

Rainbows4children Blog Archives: 2012-2020

Ethiopian Government closes schools

Posted on [17th March 2020](#)



The Nicolas Robinson School closed its doors for students for the next 15 days in line with the request of the Ethiopian government to try and slow the progress of Coronavirus in the country. Africa was one of the last continents to be affected but due to the fragile health service in most countries they could be very severely affected. Our teachers had already made a contingency plan, based on their knowledge of the measures taken in other countries and so the children have gone home with projects and course work to pursue. We wish all our students and staff good health during this very difficult time for us all.

Special donation

Posted on [2nd February 2019](#)



Thank you to the Bullens Heimann & Friends Foundation. On behalf of the students at the Nicolas Robinson Education Projects we are delighted to receive this wonderful gift. Many thanks to everyone who attended the dinner dance in Zug in October 2018 and the generous event sponsors. These funds are designated to provide computer software training in the Nicolas Youth & Adult Learning Project, and to fully equip the computer laboratory. Many businesses in Ethiopia need competent young people who can use the computers effectively, so this should provide great work opportunities and new skills to add to the cv. The next dinner dance will be held at Zug Casino on Saturday 26th October and we hope many more will join and support the projects.



Clean water

Posted on [19th October 2018](#)

We take clean drinking water for granted. Even in a city like Mekele supply is a big problem. Many thanks to Aqua Pura who donated a simple water purifier so that we can clean collected rain water and give our students clean drinking water when the municipal supply is cut off. This is a very regular occurrence.

Support Rainbows4children with Amazon Smile

Posted on [3rd June 2018](#) by [MaxKathryn](#)



To all our supporters, if you ever shop at amazon.co.uk, please ensure you sign through amazon smile and choose Rainbows4children (UK) Trust as our charity of choice. Amazon donate 0.5% of the net purchase price directly to our UK registered charity. This quickly adds up. Please help, it is easy to do!

Sponsored walk 19th September 2020



Thank you for helping us raise SFr 71,000 in May 2019! We are please to announce our next sponsored walk will be held on 19th September 2020 in Horgen. Please save the date! Thank you also for all our volunteers, walkers and participants and the evening BBQ.

If you can't attend the event but would like to donate, please do.
Join our Sponsored Walk and Barbeque with evening entertainment!



Held every year in Horgen, Switzerland

Don't miss the fun!

Where: Dow Horgen canteen

When: **Saturday 19th September 2020.**Sponsored walk starts at **2pm** – raise money to help children's education in Ethiopia

Apero starts at **5pm**, and barbeque and entertainment starts promptly at **6.30pm**

Our aim is to raise funds for the Nicolas Robinson School in Mekele, Ethiopia

Now is the time to sign up for the walk or the dinner, or hopefully, both!

If you can't join us, please support a friend or colleague who is taking part in the walk!

In 2019 our supporters, their friends and families raised SFr 71,000 to help the children at the Nicolas Robinson School in Mekele. Many thanks to each and every one of you!



Many thanks to all of you who supported us in 2019 and earlier years and we look forward to seeing you again in 2020!



Enjoy excellent food and great company!

You can run or walk the route, chat with friends and exercise your dog! All participants are welcome!



111km Antarctic Sled-Pull raised £17,000

Posted on [28th November 2017](#) b

Many thanks to George Potts who raised £17,000 and reached the South Pole in December 2017. He traversed 111km of terrain in Antarctica (or “one degree” of the Earth’s surface) this Christmas. He set off from Punta Arenas on the Southern tip of Chile on the 18th of December and arrived at the Geographic South Pole on the 28th of December.



He pulled a sled laden with 40kg of supplies and camping equipment for 9 hours a day in temperatures averaging -25C/-13F (which wind chill takes nearer -50C/-58F). He will be doing so at an elevation of 10,000 ft. above sea level, which physiologically feels like 11,000ft due to atmospheric pressure at the poles.

All this for the children of Mekele, and thanks to your generosity he raised £17,000



A new blog for volunteers

Posted on 14th May 2017

Thinking of volunteering? Trying to imagine the experience? One of our volunteers has kindly set up a blog, sharing her experience and that of other volunteers. Volunteers at the Nicolas School are invited to contribute and you can read more and learn from some personal experiences [here](https://rainbowsinethiopia.wordpress.com/author/rainbowsinethiopia/) [<https://rainbowsinethiopia.wordpress.com/author/rainbowsinethiopia/>]



Bolton Junior Girls School

Posted on 27th April 2017

Bolton Junior Girls school raised more than £800 in February! They had great fun dressing up as rainbows. They also drew a rainbow in chalk in the playground and filled it with pennies! Many thanks indeed to the girls and staff for a creative idea!

