



## Scholar Updates - First Term 2010

We are excited to report that all of our scholars have completed their first term of the school year. For the new scholars it was their first term away from home. John Kalule, our local Ugandan administrator, visited the school shortly after the first term commenced to make sure everyone had adjusted well to their new surroundings. All was well with the scholars and they were excited to be at school. Pictures of John's first visit of the year are located on our website at [www.engeyescholars.org](http://www.engeyescholars.org). You simply click the photo image link on the right on the webpage or you can go directly to [www.engeyescholars.jalbum.net](http://www.engeyescholars.jalbum.net) to view the pictures including those from Family Day on Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>. Family Day was an exciting time for all the scholars. The scholar's family members and friends from the village visited the school and shared a meal and saw the scholar's school work. The school hosts one family day each term and we are committed to ensuring that the family members and friends can visit the scholars on this special day. During the March family day, about 40 people from the village traveled to the scholars' school. Among the family day visitors were Monica and Tom the Union College Minerva Fellows who had been living in the village and Monica's mother who was visiting Monica in Ddegeya at that time.

The scholars are now home for a three week school break and they have asked for a tutor to help with them with their studies during this time away from school. Engeye Scholars is hiring a tutor for this purpose. The scholars are motivated to do well and they seek out every opportunity to improve their school work. This is a testament to how appreciative the children are for being sponsored at school.

As you may be aware, I was fortunate enough to travel to Ddegeya in January with the medical team from Albany Medical College. It was so incredible to meet all the scholars and their families and see the medical team at work in the clinic. One of my favorite tasks while in Ddegeya was taking groups of scholars to the town of Masaka, which is about 20 miles from the village, to buy school shoes. I met each of the scholar's families when we arrived to pick up the scholar to go shoe shopping. Each family was so warm, welcoming and grateful. They asked that I thank each of you for the gift of education that you are giving to their children. It was so great to get to know the families of the children. It was also amazing to take the children shopping and to be able to witness the sense of wonder in the eyes of those who were experiencing their first trip out of the village or their first visit to the town of Masaka. The education you are providing opens them up to so many opportunities and experiences. It is certainly one of the most precious and life changing gifts that they can be given.

Of course while I was in Ddegeya I met so many other wonderful children who would also love an opportunity to become an Engeye Scholar. In looking toward the future, we are going to try and streamline some of our administrative efforts to make that possible. To that end, I will be sending a general school term update after the first term of each school year and then a final update at the end of each school year in November. To keep you updated on your scholar I will also be posting pictures on the Engeye Scholars website. I have created several photo albums that will help you get to know your scholar even better. As stated above, you can visit our website at [www.engeyescholars.org](http://www.engeyescholars.org). You simply click the photo image link to the left on the webpage or you can go directly to [www.engeyescholars.jalbum.net](http://www.engeyescholars.jalbum.net) to view the pictures. If you have any questions about your scholar or if you have any comments or suggestions for our program, please do not hesitate to contact me or Theresa.

Thank you (Webale) for the gift of education that you have provided to your scholar.

*Elaine Pers Hickey*