

The Red Hippo Arts Project

Sue Brotherwood's Web Log

Hi Everyone!

Aug 8, 2008 in Uncategorized

It's great to be in Africa connecting with all the friends I made in February, walking into the hotel to be greeted "Hi Sue, welcome back!" and meeting up with the boys, the teachers, and Annie.

My dance classes are a learning experience. Teaching on the red earth outside, on bumpy ground and either running in halfway through because it's raining or trying to find shade because it's scorching, I'll get it right one day. Best of all, is the breakfast program. I can't thank you parents of Miss Vickie's enough for sponsoring the program. To see the children eating a full meal and also getting snacks throughout the day, not only benefits them, but their mothers and their siblings, as there is more food for the rest of the family.

The slum has deteriorated since February, which is very sad. But they have cleared the rubbish area, where the kids can now play, but one wonders if they are going to build something there, to the detriment of the people in the slum.

More to follow...

Thank you to all those who have helped me get here through money, prayers, and love.

Sue

2 Replies

1. Pippa Brady

Aug 10th, 2008 at 9:57 pm

Mum, so glad to finally hear from you! Glad all is going well, we are so very proud of you.

You are missed tons here.

We are praying for you everyday,

lots of love Pipaa, Paul, and Malachi

2. Audrey

Aug 13th, 2008 at 4:25 pm

hi sue,

glad to know all is going well with you guys. I have been reading you guys blogs. helps to get a picture and a feel of the experience. It's great that the kids actually get to eat everyday.

how about putting a little book together of the groups experience with photos and blog? just something that passed through my mind as I read you guys.

keep up the good spirits.

Hugs & God bless,

Audrey

Aug 13, 2008 in Uncategorized



Well, I don't know what it is about dance. First I have to run in because of the rain, then we had to squash in like sardines in a tiny room because it was pouring with rain, and then today... we had no electricity, so there was no music. How shall I interpret this? Not sure, but I'm still going to give it another try!! We had fun anyway. The boys leaped over alligators, swam through swamps, and we made music with our feet and hands.

It's funny how you take things for granted. The teacher asked one child why she wasn't joining in and she replied, " I just love watching teacher Sue's hair go up and down!"

I've started working on the dances I did for the fundraiser. The girls are making baskets, and the boys masks. It will be interesting to see the comparison.

Keep us all in your thoughts and prayers.

Sue

3 Replies

1. Pippa Brady

Aug 13th, 2008 at 10:21 pm

I love it Mum! I can just picture you dancing with all those children. I love what the girl said about watching your hair jump up and down, what a great response! Love you, miss you, so proud of you, Pips, Paul, and Chi (he sends a big kiss)

2. Kate Herzberg

Aug 14th, 2008 at 10:59 am

I love seeing your skinny arms up in the air and the kids looking like they're having so much fun. I wish little Ruby could spend an afternoon with you shaking out the sillies!

Tuesday Nick came round for dinner and we talked about how different the posts are from those of the Namuwongo Literacy Blog posts. I am so inspired by what you are doing as a meeting of equals trying to share with each other, not give. It is a perspective that is very moving and inspiring. Pippa is so right: we love you, we miss you and we are very very proud of you.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Be well.

Kate

3. Kate

Aug 16th, 2008 at 9:12 pm

Hehehehehe! That kids comment gave me a great laugh!!!! I can picture you jumping all over the place like some crazy blond, energetic women! So exciting what you are doing over there, so great for the kids that they get a camp like so many privileged Canadians.

I wouldnt take the rain or electricity as a sign to not do what your doing perhaps its g_d getting so excited about what you are doing!

Looking forward to hearing all your stories!

Love yah Katiexox

Sea of colours

Aug 18, 2008 in Uncategorized

What a week. Everything fell into place. The weather was wonderful, the kids incredible, and the team seemed to be at ease. On Wednesday I stood to one side and watched the sea of colour as the kids played with their streamers. It looked magical as the colours swirled and curled and the children were mesmerized by it all.

My exploded cd player had been fixed and changed to Ugandan voltage for a mere \$7.00. No throwing away, no “ for \$40.00 I'll tell you if I can fix it or not”, or “ it's cheaper to buy a new one.” Here they can fix almost anything, except the traffic problem and the pollution. There isn't the infrastructure for that. There is no garbage collection, so there are small fires everywhere burning rubbish/garbage. I could go on and on.

On Saturday 3 of us went to Entebbe's wildlife refuge, right on Lake Victoria. While starting to eat our lunch, a monkey tried to grab our rolls. I quickly grabbed them and shooed him away. At that point he tried to scratch my leg. I can now see why I've never thought monkeys are cute. We saw some fabulous animals which had been rescued from poachers.

This is our last week, in some ways it has flown past.

-Sue

Aug 18, 2008 in Uncategorized



Sheer delight

Aug 21, 2008 in Uncategorized

Today we got out the giant parachute. Both children and staff had never seen one. To start we (the team) held it and then went under, and disappeared, making a tent. The squeals of delight were amazing. Then it was their turn. The excitement and wonder was precious, wild with excitement. It was so much fun.

It is now the rainy season, so my boys class was squashed into a little room. No matter. The sun came out for the parachute, which is what I wanted.

Yesterday the bubbles came out. Clouds of bubbles burst over their heads and squeals of delight rang through the air.

After enquiring about a few of the children, Annie explained that many had worms and fungus in their scalps. She informed us that it would cost approximately 32,000 Ugandan shillings to treat all the children. So we as a group have decided to buy the first round of treatment, and hopefully we will be able to do so every 6 months. This would have to be an ongoing thing because of the environment they live in.

Two more days to go! On Sunday we go for a short safari and change of pace, BUT having to get up at 5am in the morning!!

Sue