It was a lovely way to raise funds! Fun and creative!



Update from Ethiopia Feb/Mar 2017

Posted on 6th April 2017

We have just returned home after spending nearly 2 months in Ethiopia. During that time we have had 9 volunteers at the school, they stayed from 5 days to 5 weeks. Some were on their first visit others have been many times. Contributions were varied, as well as science and English, a farmer visited, a long term volunteer from Farmer2farmer, sponsored by Catholic Relief Society in Ethiopia and USAID. Also a lot of work was done during this time in the kindergarten. 3 volunteers worked over a 9 week period to really upgrade the teaching skills. The training has had a great impact and skills and ideas improved a huge amount.

The biggest change at the school was that we have finally started to implement our short course training. Our very first course was for 10 students, on food preparation. All the students are from families of our local partner organisation, one of whom has a disability herself and will be employed by the school when she completes her training. The students are currently on the work placement part of the course. They are spending 3 days a week in the 3 best hotels in the town. The other 3 days they continue with practical training, English skills, and civics/good working practice. We are

also very fortunate to be supported by PUM, a Dutch training organisation. We have developed a good cooperation with them, and they train the trainer programmes as well. 2 trainers from PUM are expected to return at the end of April to help and advise us, local trainers and our second group of students. We would like to thank 2 generous foundations who have supported us in this project. One foundation financed the workshop construction and another is financing the installation of equipment, initial running costs as we develop the training programme. This has been a great boost to the progress of our project.

We have been supported by several organisations and fundraising efforts to install showers in the secondary school. This is encouraging young people to do more sport. Especially the girls are happier to have a shower after sport. All our staff also benefit from this facility and the girls are encouraged to stay at school for the whole month, as they have access to clean water to help them with hygiene. On the video you can also see our water cleaning system, also sponsored, which purifies well water to drinking quality via a water softener and an ultra-filtration unit.

Finally we would like to thank all our donors for their continuous and significant contributions. More than 60% of our funding comes from private individual such as yourself. Whatever the size of the donation, it all goes directly to the project and makes an impact directly on the future of 1400 young people and indirectly to their families, the 160 staff members at the school and any supporting workers, from the construction companies, the ladies who run our staff café and the neighbouring small garment company who makes the school uniforms

Thank you all again for your help and support [and watch the video!](#)

Rustem Hayroudinoff – Goodwill Ambassador

Posted on [31st December 2016](#)



Rainbows4children are delighted that the world-renowned concert pianist and Professor of Piano at the Royal Academy of Music in London, Rustem Hayroudinoff, has been named as the first Goodwill Ambassador for Rainbows4children.

Please take a look at his website [here](#)

A documentary film featuring Rustem is available at the [maxVmax photography website](#)

100% success for grade 12 & grade 10 students

Posted on [21st July 2016](#)

100% success rate for grade 12 students. They have all passed their grade 12 exams and will go to University – more details later. On 28th August we heard that all our grade 10 students have also passed with the lowest score being 3.2 out of 4. An excellent result!

Sunday 10th July was a very special day and will remain in our hearts for ever. The first group of grade 12 students graduated from the Nicolas School

We will have to wait until September to hear their final results and the allocation of University and subject, but we are confident that they will all go on to achieve their dreams

Congratulations to the class of 2008 (EC) ! [2016 for those on the Western Calendar!]

The Rainbows4children rose now available!

Posted on [15th May 2016](#)

The Rainbows4children rose now available! A rose like no other... This beautiful intense yellow rose has an exquisite perfume with light citrus accents. It starts as a classic bud, maturing to a wide circular flower offering a bouquet of blooms that flourish throughout the season. It is highly disease-resistant and tolerant of most conditions. For preference, it enjoys a position with the early morning sun.

What makes it special:

Every purchase of a rainbows4children rose will help secure the future of a child.

The Rainbows4children rose was created to reflect the innocence, resilience, and beauty of children. The Rainbows4children

Foundation www.rainbows4children.org educates the most disadvantaged children in Northern Ethiopia with a purpose built eco-friendly school serving 1,380 students. 100% of all donations benefit the children directly.

Looking for a perfect gift for a special someone who has everything? Thinking of filling a patch in your garden? Order your rose bush online at <http://www.petales-de-roses.com/en/>

How it works: When you purchase a Rainbows4children rose bush at €15 plus a delivery fee within France of €7.90 (regardless of the quantity ordered), you agree to donate €10 per bush above the retail price directly to the Rainbows4children Foundation. Only deliveries within France can be accepted at this time.

