciences, Urdu, Islamiat and Art.

In order to prepare students for their exams, a review week is organised the week before the exams where teachers go over the topics covered during the term. Exercise sheets are handed out

to the students to practise and mock exams are also held.

Overall, the students did well, with many achieving high scores on the grading scale, which ranges from A for 'Excellent' to D for 'Needs Improvement' and F for 'Fail'. This grading system allows teachers to decide whether a student can proceed to the next level or whether they need to repeat the grade. It also allows teachers to assess whether any students are falling behind.

KMS 2014 Admissions Process

KMS has started the student admission process for the 2014 Academic Year. The admission tests and interviews were organised at the School on December 7 and 8, 2013. Over the preceding month, hundreds of admission forms had been handed out in surrounding villages and settlements by our teachers, students and support staff.



This year, KMS received over 320 student applications which is a significantly higher number than the previous year. These children were applying for selection primarily into the two new Kindergarten classes that the school will be launching in March 2014. A total of 34 boys and 34 girls shall be admitted into each of these classes. Several children were, however, also applying for vacant seats in the higher levels from Grade 1 up to Grade 6. The ever-increasing number of applications that we receive each year reflects the growing interest and trust placed in the school by the local community.

Three rooms were used to facilitate the interview sessions, which were conducted by the School's senior teaching team. A written test for lower primary (Grades 1 – 3) and for higher primary (Grades 4 – 5) applicants was also conducted. While the children were allowed to be accompanied by their parents or other family members during the interview, they had to complete the test by themselves.

Based upon the interviews and tests, a shortlist is being prepared by the interviewing teams for selecting the new entrants for next year. Student selection is based upon the KMS Admissions Policy, under which several factors are considered when deciding on who gets a place in the school. One of the most important considerations is family income - KMT always gives preference to children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

If the final shortlist contains more children than the seats available for each gender, a second round of interviews shall be organised before the start of the new school year to make the final selection.



The KMS Middle School for Girls

An institution dedicated to the Education of Girls in the Kaghan Valley



The Japanese Embassy Grant



The Japanese Embassy, through their 'Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects' programme, awarded US \$115,733 to KMT for the construction of the Middle School for Girls. A grant signing ceremony hosted by the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan HE. Hiroshi Inomata was held on November 7, 2013 at the Japanese Embassy in Islamabad.



This grant will allow for the construction of three classrooms, one fully-furnished staff room, storage space, toilets and washrooms. The school will educate girls from Grade 6 through to Grade 8.

This Middle School for Girls will provide the parents with an important incentive to keep their daughters in school as the girls will have an institution of their own in which they can continue their education. KMT would like to thank the Japanese Embassy for choosing KMT's project amongst thousands of applications.



Progress to date:

Land surveying, excavation and laying the foundations work were completed for the new building by the end of December. Weather permitting, construction work on the building shall continue over the winter break, to ensure that we meet the project completion target of October, 2014, by which time the new facilities are scheduled to be constructed and furnished.



View of plot before construction



Surveying Activities



Leveling of the Construction Site



Foundation of the Construction Site

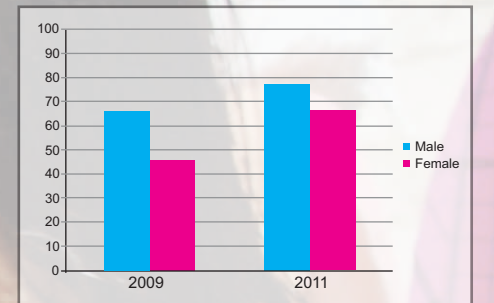
Running the KMS Middle School for Girls

- ♦ The Middle School's operational costs will be covered by KMT's Income Generation Programme, which consists of five main sources: Our Sponsor a Child (SAC) Programme; the organisation of fundraising events; grants from corporate and institutional donors, individual donors, and support from KMT Trustees.
- ♦ KMT is in the process of recruiting international and local teaching staff for the school over the winter break. The curriculum is currently being developed by KMT's international teachers, with assistance from the local teachers, KMT Trustees, KMT Head Office team and external educational specialists.

