



29TH MAY 2010

The Highlights So Far...

- * 52,360 USD raised !
- * New school building 1st floor close to completion.
- * Old school Refurbishment 80% finished
- * Solar plant acquired
- * Justin starts our first blog—
www.learningplanet.org.uk/blog
- * LP's website grows users and subscribers
- * Dita learns to ride the scooter while Justin graduates to bigger beasts!

OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER!

\$52,360 RAISED AND COMMITTED SO FAR!

Namaste!

Welcome to our first newsletter!

It's time to show you what we've been up to this last few months. Here we outline what's been spent, what's complete, and what's still to do to on our first major project.

Thanks to all of you for your support, and for helping us get Learning Planet off to a flying start.

Dita and Justin



WHAT WE'VE DONE TO DATE...



The first new single story building is up – and the interior walls and floors are now being rendered. The outside will now be landscaped and reinforced pillars and a suspended reinforced roof will be added – while we complete the 6 ground floor primary level classroom rooms ready for the solar installation.



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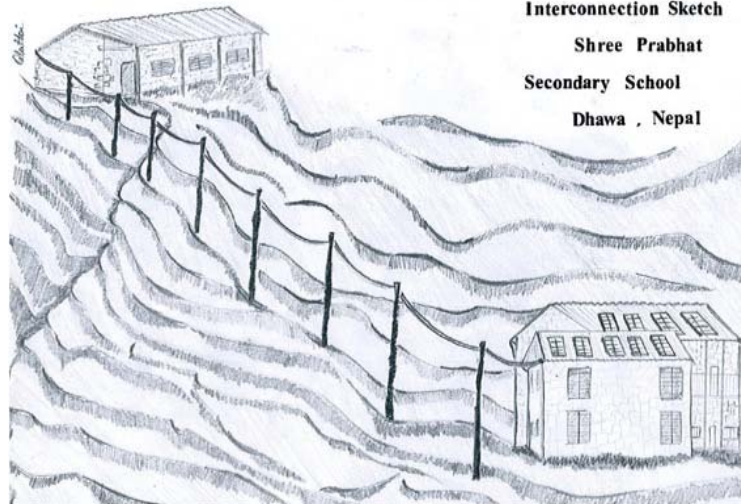
"It's just another three hours up the mountain Mr Justin... and then a short walk to our resting place."

So we're nearly there?

"Not far. About 25km "

Nazarah, Fri 7th May
5pm

The Electric bridge



To join the new solar power supply to both school buildings, 17 long wooden poles have been cut and dried from the forest to create a 250m bridge across a 150m rise in elevation up the mountain.

Poles are being sunk now, with a steel anchor wire pulled very tight to support them. Finally we will attach the electricity cables!

Follow us!

learningplanet.org.uk/blog

If you subscribe you'll get our newsletters and blogs automatically by email.

"It's been raining for 9 days... Without remorse. The road to the village has collapsed. And we're all suffering badly from cabin fever.

Nektarios, our tireless engineer, decides that time is up. He's going to carry our 15 solar panels on his own back..."

REFURBISHING THE OLD SCHOOL into a joint educational/commercial building

The existing school refurbishment is 90% complete. We're creating a new business centre, a library, meeting spaces and classrooms for adult evening classes and commercial powered units for villagers – as well as 8 refurbished classrooms for secondary students.

All rooms inside and out have had the mud plaster removed – with 300 villagers working for a week to remove the lot. The rooms used to look like this...



Suspended concrete floors have been added on the first floor - to replace the old boards that leaked



sound and dust into the rooms below. And all the walls have been rendered ready for painting inside and out.



The stone corridor is underway now – replacing the mud corridor on the ground floor.

Poured concrete has replaced the potholed mud floors downstairs.

And the roof is being strengthened – ready to take 15 large solar panels. So far, so good!

GOING SOLAR

All the Solar equipment to power the school buildings and business centre, light commercial units, and some key spaces in the village centre are now here in Nepal - with components coming from all corners of the globe!

On Wednesday we ride in the truck with the huge solar panels, massive batteries and miles of cable. The temporary mountain road now reaches the village but it's dangerous. If it rains hard, the last few hours will be on foot.



More sponsors are still needed for:

LIBRARY - READING ROOM

We're building a fab library and reading room with specially made brightly coloured shelves for the 1500 books.

We also have magazine racks, half moon tables, chests, toy racks, and big coloured cushions to sit on. It's our favourite room.



The indefatigable Chris Emerson - who has *already* donated 500 of the books from the publishing business he runs (we love you Chris!) - has *also* personally donated half the money for the library itself. Is he a God?

Hail Chris!

REMAINDER NEEDED £300.

THE WOODEN WALKWAY



Repairing the raised wooden walkway around the upper floors and fixing broken doors and windows is taking 80 man days! The four village carpenters are taking extra pride as their children are all at school.

We've split the job into 4 areas:

WE NEED £100 per area

TOTAL NEEDED £400

THE FRONT COURTYARD

The last building job is still unfinanced. We are turning the currently muddy centre of the school into a stone paved courtyard with a retaining wall.

We'll be collecting and laying the stones ourselves (eek) so we only have to pay for sand and cement. And the kids will chisel a personal



WE NEED £75 per section

TOTAL NEEDED £300

message from/to each sponsor into the floor of fame. Allright! We've split the courtyard into quarters for up to 4 sponsors.

Sponsor a chair or a bag of cement!



YOU CAN CALL US!
+977 984 612 7501

...BE A LITTLE PATIENT IF YOU DO...THE NETWORK IN NEPAL IS SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT...!

Small things we still need to fund

CHAIRS

£10 EACH (We need 30 more)

COMPUTER TABLES

£30 EACH (We need 15)

BENCHES

£35 each (We need 40 more of them to reach our total of 150!)



EMULSION PAINT - The children, teachers, Just, Nek and Dita will be painting the whole school together. This will be lots of fun and we can't wait to get dirty.

TOTAL NEEDED £100

GLOSS PAINT - as above - the railings, window frames and doors in sky blue gloss.

TOTAL NEEDED £60

CEMENT - We are now short of 20 sacks of cement.

REMAINDER NEEDED £150

let's grow together



We know that many of you would love to be here with us and we'd love you to come. Visit us if you can! We feel very lucky to be on this big muddy adventure in a world so far away from ours. We are loving (almost) every minute of it (not the big spiders). Your encouragement and support has made it all possible. We feel very lucky to have amazing friends back home spurring us on every step of the way.



If you'd like to sponsor a chair or a bench, or feel you can help us get to the finish in any way or if you just want to know a bit more about the project, please get in touch!

Thanks to all of you again. Hugely...
Lots of love & Namaste!
Dita & Justin x



We are on the Web.
CHECK US OUT!

WWW.LearnIngPLANet.org.UK