The Rainbows4children Foundation is registered in Switzerland (#CHI3070097795) and in the United Kingdom (#1116387).

Thank you for your generous donation!

Under the aegis of Mediterranean Gardening France (MGF), an international community of people interested in the challenges of gardening in a Mediterranean climate, the baptism took place in the beautiful private garden of Mme Joanna Millar, we thank her for hosting us.



Cutting the cake!



Rainbows4children rose

It will be available for sale for planting from November 2016, onwards.

Donations from the sales of this rose will help fund the education of the poorest children in Mekele.

The rose is the result of a collaboration between Dominique Massad, rose-creator or “obteneur” and Jean-Pierre Dittièrre, rose-grower.



Jean-Paul, Elizabeth, Kathryn, Dominique, Max

Dominique Massad’s family tree is like a climbing rose! Dominique quickly caught the creative virus and created his first hybrids in 1980. His scope is broad and includes old roses, from which he mixes the “old sap” in his new creations. Inspired by the work of Austin, an Englishman, Dominique marries the abundance of flowers and colours of modern roses to the forms and fragrances of older roses. He has created more than 170 rose varieties which are marketed and exported worldwide.

Jean-Pierre Dittièrre, rose grower and floriculturist from Anjou, has developed one of the most magnificent rose gardens, Les Chemins de la Rose, in Doué la Fontaine. Opened in 1999, it is a veritable conservatory of roses with more than 13,000 rose bushes, representing approximately 1,000 varieties on a plot of 4 hectares of land. This huge floral park is also the ideal setting for the presentation of new creations from his own nursery. www.Petales-de-rose.com, www.lescheminsdelarose.com, contact@roseraie-jardirose.com.

[More photos of the event and our rose are available in the photo gallery](#)

Please email us on info@rainbows4children.org if you would like to be notified when the bushes are available for sale

Sponsored Walk – 2016 – A record result!

Posted on 1st May 2016

The very best result ever! Thanks to everyone who took part in our annual Sponsored Walk on 23rd April 2016, at Dow, Horgen, Switzerland. Thanks to your great help we have raised more than SFr 80,000.

It was especially difficult this year for our runners and walkers, as we had a cold and rainy day, which came after 4 beautiful sunny days beforehand. Very unlucky! However our brave participants joined in the fun and participated in a barbecue in the evening, with music provided by our DJ, Cosimo, and [a fun photo booth](#). A tombola on the night, and a raffle beforehand also gained us a lot of support and helped us achieve our target. Many thanks to Dow for providing us with a great venue. We have achieved our goal of construction a new shower block with first aid and other facilities at the secondary school



A fundraising concert in Tarragona, Spain!

Posted on 13th December 2015 by MaxKathryn

Many thanks to the musicians who gave a beautiful concert in Tarragona to raise funds for Rainbows4children. Please support them and us by [downloading their music on this link](#), and sending [a donation through this page](#)



Posted in [Blog](#)

Pre-Christmas Appeal for used IT items

Posted on [14th November 2015](#)

New IT equipment is high on the wish list for many of us at Christmas time. When you purchase new equipment please don't discard the old. If your old mobile phone, tablet (i-pad, Samsung etc) or laptop is still functioning well, maybe low spec or just getting a bit slow, we can find a good home for it at the Nicolas School in Mekele. Of course we need the chargers as well! Portable CD players for kindergarten classes are also helpful. Please contact us and we can make arrangements to take equipment there on one of our next visits. Please write to us at info@rainbows4children. Thank you for your great help, and Season's Greetings from Rainbows4Children and the Nicolas School.



Teacher using iPad and beamer to teach the Industrial revolution

Getting young people into work

Posted on [21st September 2015](#)



Training has now been running for 18 months in our hospitality unit. In this time more than 80 students have completed a course in food preparation and new groups of 20 students join us every 6 months. Starting to teach computing skills and entrepreneurship at the units.

Young people need to get into the workplace quickly to maintain self esteem and to ensure their futures. Most students at the Nicolas School are expected to follow the academic path, but this is not suitable for everyone. In our continuing commitment to give EVERY student the best possible start in life, we have built 4 training rooms, kindly sponsored by a visionary donor, to train young people for work. This is looking after our less academic students as well as those with special needs. We are training in the basic skills to start a small business as well as arithmetic and English. We are working with local employers as partners to train in relevant and employable skills. Most importantly we are educating young people in behaviour and community spirit to make them exemplary employees. Civics is a compulsory subject in schools up to grade 12 and we will ensure that our students understand their roles as citizens as well as employees.