Girls' Education in Pakistan

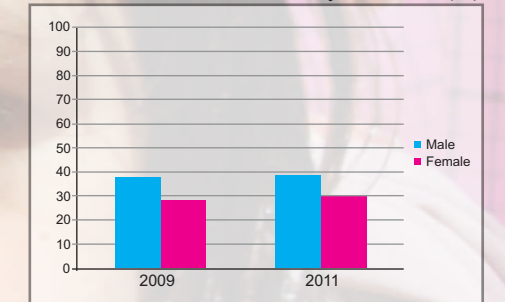
- ♦ In Pakistan, only 46 % of the female population has attended school, compared to 70 % of the male population. In urban areas, the percentage of women that have attended school is higher than in the rural areas. These figures highlight the disparities between girls and boys education, especially in areas like the Kaghan Valley.
- ♦ The disparity is further reflected in the graphs, which show the lower rate of enrolment for girls in both primary and secondary schools.
- ♦ The reasons for this are multiple and complex, but are most notably due to cultural reservations that compel parents to remove their daughters from secondary school.
- ♦ Another major obstacle for girls' education is the lack of adapted infrastructure for girls. For example, schools do not necessarily provide separate female toilets and washrooms. Girls' needs are therefore not fully catered for, which impacts on female school attendance. The journey to and from school can also be an issue, as it is often unsafe for girls to travel alone and schools do not always offer transport.

Net enrolment rate in primary education (%)



Source: World Bank (2011)

Net enrolment rate in secondary education (%)



Source: World Bank (2011)

Community Interest and Student Reactions to the construction of the KMS Middle School

- ♦ The parents of the older girls in the Junior School regularly raise the issue of girls and boys studying together during their meetings with Trustees. Retention of girls in the higher classes will only be possible if such separation is in place from Grade 6 onwards.
- ♦ The community and the parents of the girls enrolled in the Middle School will be encouraged to be actively involved in the institution just as they are with the Junior School. This will hopefully ensure the retention of female students through the Middle School and leading up to High School.



"It is very good. We want to stay in school and finish our education, and here the only way for that to happen is if we have separate classes." - Sidra Bibi, Grade 5A



"We do not have enough schools for girls in Kawai, or in Pakistan, so it is very good that there will be a whole new school for girls." - Fiza Batool, Grade 5A



"I think it will be good because some of the boys and girls already want to be in separate classes. My parents don't have a problem with it, but there are some people in my village, Bela Sacha, that have a problem with it because they are not educated." - Amina Bibi, Grade 5A

UNICEF Funds KMT Teacher Training and Mentoring Programme

In December 2013, UNICEF donated over Rs. 2 million to fund KMT's new Teacher Training and Mentoring Programme. The funding of this new programme reflects UNICEF's interest in considering the Kaghan Memorial School as a future 'Training Hub' for other less-developed schools in the region.



This exciting collaboration will see our KMS teachers become 'master trainers' capable of mentoring teachers from local primary schools in several union councils around Kawai and Balakot. KMS will create a mentoring network of 36 teachers from nearby schools, offering support, guidance and advice for improving teaching methodologies.

Once a month, KMS will host these teachers for mentoring days, during which they shall observe our own teachers as models of good teaching practice. The programme will focus on the dissemination of innovative teaching methodologies, sharing best practices and the use of ICT to enhance teaching

and learning.

In addition to this, UNICEF will support KMT in developing a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) School Action Plan that shall include practice mock drills and the development of a web-resource pack. Having been established following the devastating 2005 earthquake, KMT has a strong interest in readying its students and staff for dealing with any future natural disasters or emergencies.

