



# The Kaghan Flame

A Quarterly Newsletter of The Kaghan Memorial Trust

Winter 2008

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## Highlights

On the completion of the Foundation Semester of the Kaghan Memorial School, we have asked the teachers to tell us about their experiences. (turn to centrefold for details)

## Construction begins on KMS Administration and Library Block



Building work on the Administration and Library Block on the main campus of the Kaghan Memorial School (KMS) has been started, with construction due to be completed by spring 2010.

This two storey split-level building at the heart of the campus will accommodate administrative offices on its ground floor and the School's main library on its first floor. This library will be a unique resource in the 155 kilometre long Kaghan Valley, providing KMS students access to information and reference materials to supplement their class work and more importantly, encouraging them to develop a love for reading. This being the only library in the entire valley, KMT plans to provide

access to it to other local schools as well, so that as many children as possible can develop an interest in the search for knowledge.

The start of construction on this major building demonstrates the commitment of KMT to meeting the targets and deadlines set out in our project description. Alongside the Administration Block, work continues apace on the first classroom block of the Junior School and the teacher's residences. These structures that were started in late 2007 are scheduled to be completed and furnished by March/April 2009.

KMT is constructing all buildings on campus according to

earthquake resistant guidelines.

While construction continues, KMT is also making arrangements for equipping and furnishing these facilities once ready. In the case of the library, KMT is accumulating books from various sources so that the library can be stocked and ready to use as soon as the structure is built. (For a related story on the donation of books by the Asia Foundation see page 3).

KMT is building the Administration Block and other structures on campus using funds generated through its various fundraising programmes. The pace of work always depends on the availability of funds at any given time, and the Trust is continually trying to identify and secure new sources of funding to ensure that construction continues as scheduled.

Donors who are looking for a good cause are requested to consider supporting KMT by sponsoring some of our ongoing construction activities. All donations, irrespective of their value, help and are sincerely appreciated.



## The Managing Trustee's Column



KMT has successfully completed the Foundation Term at its Kaghan Memorial School. This term, running from September 15 to December 5 2008, served as a trial period to allow KMT management to iron out operational issues prior to the start of the first full school year commencing on March 9 2009. It also allowed the first group of 62 children enrolled in the two foundation classes, Kindergarten and Grade 1, time to adjust to the new school environment. By and large, the term went better than the expectations of KMT management, with no major problems surfacing and everything running pretty much as smoothly as we could have hoped for. The classroom experience gained by the teaching team during these months has allowed them to tailor the curriculum and the teaching model so that they conform specifically with the learning potential of these children. This will allow the School to deliver effective education to its students in the coming academic year. The children themselves have also settled in well and genuinely seem to be enjoying themselves while on campus. Their parents, in a post-term meeting with the teachers and the Trustees, had several stories to tell of how their children were always impatient in the mornings to be taken to school. These types of stories are always nice to hear, and they serve to remind us, the Trustees, that this is indeed a very special project and that we need to redouble our efforts to ensure that what we have started and achieved is further strengthened and improved over time so that these children can have the bright futures that we want to help them attain.



**Lauren Mueenuddin**  
KMT Trustee  
Jan. 2006 to Jan. 2009

In conclusion, I would like to inform everyone that our Trustee, Lauren Mueenuddin, will be completing her three year term on our board on January 22, 2009. Lauren has been involved with the Trust from the outset, and she generously donated considerable time and effort to help establish KMT in its early years. She has recently moved back to the US with her family to take up a new assignment with the World Bank, and she will therefore not be able to dedicate the time required of a Trustee for a second term. Lauren will, however, remain an active friend of the Trust, and she will remain involved in our activities as and when she can. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the staff and the volunteers and friends of KMT, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Lauren for everything that she has done for the Trust and the School, and to extend our best wishes to her for the future.