Demonstrating the new skills to local supporters

We have now run 2 cycles of 16 week long courses in food preparation and one cycle of serving at table, in the training workshops on the Secondary School site. Once the concept is proven we will work to secure funding to the next phase; a full scale technical training centre on the 40 hectare land we have reserved for the technical and vocational training college.

As this project progresses we will keep you informed. We are already very encouraged by the positive response we have received from the local community.



More great results in 2015!

Posted on 18th September 2015

We are delighted to announce again that our students in grade 8 and grade 10 have scored 100% pass in the national exams. We congratulate our clever and hard working students! On top of this, 45% of grade 10 students scored an 'A' grade and the Nicolas Robinson School students got a recognition for their exemplary behaviour in the exams



"Lioness" a film about the women fighters of Tigray, Ethiopia and their children

Posted on 1st August 2015

Many of our supporters have asked to learn more about the families we are supporting in Mekele, Tigray. Max has recently completed a 20 minute documentary film called "Lioness" about the women who fought during the 17-year Ethiopian civil war in order to liberate Tigray, and eventually the entire country of Ethiopia from a regime that carried out one of the most systematic massacres of civilians ever witnessed in Africa. Many of these women now have children at the Nicolas School, and as they reflect on their personal stories of struggle and hardship, they explain the value of education for the next generation and what the Nicolas School means to them.

The film is already available in the Tigrinia version at the war memorial museum (Hawelti) in Mekele. You now have the chance to attend the first screening in Europe, in English, at the American Womens Club of Zurich, on September 11th 2015 (New Years Day, 2008, in Ethiopia).

To find out more and sign up for places (admission free) please [click here](#):

We look forward to seeing you there!



Mekele University honours Rainbows4Children

Posted on [5th July 2015](#) by [MaxKathryn](#)

On Saturday 4th July 2015, Max and Kathryn Robinson, co-founders of Rainbows4children were awarded Honorary doctorates by Mekele University (Doctor of Community Services, honoris causa (DCS)). The degrees were presented by the President, Dr Kindaye, at the annual graduation ceremony of the university.

Max and Kathryn accepted this recognition on behalf of the trustees, supporters and volunteers who have worked with Rainbows4Children during the 12 year journey to create the Nicolas School, now educating 1300 children from Kindergarten to Grade 12. During the acceptance speech, they thanked their local partners, the Tigray Disabled Veterans Association, the trustees and supporters of Rainbows4Children all around the world and also the continued hard work of the school management team and staff.



Kathryn and Max with the headmaster and academic director
Kathryn & Max with some of the veterans whose children we serve

Special appeal to save a young student from leukaemia

Posted on [10th January 2015](#)

August 2015 – Selam is now home! After spending nearly 8 months in Bangkok, Selam has successfully completed the first intensive phase of her treatment, She will need to return to Bangkok 3 or 4 more times to receive drug supplies and some treatment that she can't get in Mekele, but she is now on the maintenance phase of her treatment. We will need a bit more financial support for her, but we are also hoping to get support from the airlines. Her next return visit will be at the beginning of January, so we will let you know. Selam is happy to be home with her mother and father and brothers and sisters (some are pictured here).



We will continue to give regular updates on the progress of our young student throughout her treatment. Please continue reading to find out more.

Just to recap, she was diagnosed correctly and accurately in the teaching hospital in Mekele with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia or ALL. This is acute in that it progresses very quickly and if left untreated can be fatal within 1-3 months. As long as it is diagnosed early enough, with modern medicine the survival rates are above 90%, but it depends on several factors including the age of the patient and ages 1-9 have the best prognosis. Selam is estimated at the 80% level. Within the

various forms of ALL, some have better survival rates than others. Of the 3 states of risk (high, medium, low), Selam is rated as medium.

Although diagnosis in Mekele was excellent (and we must give them full credit for this) they do not have the facilities for treatment, in particular the first aggressive phase of chemotherapy. In this phase she had to have a spinal tap to administer drugs to prevent the cancer spreading to her brain. In addition, the clinic providing treatment needs to have the ability to centrifuge blood to separate out its various components (which is far preferable to full blood transfusions).

Therefore our immediate action was to send Selam by plane (with her father) to the Black Lion hospital in Addis Ababa. It quickly became clear that they were also struggling. The hospital is overcrowded and with this has all the complications of confusion, undisciplined treatment regimes and inadequate cleaning, leading to a very high risk of infection which can be fatal.