Using UNICEF's Child Friendly School standards, KMS will also work towards becoming an internationally recognised Child Friendly School. This will allow KMT to access a wider variety of grants and funds for the institution.

KMT is excited to embark on this partnership with UNICEF, and to play a part in building the capacity of local teachers from around the Kaghan Valley.

Bryan Adams Foundation Supports KMT's Getting Children to School Programme

the bryan adams foundation
Helping People Help People

The 'Getting Children to School' Programme was initiated by KMT in 2010 to help children living in remote mountainous settlements to attend KMS. With the School enrolling students at the age of 4 or 5 years old, it is not possible for these young children to walk more than 1 to 2 km to get to class. Furthermore, since the children enrolled in the Kaghan Memorial School are all from extremely deprived backgrounds, the option of their families renting jeeps, even on a communal basis, is simply too expensive.

Over the summer, the Bryan Adams Foundation agreed, to allocate a grant of up to US\$ 7,425 to support this programme for the second term of 2013, with possibility of further extending this support in the future. The grant was received by KMT in October and it was retroactively applied to cover the

fuel and maintenance costs of 3 jeeps over the full second term of school that extended from early August to mid-December. These 3 jeeps, through multiple pick-and-drop runs each day, transported almost 100 children and 6 teachers between their homes and school.

Without the patronage of donors such as the Bryan Adams Foundation, these and many other children enrolled at the Kaghan Memorial School would almost certainly be deprived of the education and the promise of a better future that KMS offers to its students. We are extremely grateful to the Foundation for their invaluable support.



UAE Red Crescent Donates Fabric to KMS

The UAE Red Crescent has been working closely on various projects in the Kaghan Valley with Syed Qasim Shah, the father of KMT's Trustee, Junaid Qasim, and former special assistant to the Prime Minister. One of these projects was to distribute fabric and cloth to be made into Shalwar Kameezes (the local dress).



الهلال الأحمر الإماراتي | العناية بالحياة
UAE RED CRESCENT | Care for Life

Fabric for all of our students was delivered to Syed Qasim Shah, and on October 11, 2013 the cloth was distributed amongst the children. We would like to extend our thanks to the UAE Red Crescent for this generous donation.



Student Profiles

WALIJA BIBI, Grade 3A

Walija Bibi was born in 2003 and lives in Kawai Village with her parents, one sister and two younger brothers. Her father works in the construction industry in the local area, while her mother has recently taken a break from her job as a science teacher at a local school. Walija joined KMS in 2009 and has been one of our very best students ever since! With her beautiful handwriting, tidy work and clean appearance, she performs exceptionally well in school. Moreover, as the 2013 Academic Year comes to an end, Walija is now ready to move into Grade 4 with an outstanding report.

When asked about school, Walija thinks that KMS is a very good school where she and her friends enjoy a variety of learning activities. She values the teaching and enjoys the variety that international teachers bring. She especially likes KMS because it gives her more opportunities to learn from international teachers who always interact with and supports her. English is her favourite subject; she enjoys it when the international teachers share all their stories and characters from around the world and describe the different countries they have been to. In her spare time, Walija enjoys drawing and painting, and she particularly likes to draw floral patterns and landscapes. When she grows up, she wants to be a teacher who can also share good stories with children just like the teachers she has met in KMS.

MUHAMMAD AHSAN & MUHAMMAD HUSNAIN, Grade 3B

Ahsan and Husnain are twin brothers who joined KMS in 2011, shortly after their mother moved to Kawai from Mansehra. They now live in Kawai Bazaar, not far from where KMS is situated. Their father works as a teacher in Mansehra while their mother has previously been employed in a local hospital. The twins were born in 2005 in Mansehra, and Ahsan is 5 minutes older than his brother, Husnain. Although they are physically identical, they have quite different personalities! While Ahsan is calm and organised, Husnain is more lively and playful. They both share an intense interest in cricket, with Ahsan bowling and Husnain batting. Aside from cricket, Ahsan's other passion is drawing and Husnain's is reading books that he borrows from the KMS library.



