

Kashmir Education Foundation

NEWSLETTER

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July 2002 - December 2002

KASHMIR EDUCATION FOUNDATION (P a k i s t a n)

Approval of New ITE/Hostel Project: Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education has approved Government grant of Rs. 10.376 million for the construction of new Institute of Teacher Education (ITE) with a hostel for 50 students at Phakowal (Rawalpindi). The grant is expected to be received shortly.

Progress on New Project: Following developmental activities have been completed to enable start of construction of the school and ITE buildings:

- Construction of four staff quarters.
- Construction of 685 feet boundary wall.
- Construction of 460 feet long and 6 feet high stone retaining wall and levelling of sports grounds.
- Provision of electricity along with 25 KVA transformer.
- Sinking of 200 feet deep tube well with output of over 800 gallons of water per hour.
- Installation of telephone is in progress.

Meetings: Chairman KEF had meetings with:

Minister of Education, Science & Technology, Dr Atta-ur-Rehman to expedite the process of setting up GCSE/A level Examination Board at the Agha Khan University. Government instructions, in this regard, have since been issued and we hope that necessary formalities will be completed soon.

Mr Ghalib Nishtar, President Khushali Bank to discuss financial support by the Bank for ITE trainees' expenses on easy terms. Negotiations are in progress. It is hoped that the Bank will extend full cooperation in this regard.

Audit of KEF / PVPS: Audit team from Messrs Ford, Rhodes, Robson, Morrow, Chartered Accountants completed audit of the KEF Head Office, ITE and Pearl Valley Public School accounts for the year 2001-02.

APID Test: APID test was conducted at Rawalakot by an eight member team of Psychologists from the National Institute of Psychology, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad to select prep class for the year 2003. A total of 100 children were tested. 13 girls and 12 boys were finally selected on merit with 3 girls and 3 boys kept in reserve.

Lateral Entry to PVPS: Applications were invited to fill 22 student vacancies in PVPS in different classes. 38 eligible students appeared in written examination and IQ tests. 10 students qualified and have been offered admission to the school for the next academic year.

Ninth Meeting of the Board of Trustees: Ninth half yearly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 14 December 2002. Important policy matters were discussed and decisions arrived at. Representative of our auditors was invited to brief the board on new methods of keeping accounts. Chairman briefed the trustees of developments in KEF during the last five months.

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Karachi Function: A Piano Recital Concert sponsored by Mr Noel Misquita, a friend of KEF, was held at Pak American Cultural Centre, Karachi on 21 and 22 December 2002. The function was attended by many distinguished guests who were introduced to the objectives and projects of KEF.

Visits: The following visitors were received by KEF during the period:

- Mr Muhammad Akram Khan Cheema, Trustee/Secretary KEF UK.
- Mrs Seema Naqvi, Programme Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan.
- Mr Aslam Hayat, Shell Pakistan.
- Mr Ian Dawes, Programme Director, Australian Volunteers International.
- Mr David Eminson, Programme Director, VSO Pakistan (now in UK).

KASHMIR EDUCATION FOUNDATION (UK)

Fund Raising Dinners: During June & July KEF-UK organised dinners in various cities. The main purpose of these events was to raise funds for the Soan Valley Project and to continue raising awareness about KEF in the United Kingdom. Pakistan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, HE Abdul Kader Jaffer was our principal guest at the Twickenham dinner in London. In his address he stressed the imperative need to provide quality education in Pakistan. He praised the Kashmir Education Foundation's work towards this end. The High Commissioner strongly urged the Pakistani community to support KEF's work. KEF's Chairman Maj. Gen. (Retd.) M Rahim Khan presented His Excellency with a KEF shield and thanked him warmly for his support.



HE Mr. Abdul Kader Jaffer speaking at
KEF- London Dinner at Twickenham



HE Abdul Kader Jaffer, Mr. Mussadhik
Hussain and Maj. Gen. (Retd.) M Rahim
Khan at Twickenham Dinner

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A guest viewing PVPS children art work at display at Twickenham



Guests at Twickenham dinner



Organisers of Twickenham dinner with KEF Chairman

KEF-UK had a most rewarding response at all of its dinners and would like to thank the Pakistani community throughout UK.

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Nomination of new trustee: Dr. Alison Scott Baumann has accepted an invitation from KEF's Chairman and Board of Trustees to join our UK Board. Dr. Scott Baumann works for the School of Education at the University of Gloucester. She has vast experience in academia and has for a number of years been working for KEF behind the scenes. Currently, she is devising a computer based postgraduate teacher training programme for KEF, in association with Mr. M Akram Khan Cheema and the University of Gloucestershire. Dr. Scott Baumann has visited the KEF pilot project in Pakistan.