A lot of this is caused by the fact that the Black Lion is the only hospital in the country set up to support all severe cases of illness for a population now close to 90 million. The hospital has a similar capacity as one you would expect to find in a mid-sized city in the UK such as Nottingham, Leeds, Gloucester etc

Our team of friends and helpers in Addis Ababa rallied round. The day after Selam arrived in Addis Ababa she was admitted to the Black Lion hospital and as soon as we saw the conditions there and realised they were not equipped to cope, we began looking for alternatives. Ethiopia has a very good relationship with Thailand for medical care and there are agencies representing private Thai hospitals in Addis Ababa. Max and Kathryn also have a British friend who is now retired and living in Bangkok and so he was able to coordinate between us in Addis Ababa and the hospitals and doctors in Bangkok.

Through the help of good contacts, we managed to get Selam and her father on a plane to Bangkok on Christmas Eve (early hours of the morning) and she arrived in Bangkok at lunchtime that day and by the evening she was in a private hospital. They confirmed the diagnosis, worked out the treatment regime (a total of about 2 years 6 months) and the doctor who was treating her helped considerably by saying that he was also consultant at a public hospital, where she could stay for a much lower cost. In both hospitals she was given a private room where Selam's father could stay with her.

We transferred her to the public hospital after 5 days and the first round of treatment was started on 29th December.

All the time before the treatment started she was being given blood transfusions and her blood quality was being checked.

Selam responded well to the chemotherapy and apart from a small setback when a tooth was infected and had to be removed (she immediately got a fever from this) she has coped very well.

Our friends in Thailand have visited regularly and have kept us informed of progress.

Today (24th January) she moves into a small apartment with her father while she has the last doses of chemotherapy as an outpatient. Then she has a rest period from the treatment for 2-3 weeks and the chemotherapy regime then starts all over again. She will need 3 more sessions of 4, 8 and 8 weeks of intravenous chemotherapy with short (2-3 weeks) breaks in between. After that her treatment is with tablets for the next 88 weeks and with regular check-ups.

Our big dilemma is when to bring her back to Ethiopia. A lot has been invested in a successful outcome already and we must maintain the momentum.

Her biggest risk during the whole chemotherapy process is contracting an infection due to her immune system being suppressed.

Kathryn visited the family home – a room of only 2m x 3m in area shared by Selam, her parents and 3 siblings aged from 19 years to 18 months, in other words a living space of one square metre per person.

Cooking is done outside, and the latrine is shared with several other households.

Her mother is desperate to see Selam, but with a breast-feeding baby it is impossible, and probably a trip to Thailand is also too daunting an experience.

Kathryn also visited a clinic in Addis Ababa, which is clean and seems well managed with regular visits from specialists from Black Lion hospital.

While we ponder the options we will get advice from doctors here and abroad about capabilities for treatment and concerns of infections.

Kathryn met the doctor who first diagnosed Selam. He is a knowledgeable man who was extremely helpful and frank regarding the case of Selam. He recommended that at whatever stage we decide to bring her home, she should be inoculated against common diseases (measles, influenza, whooping cough etc) and that she should bring all the medication with her that she needs for the treatment, so that there is no risk of an interruption in her treatment due to shortages of the relevant medication.

Update – March 21st 2015:

Selam continues to do well. She is strong – she copes very well with the assault of the chemotherapy. Amazing, as physically she is quite tiny! She will be treated as an outpatient (still in Bangkok) for the next weeks and just have a few treatments in the hospital. Thanks to everyone's support she is progressing well. We hope she can go back to Ethiopia in July and then we have to evaluate how to manage the maintenance phase.

Update July 5th 2015

Selam is in the last phase of her treatment in Bangkok and will return home to her family in Mekele on July 18th. We have met the doctors in charge of her care in Mekele and if they have the right drugs they will be able to manage a lot of the 2 year maintenance programme. The big problem is to get the right drugs and ensure that they are of good quality. We are now working out the best

solution for her continued support. While Selam has been in Thailand she has grown 2 cm and gained 5 kg. Sadly last month she finally lost her hair, she is a bit shy about this..

So this is the story so far – good progress, but a lot of decisions to be made.

Appeal

Many thanks indeed to the many people who have donated in our appeal

If everyone who reads this email would give just £ 10 to our appeal, then we will be able to cover her medical costs.

We will post updates on her progress regularly on the Rainbows4children website and on [our facebook page](#)

You can make donations of any size through the [charity's bank account](#) or [Paypal account](#) and mark your donation "Selam"

Alternatively you can visit the [Virgin Money Giving page](#) which makes giving easy and can be anonymous if you prefer.

Please also tell your friends.....



As with all donations to Rainbows4Children, 100% will go directly to the cause and no money will be taken out for administration costs.