*Khurram Khan*

*January 16, 2009*

### New Contributors October to December 2008

#### Donors

- Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, England
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- The Asia Foundation

#### Child Sponsors

- |                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| • Mr. Irfan Zafar                 | 1 child |
| • Mr. Skip Kuzel & Ms. Mary Horan | 1 child |
| • Thread City Cyclers             | 1 child |
| • Scott & Scott LLP               | 1 child |
| • Alvire High School              | 1 child |
| • Breathe... More LLC             | 1 child |
| • Ms. Seemin Shafi                | 1 child |

### 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



## UK school students collect funds for KMT



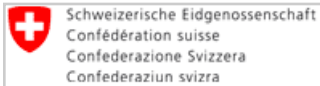
Over £2,000 has been donated to The Kaghan Memorial Trust by the students of Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School in Elstree, Hertfordshire, England, a private school for boys aged 5 to 11 years providing leading education since 1690.

After learning of KMT and the Kaghan Memorial School through their alumnus, Jeremy "Jez" Cox, an Elite Duathlete and Friend of KMT, pupils of Haberdashers' Aske's mobilised to organise various fundraising activities to help their counterparts in the Kaghan Valley. These included sponsored swimathons, and mammoth cake and doughnut sales, with the combined total of proceeds adding up to a

generous £2,152.

This event is the latest in a series of activities initiated on behalf of KMT by cyclists who competed in our past fundraising cycle races. Jez Cox, was a participant of the Tour of the Karakurrams 2006 Mountainbike race. KMT is grateful to both Jez and to the students of Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School for their efforts to help our School.

## Winter warmers donated to the School by SDC



KMT would like to thank the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for their donation of equipment to the Kaghan Memorial School.

SDC is the international cooperation agency of Switzerland within the Swiss Foreign Minis-

try. While poverty alleviation remains their focus in the long term, they also provided substantial assistance during and after the earthquake of 2005, rebuilding homes, infrastructure and schools as well as providing basic relief.

The goods received from their earthquake rehabilitation office in Mansehra included kerosene heaters, thermals for

children and winter kits including coats, shawls and socks: All of which are useful in the harsh winters of the Himalayan Kaghan Valley when temperatures fall well below zero with heavy snowfall. These conditions are exacerbated by the poverty of many of the students studying at KMS; some of them do not even own a winter coat to stave off the severe cold.

## The Asia Foundation donates books to KMS



**The Asia Foundation**

The book collection of the Kaghan Memorial School has been substantially enlarged by the donation of books as part of the Asia Foundation's Books for Asia programme.

This programme, established in 1954, was motivated by the high levels of illiteracy within Asia. The founders believe that reading opens up a world of knowledge, learning and imagination. Through the donation of books, the Asia Foun-

dation hopes to bring long lasting positive change by improving education and creativity. This also gives students the opportunity to learn English, enabling them to compete in the global market.



So far, the programme has distributed over 50,000 books within Pakistan. These are brand new volumes ranging from primary school level to

university text books. They are donated by publishers and institutions across the US and then shipped by The Asia Foundation for donation to schools and other institutions within Asia.

Having been selected as a beneficiary of the Books for Asia programme, KMT is now eligible to receive 100 books every 3 months. With support from organisations like the Asia Foundation, the Kaghan Memorial School aims to develop a comprehensive collection of books for its library over the coming years.



### Clarification

Our Autumn 2008 newsletter included a story on a donation to KMT from the Wilde Ganzen Foundation. It has since been brought to our notice that the funds we are actually donated by the Interchurch Foundation of Laren, The Netherlands, and sent to us through Wilde Ganzen. We are therefore taking this opportunity to sincerely thank the Interchurch Foundation for their generous contribution. We also remain grateful to Wilde Ganzen for arranging the funding for us.





Grade 1 practising their letters



Kindergarten's art project



Kindergarten Learning new English vocabulary

### Dear Friends and Supporters of KMT,

It has been an absolute pleasure teaching the first classes at the Kaghan Memorial School (KMS). We remember the first day of school like it was yesterday – there were several students who were in tears, scared witless, not willing to utter a single word. If you were to look at them today, you would not believe how far they've all come; with many exceeding even our wildest expectations. These little ones who have never been exposed to a word of English can now sing full-length songs without any assistance, with "If you're happy and you know it" amongst their favourites. Seeing their achievements brings a huge smile to our faces.

Not only are the students learning, they are also enjoying class. At the end of term parent-teacher meeting, one father commented that KMS students look forward to going to school and are even willing to miss breakfast in order to be on time. Another parent described how his daughter on returning home was teaching her siblings English.