KEF Media Man delivers: Mr. Ishtiaq Mir raised £20,000 for KEF during Ramadan. This was only made possible by the assistance of Mr. Nasir Smiler and Radio Ramadan. Our special thanks to Mr. Smiler, Radio Ramadan - and most importantly to the Pakistani/Kashmiri communities of Huddersfield for their support.

KEF Leeds Ladies Team: Our special thanks to the joint team leaders of KEF Leeds ladies group, Mrs. Rukhsana Khawaja and Ms. Firdaus Khan who raised £3,000 by organising an Iftar Party during Ramadan.

KEF Luton Team: Sincere thanks are due to Haji Munshi Khan Raja, for raising £1600 for KEF during Ramadan.

KEF Manchester Team: Mr. Yasir Mujeed and his team are working very hard to promote KEF in Manchester.

KEF Huddersfield Team: Mr. Mumtaz Ali organised a meeting of like-minded people recently and is busy enrolling volunteers for the KEF team in Huddersfield. We extend to him of our best wishes and continuing support.

AM Productions: TV Our special thanks to Mudassar and Sonia Loan who are producing a documentary on KEF. Also they are currently organising a fund raising dinner.

Hajji Nazir Hussain & Mr. Sabir Mughal: Our sincere thanks to Hajji Nazir Hussain, Mr. Sabir Mughal and the people of Sheffield for their ongoing support.

Ms. Alison Redman: Finally, a big thank you to Ms. Redman, KEF's Admin. Manager at our Bradford office for her hard work, loyalty and dedication.

PEARL VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Academics

■ **Annual Exams:** Annual exams were held from 11 to 18 December 2002, before the school closed for winter vacation. Achievement level of students has shown improvement over the past year's results.

■ **Enrichment Programme:** The enrichment programme and extra tuition for senior classes has continued.

■ **Reading Level:** Greater stress was laid on inculcating reading habit amongst students, thus increasing it considerably.

Extra & Co-Curricular Activities:

■ **Annual Day:** Was held on 6 October 2002. Students displayed their skills of organisation, event management and stage performance, which were greatly appreciated by all guests.

■ **Annual Exhibition:** Three exhibitions on the subjects of ICT, Social Studies and Sciences were organised by the students.

■ **Paper Mache and Eid Card Competition:** Was held before Eid.

Faculty:

Mr Jamil Mughal, English Teacher, rejoined the school.

Mr and Mrs Raees, Science Teachers left PVPS.

First intern teacher Mr Iman completed his 5 months voluntary attachment with the school successfully. He had recently done his A Levels from UK.

Visits: The following visited the School

| Name | Designation |
|-------------------------|---|
| Mrs Farzana Naqvi | Programme Coordinator, AQE |
| Mr Yunis Khan | Consultant Ophthalmologist, UK |
| Mr. M. Sadiq Sheikh | Consultant on Human Resources Development |
| Mr Shahid Ghani | Master Teacher Trainer |
| Khawaja Ghulam Rasool | Secretary, Local Govt, AJ&K Govt |
| Mr Mudassar Lone | Director, AM-Media, UK |
| Mr M. Akram Khan Cheema | Consultant to AMS, UK & Secretary KEF UK |
| Brig. Zafar Wahla | Commander 6 AK Brigade, Bagh |
| Amir Naeem | Project Manager, Muslim Hands International, UK |
| AVM (R) Aftab Raja | Former Principal PAF Public School, Sargodha |
| Mr A. Rahman | Deputy Chief Planning Division, Govt. of Pakistan |
| Mr Talib Hussian Talib | Deputy Chief Education, Planning Division, Govt. of Pakistan |
| Mr M. Taimur Khan | Deputy Director, Ministry of Woman Development, Social Welfare Special Education, Government of Pakistan |

INSTITUTE OF TEACHER EDUCATION

ITE Course 2000: Successful students of ITE Course 2000 received their diplomas on the Annual Day held on 6 October 2002.

ITE Course 2001: This was concluded successfully in December 2002. The course was conducted successfully solely by the PVPS faculty after sudden departure of VSO Volunteers. Highlights of the course are:

- Micro teaching and observation of good teaching practice were carried out in Pearl Valley Public School.
- Teaching practice of 4 weeks during October 2002 was conducted at Army Public School, Fauji Foundation School, Pysgah and local Government schools.
- Lesson planning and management in core subjects and presentation on 'Action Plan' were given special emphasis during the course.
- Workshop: As part of professional development, ITE/PVPS team conducted a workshop at Islamabad on "Assessment System for Schools" under the auspices of the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE).

O B I T U A R Y

Dr M.Z. K. Niazi, Chairman Alliance for Quality Education passed away on 26 November 2002. His untimely demise has left a major void in our efforts to extend quality education to the underprivileged children.