Christmas Gifts

Posted on [15th December 2014](#)

What should I give to the person who has everything? Or for whom I have no idea what they would like to receive? As an alternative to giving a gift to a friend or relative, please consider instead a donation in their name to help the children at the Nicolas School in Mekele, Ethiopia.

We will then send an e-mail to your friend or relative containing a gift certificate stating that you have bought a gift on their behalf and including a description of that gift to the school. We will also be happy to add your personal message to the gift certificate.

We have gift certificates for Christmas, birthdays and anniversaries.

In order to buy the gift certificate please download this form: [click here](#) and after completing it, e-mail it to us at info@rainbows4children.org

Choose the amount you wish to spend. To see the possible gifts and prices please click on [this link](#) Please donate the [amount online](#) all the details are on this link for your currency. Please select at your convenience.

We will then e-mail the recipient a Gift Certificate, with details of where the money is being spent. If you would like to purchase a larger gift, you can also send us an e-mail and we can give you some more ideas.

To see a sample certificate please click on [Christmas presents R4C sample](#)
For more information feel free to email us.



Grade 11 and 12 Classroom block complete

Posted on [28th September 2014](#)



On Monday 22nd September the new school year started, and our grade 11 students could all move to their new classroom block which was completed on time for the start of the new year. Congratulations to all our staff and students, as all our grade 10 students passed the national exam to grade 11 and can continue with their ambitions for a successful future.



New classroom block, grades 11 and 12

Nicolas School 100% passed National exams!

Posted on [16th August 2014](#)

All 90 students have passed the national exams at grade 10 and graduate to grade 11 in September. Also all our grade 8 students have passed their national exams and so can go to the Nicolas High School (grade 9) in September.

Students have to pass the national exams to move on to the next stage in their school career. These exams take place at the end of grade 8, grade 10 and grade 12.

18 of the Grade 10 students scored a GPA of 4 (the maximum). Excellent work!

Our pursuit of academic excellence to give the children the best opportunity in life and thus break the cycle of poverty is progressing very well indeed!

Congratulations to all our students and the teachers and management team who have guided them to this brilliant result.

ALSO, earlier, in July,

The Nicolas Robinson School was rated 4 star (out of 4) by the local Education authority. Congratulations to all our staff for a great achievement.

The evaluation is based on facilities and academic standards.



Nicolas Robinson Primary School

Kilimanjaro Climb – Success

Posted on [22nd June 2014](#)



Derek conquers Africa!

Many congratulations to Derek Bird, voluntary worker and trustee in the UK for Rainbows4children, who successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in the last few days! His trip was totally self-financed and funds raised will be shared equally between the two charities, one of which is Rainbows4Children. [Read more here](#)

Appeal for tablets and e-readers

Posted on [28th December 2013](#)



For a birthday or even at Christmas did you receive a new tablet computer or e-book? At the Nicolas Robinson School we are trying to help the students and teachers by providing textbooks on tablets or e-books. Also we can show small films downloaded from the internet or recorded for us by schools and teachers, to show the school staff how to prepare different experiments, All we need are the e-books or tablets. So if you were lucky enough to receive one for Christmas and would consider donating your old one, then please contact us at info@rainbows4children.org and we can arrange to collect and take to the school.

Another great result in the National Exams!

Posted on [28th August 2013](#)



For the second consecutive year, ALL our grade 8 students passed the national exams and they will all start grade 9 in September. Not only that, one of our students scored 100% in the exams and 7 of

them scored 99%. A brilliant result for our students, our teaching staff and the management team of the Nicolas Robinson School! Thank you to all our supporters who have made this possible and given these young people a chance of a great future!

Primary School landscaping is complete

Posted on [5th June 2013](#)

Our contractor has been working hard to complete the landscaping of the primary school. Now we can say that the building work for the primary school is complete. The beautiful cobblestones that you can see in the picture are a very practical solution as well as enhancing the overall appearance of the site. Tarmac/asphalt tends to melt in the hot sun, and concrete cracks over time, especially if there is any earth movement caused by the seasonal heavy rains. The cobblestones allow surface water to drain away and the movement between them prevents cracks.

Here are a few photographs:



the new sports court



Posted in [Blog](#)

Sponsored Walk 17 May 2014 – results

Posted on [22nd January 2013](#)



The latest update on the sponsored walk in 2014 is that we have raised nearly SFr 60,000. Most of the money has been counted, either now paid in or promised Many thanks to all of you who have contributed through

Science Laboratories

Posted on [5th November 2012](#)



In April many visitors helped us start using the labs by training the teachers. Equipment was purchased from Addis Ababa and delivered before the visitors arrived. We also had help from a qualified lab technician from Addis Ababa. It is good to know we have support so near at hand.