Despite their differences, both Ahsan and Husnain are among the top students in Grade 3. They are both very attentive in class and always achieve outstanding marks in all their subjects. Ahsan's favourite subject is Science, while Husnain prefers English. When asked about their future aspirations, Ahsan wishes to become a computer engineer so that one day he can develop software for Pakistani children to learn about all types of people, culture and languages from around the world. Meanwhile, Husnain wishes to pursue a career as a pilot because he would like to see lots of countries and meet people from different backgrounds. Both Ahsan and Husnain love attending school and they hope that more children in the area will get the opportunities that they enjoy at KMS.

New International Teacher Profile

Elena Nicolai, International Teacher

Elena Nicolai comes from Venice, Italy. She holds a PhD in Italian Philology and Literature and another PhD in Classical Studies. She also recently completed a Master's Degree in Immigration, Migrations and Integration Policies. She has previously worked as a Visiting Professor at the University of Padua and has also worked as a Latin, Ancient Greek, Italian and Social Studies teacher in numerous secondary schools.



In 2010 and 2012 she volunteered for projects in Madagascar and Togo. Her vast travel experience also includes visits to various countries in the Middle East where she enjoyed learning how to speak Arabic. She is a real animal lover, particularly when it comes to dogs and horses, and she also likes walking.



Contact Us

The Kaghan Memorial Trust

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Website: www.kmt.org.pk, www.facebook.com/TheKaghanMemorialTrust



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 develop and operate the Kaghan Memorial School in the Kaghan Valley. This School offers a first-class education to children of this underdeveloped region that was severely hit by the earthquake. Through the provision of quality education, KMT contributes towards sustainable long-term development in the 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. When fully built, 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.

New Contributors October to December 2013

Child Sponsorship (New)

Mr. Saad Ali Khan	3 children
Mr. Krzysztof Jasinski	1 child
TEFL Professional Network LTD	1 child
Ms. Jonelle Lorantas	1 child

Child Sponsorship (Renewal)

Ms. Maryam Khan	3 children
Ms. Sharon Heywood	1 child
Dr. Muhammad Kouser Shakeel	1 child
Mr. Casper and Ms. Francis Helling	1 child
Mr. Faraz Mustaqeem	1 child
Mr. Adam Glendinning	1 child
Mr. Adam and Ms. Senna Glendinning	1 child
Ms. Nelleke Linthorst (Bugel Hajema Adviseurs)	1 child

General Donations

Mr. Roger Dahlberg	Rs. 846,612
Arcadian Hotels & Resorts	Rs. 169,013
Various	Rs. 123,009
Mr. Khurram Khan	Rs. 96,000
Mr. Kirk Langley	Rs. 36,357

Specified/Reserved Donations

The Embassy Of Japan (Construction of Girls Middle School at KMS, Kawai)	US\$ 115,733
UNICEF (Teacher Training Programme)	Rs. 2,166,000
Bryan Adams Foundation (KMT's Getting Children to School Rogramme)	Rs. 785,611

Interest Free Loans

Mr. Khurram Khan (Managing Trustee)	Rs. 7,298,51
Arcadian Hotels & Resorts	Rs. 850,298
Ms. Jennifer Leah Ankrom (Trustee)	Rs. 800,000
Ms. Maryam Khan (Trustee)	Rs. 200,000



Friends of KMT

Pakistan

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Syed Aqil Shah	Munawar B. Ahmad
Meraj Humayun Khan	Dr. Nasir Khan Awan
Dr. Tasleem Akhtar	Nadeem A. Sheikh
Dr. Hina Inayat Khan	Shakir Hussain

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Robin Reid	Ayesha Ahmed
Britta Martin	
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Martin Frano	Faisal Saleem
Zuzana Vojtasova	Amanda Lawrence
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