March 2009 will see the start of Spring in the Kaghan Valley when the school will reopen its doors with an additional two classes of students. We are proud to have been involved in the foundation semester of the School and are excited about the coming year. We would like to thank all of you who are reading this newsletter for your support of this School. As teachers, we would like to assure you that the children are full of promise for the future. They are bright, curious and creative. With the funds available to this School through the great work of The Kaghan Memorial Trust these children will have access to an education of a quality beyond their imagination.

Sincerely,

*Shireen Lakhani* (Kindergarten teacher)

&

*Ruth Suffield* (Grade 1 teacher)

Kaghan Memorial School



Grade 1's art project

## Typical School Day

9:00 – 9:15	Full school assembly
9:15 – 9:30	Morning meeting
9:30 – 10:00	English vocabulary and writing
10:00 – 11:00	Activity tables
11:00 – 11:30	Break and free play
11:30 – 12:00	Maths
12:00 – 12:45	Urdu or Islamiyat (religious studies)
12:45 – 13:15	Games or Music
13:15 – 13:30	Story time
13:30 – 13:40	Clearing up and home time



Our cabin in the snowfall, Shogran



Our visit to Lake Saif-ul-Maluk

## Life at the Kaghan Memorial School

I have to admit, initially I was a bit concerned about living in the mountains, especially given that our hotel is at a higher, and thus colder, elevation than the School. But once I met the staff and saw the actual cabin we were going to live in my concerns faded. The first sight of Shogran should have been enough to assuage my worries, as in the summer it's absolutely the greenest of places, with dozens of different varieties of colourful flowers. It's very beautiful. On the warmer days, you can hear the children of other guests playing outside in the wide-open lawn. By November, the area had become a winter-wonderland with thick snowfall. I feel extremely at home there. The fact that I speak the language also was a big help, but for some encouragement for those who may be interested in working here – Ruth, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher from Canada, has learnt a lot of Urdu in such a short time by just being around Urdu speakers.

On the weekends, we were free to take two-day trips to other parts of the mountains. It was breathtaking to visit Naran and see Lake Saif-ul-Maluk. On days when we didn't feel like taking a jeep ride to surrounding areas, the local staff were always ready to take us on walks through the mountains or lend us their badminton rackets. My favourite part about living in Shogran has become the night sky; it's just unbelievable the amount of stars that are shining. This is a great place to get away from the busy pace of modern day life, do something great for the world, and engage in some soul searching along the way.

*Shireen Lakhani*

Kaghan Memorial School

## Upcoming Events at the Kaghan Memorial School

**End of February, 2009**

New teachers due to arrive in Pakistan

**March 9, 2009**

School Year Commences  
Kawai, Kaghan Valley

**April 18 to 19, 2009**

Annual Medical Camp  
For students and staff of KMS  
Kawai, Kaghan Valley

## New Staff Profiles

### The Kaghan Memorial Trust Office, Islamabad

*Mariam Riaz — Programme Officer*

Mariam Riaz was born and raised in Abu Dhabi moving back and forth from Pakistan throughout her teenage years before finally settling here in 2001. Now a resident of Rawalpindi, Mariam joined the office team in November in her new role as Programme Officer in charge of marketing and fundraising events management for KMT.

Academically, Mariam has a Bachelor in Computer Arts with Graphic Design from the Fatima Jinnah Women's University in Rawalpindi. She also has several years of experience working as a marketing executive giving her the opportunity to design websites, create logos and develop entire promotional campaigns. Prior to being employed by KMT, she volunteered for the Trust designing promotional material for both the Tour of Islamabad and the Tour of The Himalayas, two of our fundraising cycle events.

A truly committed person, Mariam keenly expresses her interest in humanitarian causes. She wishes to use her background in graphic design and advertising to create awareness for the worthwhile cause that is the Kaghan Memorial School. She hopes that by giving these children a quality education they too will develop her love of reading and learning about other cultures. It is her faith in KMT that has led her to describe her position as Programme Officer as one of true fulfilment. In her words, "when things are not going to plan, I just think about the children who are benefiting from the School and I find my focus".

