



UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2023



IN THIS ISSUE



**TWO BOYS RECEIVE
ORDINATION AS NOVICE MONKS**

01



**BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL
TOURS PAPER CRAFT AFRICA
TO LEARN ABOUT RECYCLING**

02



**BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL (BPS)
ORGANISE ENVIRONMENT DAY**

04



HOW TO SUPPORT US

07



TWO BOYS RECEIVE ORDINATION AS NOVICE MONKS

On August 6, 2023, Bhante Buddharakkhita ordained two young boys as novice monks. With the ordination of these two novices, the Uganda Buddhist Temple now has a total of 20 novice monks in addition to the four fully ordained monks who provide guidance, wisdom, and support to the novices.

During his speech to the newly ordained novices, Bhante emphasized that novices should strive to practice meditation and good moral conduct to inspire lay followers and supporters.

Furthermore, Bhante stressed the importance of upholding the Five Precepts and Eight Precepts for the lay people.

The novices were reminded that adherence

to these precepts is a fundamental step on their journey towards spiritual growth and enlightenment.

The goingforth of novices is a deeply meaningful tradition in Buddhism. It signifies an individual's commitment to a monastic life which is punctuated by virtues, meditation, spiritual growth and development.

The novices, under the guidance of Bhante are now entrusted with the noble task of carrying forward these Buddhist values for their own benefits and the benefit of all sentient beings.





BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL EDUCATION TOUR TO PAPER CRAFT AFRICA

In an effort to promote environmental awareness and sustainability, Buddhist Peace School students of P.5, 6 and 7 had an educational tour to Paper Craft Africa on August 7, 2023. The tour was led by Julie Wyard, one of our dedicated volunteer teachers and environmental activists from the UK.

Paper Craft Africa is a grassroots community organization empowering socially disadvantaged individuals. Through their innovative approach, they create sustainable and environmentally friendly products using recycled raw materials and natural products.

Students were taught how to make papers and fiber from thrown papers, banana fibers, and pineapple tops. They learned the importance of

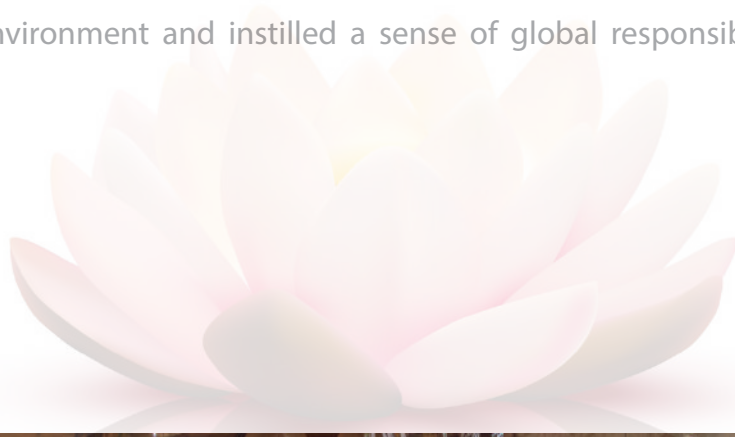
waste segregation and how waste can be recycled for new products.

Furthermore, students were exposed to the process of creating papers from materials such as pineapple heads, banana fiber and discarded Napier grass. The transformation of these seemingly worthless materials into usable paper and other products captivated students' minds illustrating the power of creativity and resourcefulness.



Additionally, students observed the transformation of glass bottles into exquisite bangles and decorative glass items. These glass pieces, once mere waste, were now dazzling works of art, showcasing the potential of upcycling to produce aesthetical products.

The tour exposed students to the entire process, from waste collection to final product production. Through this hands-on experience, they were able to gain a deeper understanding of the pressing issue of waste management as well as see how recycling can be used creatively. Each student returned to school with their own made photo frame from waste materials. The student's experience highlighted the interconnectedness of their actions with the broader environment and instilled a sense of global responsibility and care for our planet.



The Buddhist Peace School students being showed on how to make paper using Napier grass , Banana Fiber and Pineapple tops.



BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL (BPS) ORGANISE ENVIRONMENT DAY



On Saturday 19th August, the Buddhist Peace Schools, supported by the Uganda Buddhist Centre, held an exciting programme of environmental information and activities, attended by parents, representatives from surrounding schools, neighbours and distinguished guests.

