

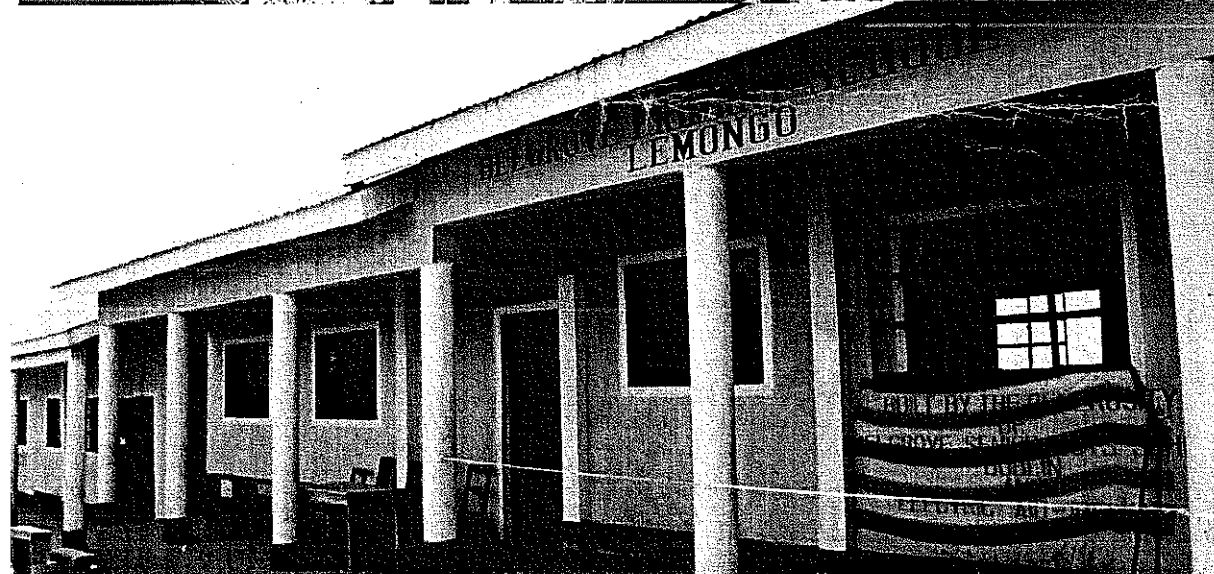


SCOIL EOIN BAISTE
BUACHAILLÍ SINSEARACHA



BELGROVE SENIOR BOYS SCHOOL

Nuachtlitir na Cásca 2008



Official Opening
of
BELGROVE SCHOOL
Lemongo, Kenya



“Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh”

MICHAEL J. RUDDY



ANOIS TEACHT AN EARRAIGH



This term has been a very busy one. A lot of attention was focused on the **Whole School Evaluation**. The inspectors went about their work in a most thorough, respectful and professional manner and we now await their report and recommendations. We have the same purpose in common, that is to provide the best possible education for the boys entrusted to our care. The business of the school continued as usual.

Stage 3 of the **School Building Project** has been completed and the architect is awaiting approval from the Department of Education and Science to proceed to the next stage, which is the tendering process. Because of the downturn in the economic climate, we have been advised by the Department that it is possible that our project may be deferred but that the decision will be made by the Minister. You may have seen in the National papers at the end of January an announcement by the Minister indicating those schools which were authorised to proceed to the building stage. This does not include Belgrove. The minister is due to make a further announcement after Easter, and this will name other schools authorised to proceed. We wait with interest to see if our Project is included in that list.



Christmas Fair

Matt Porter accepted a cheque for €8,000, the proceeds of our **Christmas Fair** on behalf of the Belgrove National School project in Kenya. The Fair was a tremendous success, the boys were so well organised and behaved in an impeccable manner. Everyone agreed that it was our best Fair to date and that is credit indeed. Elaine Bannon has returned to Ireland to renew her visa and will be calling to the school after Easter with Elijah, our Maasai friend. Matt has captured the opening of Belgrove Lemongo on video and we are looking forward to seeing it and witnessing the excitement it generated. The newsletter cover gives a little insight into the colour and pageantry on the day.



Presentation of Christmas Fair cheque



Art Exhibition

The **art exhibition** was a great success and the support of parents and friends was greatly appreciated. It was very evident that a number of boys show exceptional talent at a very young age and no doubt if they continue to develop their talent, we will hear more of them in the future. We continue to provide a platform for them to exhibit their art in 'Ealaín na Seachtaine' where we encourage art, craft, poems and stories on particular themes: these are always on display in the school.

The **Senior Boys school concert** will take place in June of this year. The thinking and planning will commence after Easter and the practice in earnest will start closer to the event. There is a role for everyone and it is very clear from our talent shows that there is a well of creativity in the school and the concert is a forum to celebrate this talent.

Accord facilitators have completed their work with the fifth and sixth classes. While the fifth class programme is more preparatory work, the sixth class programme deals with the problematic and sensitive areas in an age appropriate way. A meeting for parents of 5th and 6th class boys took place prior to the implementation of the programme.

Five **students** from St. Patrick's Training College and one Spanish student have been with us for their teaching practice. They are to be commended for their high standard of preparation and presentation. Their commitment augurs well for the future of the teaching profession.

A very comprehensive programme of activities is planned for next term. We will have visits from artists, musicians, authors and theatrical performers; all funded from €12,000 which was raised during the **Sponsored Walk**. As usual we invite suggestions.

The **Parents' Association** has organized a **Quiz** for May 1st in Clontarf Lawn Tennis Club. Proceeds from the Quiz will go to cover the cost of concert sets and supports for the various items. This has always been a most enjoyable and efficiently run event and we ask for your support in ensuring its success.

Voluntary Contributions this year are down on this time last year. Unfortunately schools still depend on contributions from parents. Perhaps it slipped your mind and if that is so we would be grateful to receive contributions at any time and a receipt will be issued.

We are continuing our **Green schools** mission in the school and once again highlight the parents role in providing environmentally friendly lunch packaging. We are currently in the process of setting up 'Text a Parent' as a new form of communication between home