Safety training was also essential



Then we could start teaching the students:



Can you help equip the lab?
The history:

Our lab furniture was installed in Mekelle in January.

It travelled by sea from Switzerland



and arrived late at night on 11th January and was unloaded immediately.



Over the next few days everyone worked very hard to install the furniture into the labs.



Assembling the furniture



Assembling the utilities posts



Connecting electricity



The finished chemistry laboratory

Our first e reader!

Posted on 11th October 2012



In the summer we were sent our first e book. This was kindly provided by the UK charity Yellobric Ltd. If this proves to be a success then we hope to receive more. Already some of the grade 9 students have started to use it and appreciate it.

All students pass national exams

Posted on 12th September 2012

Congratulations to all the 37 students at the school who have just taken their grade 8, national exams. They all passed with high scores. 70% of the students scored 86% or greater. The national

target is that 15% should achieve this high standard. We are delighted that the hard work of all the school staff is producing the excellent results we have been seeking. The students at the Nicolas Robinson School have the best possible chance of progressing to further education and helping their families in the future.

Our 37 students will now move to the High School later in September and they will be joined by 53 students recruited from outside the school.

Thank you to Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff

Posted on 19th June 2012

Girls' Day School Trust to Howell's School Cycle Ride in aid of Rainbows4children At lunchtime on Friday 1st June, Mr Tom Biebrach and Mr Steve Elmes received an enthusiastic welcome as they returned to Howell's School, Llandaff, Cardiff, having cycled 157 miles from the Girls' Day School Trust Headquarters in London. The pair enjoyed a brief visit to the Trust Office in Rochester Row, from which they were given a rousing send-off just after noon the previous day. Having braved the traffic of central London, the route westward along t



Slightly damp, passing through Hungerford, Thursday evening

he A4 became gradually more tranquil, and after 75 miles they made an overnight stop in the charming town of Marlborough.

Following an early departure, the pair enjoyed a very pleasant ride through the Cotswolds. They crossed the Severn Bridge at noon, and arrived at Howell's just after 2pm.



Welcomed back, Friday lunchtime

The amount so far raised from the ride is in the region of £750. This will buy desks and chairs for 20 children when they join the Nicolas Robinson Secondary School in September.



A brief moment of celebration

High School Building work is going well

Posted on [10th June 2012](#)



The building work at the High School started in March and is now well underway. You can see pictures in the photo gallery. The first classroom block is being built (8 classrooms). The laboratory block will have 4 labs: Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Information Technology. [Posted in Blog](#)

Water bottles to school

Posted on [30th March 2012](#)

Sometimes very simple things are important to our children. Every day we come to school we bring in our empty water bottles with us. We are staying in a simple hotel. We do not drink the tap water nor use it to brush our teeth and so every day we have 1 or 2 empty water bottles. Many of the children at the school do not have easy access to the town water, but have to get their water from wells. This water is not always of good quality. We distribute our empty water bottles so that the children can fill the bottle up with the local town water and carry it home to use in the evenings and to drink. This way we can help to reduce the incidence of upset stomachs and increase the number of happy smiling faces at the school each morning. [Posted in Blog](#)

Plans for the High School develop

Posted on [26th February 2012](#)

We are excited to see the plans for the High School nearing completion. We await approval from the local municipal planning offices and then we can start building! We expect to bring new photos during our next visit. Watch this space and our facebook page!

Sponsored Walk – 1 June 2013

Posted on [11th February 2012](#)



Please reserve Saturday 1st June for our next sponsored walk in Switzerland. More information on this event will be posted here soon. Meanwhile if you would like to join us for the day and register your interest, please send an email to info@rainbows4children.org. We will put you on our mailing list and send you more information when it is available.

New nutrition programme for all children

Posted on [13th November 2011](#)



We are delighted with the success of the new nutrition programme at the school. It started in 2011 and we will continue it in 2012 for more than 1000 children. During the week the children get extra nutrition in the form of milk (cooked to sterilise it), boiled egg, banana and orange, orange drink or other local source of Vitamin C. The programme is a great success. Already we are noticing that many children are more attentive in class, and have brighter eyes and better skin condition. If there are any eggs or milk left over at the end of the day, it is never wasted. It is either given to some of the weaker students or to the teachers, who also often have poor diets and/or are hungry. This programme is being helped by a small Foundation in the US, although we are also hit by increasing food prices and so the project is costing more than we anticipated even 3 months ago! However the results are very worthwhile. the children still bring their own food for lunch, this programme is aimed to be a supplement and not a replacement. Another benefit is that we have recruited a mother of two children at the school to prepare the food, thereby creating a new job and helping another family.