## Other School-related News

### **KMS establishes link with school in the UK**

The Kaghan Memorial School is pleased to announce that we have established a link with Millbrook Combined School, a state primary school in High Wycombe, UK.

The students of both schools will work on joint projects that give them real-life experiences of other cultures and countries. Correspondence between the classrooms will allow KMS students to practice their English skills and to make global friendships, and this will lay the groundwork for future exchange opportunities. It will also allow both teaching teams to share their ideas and resources, ultimately leading to enhanced

learning opportunities for both sets of students. This alliance will benefit both schools by introducing an international dimension into their classroom.

Millbrook Combined School has also agreed to arrange periodic fundraising activities for KMS at its school and within its local community.

### **First Annual KMS Medical Camp**

Specialist doctors are donating their time for the first annual KMS medical camp to be organised on April 18/19, 2008. The team includes a paediatrician, a dermatologist, a dentist and an ENT specialist. These medical professionals will examine and provide treatment where

required to the students, in addition to administering vaccinations as recommended under Government/WHO guidelines.

This activity will also allow the School to prepare medical files on all its students that will be updated annually in subsequent camps. This will help ensure that the health and hygiene requirements of the children are taken care of along with their schooling.

This camp is part of the health programme planned for the School. KMT will also be establishing a medical room at KMS by the 2010 academic year. Staffed by paramedics, this facility will provide day-to-day healthcare and first aid services to the KMS community.



## Fundraising Events for Spring 2009

### Chukkars for Charity March 21, 2009 Lahore Polo Club

For polo enthusiasts March 21, 2009 is the day to come and watch the second 'Chukkars for Charity', annual polo match in aid of KMT. This year's event promises to be as exciting and competitive as the one staged almost exactly

a year ago, which ended in a high scoring and hard fought draw between both teams.

Once again the Lahore Polo Club, one of the oldest centres of polo in the world, has agreed to arrange and host this match to help the Trust. Some of Pakistan's top players will be donating their time to play for the School. KMT is

grateful to both the club and the players for their support

All funds raised by KMT from this match through sponsorships will be used for the ongoing construction work at the Kaghan Memorial School.



#### Fact

The main ground at the Lahore Polo Club is called the "Aibak Ground" in remembrance of the 13th century King of Delhi, Sultan Qutabuddin Aibak who died in 1210 when his horse fell while playing polo in Lahore. He is buried within the present Anarkali bazaar.

### Spring Ball March 21, 2009 Lahore

Following a fun-packed afternoon of polo, Lahore will host a second KMT fundraiser that same evening; our Spring Ball. Over five hundred guests are expected for this fun filled evening of entertainment for an excellent cause.

The evening will include all the ingredients of a good night out: a beautiful setting, a select crowd of Lahore's fin-

est, a live performance, a top DJ and a formal dinner. In



true KMT fashion, to provide the best that we can for our donors and sponsors, a live British band is being flown in to perform at the occasion.

Dirty Rosco from East London are well known in top clubs of the city for their performances, tailoring popular songs of the past three decades with their own distinctive edge. This band knows how to get people off their seats! All said, everything is in place for a thoroughly enjoyable event.

And lest we forget the most important aspect of the Spring Ball - the reason for doing it - all proceeds over and above the event costs will go exclusively into building works at the Kaghan Memorial School.

## Dutch Speedskaters Promote KMT

Thanks to KMT Trustee and Champion Speedskater Daniëlle Bekkering, her youth team is now sporting the KMT logo and website address on its racing kits. The photos to the right and on the back page show Daniëlle's team-mate, Sigrid, prominently promoting KMT while competing in the prestigious Essent Cup in Holland in the winter 2008-2009 competition season.



### Upcoming Fundraising Events

- March 21, 2009  
Chukkars for Charity  
Polo Match  
Polo Club, Lahore
- March 21, 2009  
Spring Ball  
Lahore
- September 25 to 27, 2009  
Tour of The Himalayas  
Mountainbike Race  
and Tour  
North Pakistan



## Contact Us

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## KMT Board Of Trustees

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**Michelle Bergstrand**  
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## 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 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.



## Friends of KMT

### Pakistan

Munawar B. Ahmad  
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