

**Readers Write**  
**Students raising funds for**  
**Lugala school**

To the Editor:

Our school, Ballantrae P.S., is trying to raise \$10,000 to add two classrooms onto a school in Lugala, Tanzania. This is a pretty lofty goal for a small school like ours, so we need the community's help! We are holding a fund-raising drive ending with our Lugala Gala on May 9 at the school where children will perform African music, display art, and hold an African marketplace of crafts they have made with all proceeds going to the \$10,000 goal.

The school in Lugala presently has 500 students in eight classrooms. That's 60 kids in a classroom meant for 40. It takes \$4,000 to build a classroom and \$1,000 to stock it with desks, chairs and supplies. Members of Ballantrae P.S. and St. Philip's Anglican Church will be travelling to Tanzania this summer to help with the construction.

Anyone can help by making a personal donation, which will be eligible for a tax receipt. Donations can be dropped off at the school. For more information call 905-642-2232.

Jennie Creegan • Ballantrae

**IT'S ELEMENTARY - BALLANTRAE PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**LUGALA, TANZANIA PARTNERSHIP**

Our partnership with the Lugala Primary School in Tanzania, Africa has been driven by our focus at Ballantrae P.S. that character does matter.

Our journey began in September with what we called "Camp Ballantrae". Here we divided the school into character teams and the day focused on learning about the different character traits through art activities, presenting our interpretation of the character traits through music and drama, and practising the character traits through cooperative games.

To further our commitment of demonstrating character beyond the school we partnered with St. Philip's church and their commitment to the village of Lugala, Tanzania, Africa. Through this partnership, we established a relationship with the school there. This has been a sharing partnership whereby we have been able to learn from one another through the exchange of letters, schedules, pictures, videos, photos, and answered questions between the two schools. The headmasters in each school have been in communication throughout the year.

Last summer, a team from St. Philip's visited Lugala and from the pictures they took, created a slide show presentation that was shared with the students at Ballantrae. This gave us a first-hand glance into life in Lugala and in particular the life at the Lugala Primary School. After the slide show our students met in their character teams and brainstormed how we could get more involved with our partner school and how we might show our support. From these discussions came the idea for the "Lugala Gala".

The "Lugala Gala" on Wednesday, May 9 at the school will feature African presentations from our primary students and an anti-bullying, character education presentation from our junior and intermediate students. The junior/intermediate presentation is all being choreographed by songwriter Glenn Marais and will include an African theme. Along with the presentations the school will be hosting an African Marketplace featuring items created by the students in each of our classrooms. All the students will be wearing "Friends of Lugala" T-shirts purchased through a school fund-

raising initiative. The excitement surrounding the evening is growing as we near the event.

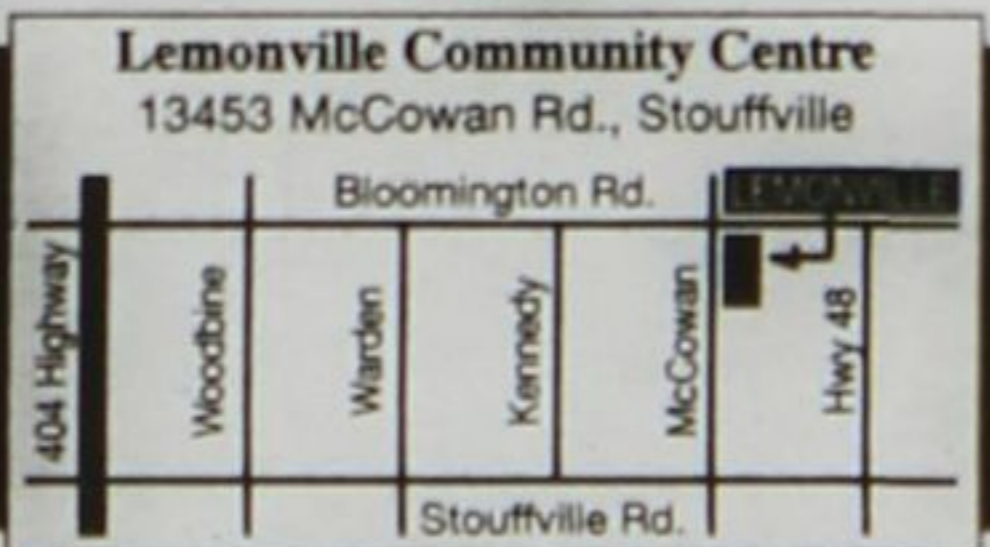
Throughout this project, we have learned a great deal about Africa and in particular, the country of Tanzania. More importantly we have learned what it means to be a caring community, sharing with our global neighbour. It is our goal to raise \$10,000 to build two new classrooms, along with the necessary classroom supplies, so that the Lugala Primary School can reduce their student to teacher ratio from 60-to-one down to 40-to-one. We are all very excited about the project and the feeling throughout the school has become electric. In addition, the support from the community has been overwhelming. We have learned so much about our global neighbour and have grown as global citizens. The York Region District School Board's mission is that we unite in our purpose to inspire and prepare learners for life in our changing world community. At Ballantrae, we are striving to achieve the essence of this mission statement through initiatives such as this partnership with Lugala.

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**Out in Write Field**  
**Stouffville Rocks?**



By Bruce Stapley

Back in the early 1980's, whenever former Whitchurch-Stouffville librarian-in-chief George Schlukbier and I would run into each other on Main St., we'd play a game called "What can't-miss new business could we open up in Stouffville?"

We never did figure it out. Heck, I couldn't even keep the once flourishing pine and oak furniture enterprise I operated back then from eventually going down. But a quarter of a century later that same game has been played, and won, by a growing number of creative entrepreneurs. We now have a diverse array of first class eateries and tea rooms, big city grocery stores, home décor and improvement outlets, well appointed specialty shops, dog care services, exercise, dance and yoga studios.

But with food, fitness and Fido looked after, it's time to take care of fun. The way I see it, the challenge awaiting the next wave of entrepreneurial innovators is to once and for all put an end to that tiresome lament of young people and even some of the not-so-young: "There's nothing to do in Stouffville!"

Driving with the family

to Newmarket during the recent March Break, we spent a delightful and invigorating afternoon hitched up to ropes and pulleys, scaling walls three storeys high using rocks stuck into the walls as climbing points. The place was packed with kids, teens and adults of all ages, enjoying the exhilaration of climbing all the way to the ceiling while exercising their leg and arm muscles. Sure beats sitting at home in front of the computer playing those mindless games! "Why couldn't someone build a rock climbing facility in Stouffville?" we mused on the way back to town.

The experience brought to mind the many birthday parties enjoyed by our kids and their friends and cousins at Laser Quest in Richmond Hill, where players get to run through dimly lit tunnels and passages looking for opponents to zap with their flashing laser guns. Point totals are produced by computer at game's end so the players know exactly how they did.

Timber Creek has got a great miniature golf facility, but someone might want to think about setting up an indoor, glow in the dark version of same for year round enjoyment. Another popular attraction we've seen and enjoyed is indoor beach volleyball.

As for the more passive forms of entertainment, what are the chances of someone installing a movie theatre somewhere near the site of the new big box complex just down Hwy. 48?

We keep hearing about all that investment capital sitting idly on the sidelines these days. So if you're one of those savvy investors still trying to figure out where to pour all that money you made in oil and gas the past few years, I suggest you look into one of these can't-miss entrepreneurial opportunities here in town.

Then maybe in another 25 years you'll be the one looking back at how you came up with the perfect new business venture for Stouffville - or went broke trying!

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