The nutrition programme continues this year for more than 1000 children. If you would like to help support this, please let us know, or if you know of an organisation who would like to help this project to improve child health and ability to learn, we would be glad to hear from you.

If the 1st of the month is happy the whole month will be happy

Posted on [12th November 2011](#)

Yesterday was the 1st of the month in the Ethiopian calendar. Every school day the kindergarten teachers have a coffee ceremony and anyone who wants to come along is invited. Usually there is a gathering of 12-15 teachers, cleaners and other staff. On the first of the month popcorn was served (usually reserved for honoured guests) and boiled corn as well. Delicious. Everyone was smiling and happy and then they explained. Coffee served on the 1st of the month is very important, if the mood is happy the whole month will be happy. A wonderful philosophy! Posted in [Blog](#)

The library is complete and in use

Posted on [16th October 2011](#)



In March we moved the books and shelves into the new library and it is now actively in use.

Posted in [Blog](#)

Building progress at the Nicolas Robinson School

Posted on [16th October 2011](#) by [MaxKathryn](#)

The last 4 weeks have been very busy in Mekele. Work has started on the building of the Primary School library, the music room and the eating room for the water tank. In the next 2 weeks a bridge

will be built across to the Secondary School land and we will build a water tank on the Primary School site to collect rain water during the heavy summer rains.

We hope all this building work will be complete by Christmas and then we can concentrate on building the Secondary School, ready for our Grade 8 students to start studying in Grade 9, in September 2012.

Posted in [Blog](#)

Mekele in September

Posted on [1st September 2011](#) by [kroozing](#)

- really looking forward to my next trip to Mekele in September. Lots to do – especially following up on all the new building work we have commissioned and getting approval for the master plan of the secondary school. Watch this space!

Posted in [Blog](#)

Music room building progresses in February!

Posted on [29th August 2011](#)



After many generous donations and a lot of support from the Dearne Big Band and our friends in Switzerland and beyond we have raised enough money to build a music room in memory of Holin Hammerton. There will be a room for music lessons as well as 2 private tuition rooms for young students. We have also been donated 5 clarinets, recorders can be supplied locally and we have been offered a piano, which needs some tuning but otherwise is in beautiful condition. The local music tradition is also strong, so we look forward to many happy musical events in the future

Library building about to start!

Posted on [18th August 2011](#)

We are just waiting for the bid analysis and then we will start building the primary school library. This will accommodate many of the 22,000 books we shipped from a US charity last year. There will also be a fun reading room for our younger students and an IT facility for the older students.....

Posted in [Blog](#)

The Secondary School

Posted on [2nd August 2011](#)



The Secondary school will cover grades 9-12 (the same ages as in the US system). The Ethiopian education system demands that national exams are taken at the end of grade 8 to pass to secondary school. Then at the end of grade 10 there are more national exams which determine if the student can take the last 2 years of school. At this stage the student must decide between social science (history/geography/language emphasis) or natural science (biology, chemistry and physics). The country is in desperate need of more scientists and so there is now an emphasis on natural science and the availability of University places is 75% natural science: 25% social science to encourage the study of natural science. At the Nicolas Robinson School our focus will reflect the national need for students at all times. We are especially keen that our science facilities will be equipped to the highest standards.

Musical instruments for the school



Music is a great way for children to learn to express themselves. Children at the Nicolas School will benefit from the influence of Ethiopian and western cultures and will get the chance to learn to play traditional instruments as well as more recent ones. Already we have been donated a clarinet, and we have bought recorders for the school. Once the music room is built we hope to be able to introduce the children to many other instruments. If you have any portable instruments that you would like to donate to the Nicolas school we will be delighted to take them to Ethiopia. Just let us know! info@rainbows4children.org

Sponsored Walk 2011 – the best ever?

Posted on [1st September 2008](#)



Was 2011 the best result ever for a sponsored walk? Can we do EVEN better in 2012? 2011 was certainly a great success. Sfr 65,000 was raised in one evening. More dollars than our previous best year in 2008. The evening BBQ and party attracted more than 180 people who enjoyed live music, great food and a party atmosphere for children and adults alike. Our next event is on Saturday May 12th 2012. Please tell your friends and help us to make the event even more successful in 2012 and help the children in the Nicolas School. Our next target is to complete the building of the secondary school as soon as possible so that our children can be educated right through to 12th grade at the Nicolas School.