The morning started with a mass collection and sweeping of litter in the surrounding villages and trading centres. More than eight large sacks and three big bins full of litter were picked up by the children, teachers and staff of UBC/BPS. Everyone pulled together and work continued for two hours, until a rain shower sent participants scurrying for shelter.

A varied afternoon programme was run by the students of BPS, who spoke clearly and authorita-

tively. The main themes included the huge problems and dangers, both globally and locally, of the pollution and poisoning of our air and water, and how that impacts on the health and well-being of humans, other animals and plants.

They explained that plastic never completely goes away, but after tens or hundreds of years, breaks down into tiny pieces called 'micro-plastics' that end up in our soil, our food, the air we breathe and our drinking water. We found out how animals on land and in water can be harmed or even killed by eating or getting trapped in plastic litter.

We also heard how the practice of burning plastics releases very harmful toxins into the air. Students explained how they had carried out

their own litter survey of the surrounding villages and had found, unsurprisingly, that the majority of the litter recorded was polythene bags and plastic bottles.

Equipped with this learnt and researched information, the children explained that they had decided to



BPS pupils collecting plastics and other rubbish in Bulega village.

see if there was a way to stop or reduce the amount of harmful litter in the environment. So, they visited the Papercraft recycling centre near Arkright, where they were able to make attractive photo frames from recycled paper and watched a skilled glass-blower make beautiful vases, glasses and decorative objects out of crushed, recycled glass bottles.

They saw how pavers could be made from plastic bottles. This was good news, they explained, as it meant there was no reason to throw plastic, glass and paper litter into the environment; instead, it could be collected and transported to a recycling centre. A P7 student taught participants about the 7Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Repair, Recycle and Rot. Her key messages were: take your own bags shopping to avoid using plastic bags, carry a reusable water bottle with your own boiled water whenever you go out to avoid buying plastic water bottles and choose returnable glass soda bottles

instead of plastic ones. UBC would love to be able to buy and place litter bins around the area so that local residents have somewhere to put their waste.

Following the presentation of problems and possible solutions, children showed briquettes they had made using cow dung, clay and charcoal dust which, they explained, helps to reduce the amount of charcoal needed and therefore the number of trees cut. After this, children gave strong performances of three poems that some of their teachers had written. These were on the topic of the benefits of trees and their importance in maintaining the health of our planet, providing homes for animals and the improving the environment, the problems of deforestation and how we can care for and plant more trees (reafforestation). If we cut one tree, we should plant at least two.

The day ended with a short presentation on the benefits of the Moringa Tree, before everyone carried a Moringa seedling to the UBC farm to plant.



HOW TO SUPPORT US

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful Buddhist Global Relief of USA, Huong Tu Lovingkindness Foundation USA, Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore, Tan Teo Charitable Foundation, and all our beloved donors from around the world.

UBC still needs your support:

To maintain resident teachers/monastics

To maintain the Temple

To build monks accommodation facilities

To construct and operation of Buddhist Secondary School

How to Donate

1. For donors in the USA

1. Please write out the Check/Cheque

to:

Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities

2. Please Write in the Memo of the

Check:

Dana for Uganda Buddhist Centre or Bhante
Buddharakkhita

3. Please take a photocopy of the
check and send it via email:

ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com

4. Please Mail the check to the
physical address below:

Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities

C/O Hung Pham

10222 Larson Ave.

Garden Grove, CA 92843

Donate Online

Please follow the links below to make a
secure donation online:

<https://ugandabuddhistcenter.org/donate-now/>

<https://dashboard.flutterwave.com/donate/hd1cwapst9gc>

Please note that this payment gateway
accepts 3D secure transactions only.

This means that only cards that are
Verified by Visa, and Mastercard secure
code will be accepted. If your donation
doesn't go through, kindly contact your
bank to ensure you are secured. Thank
you!

HOW TO DONATE.

Wire Transfer

Beneficiary's Bank Details:

Bank Name : Orient Bank Limited

Bank Account Number: 41261302010523

Bank Account Name: Uganda Buddhist Centre

Swift Address: ORINUGKA

Bank Address: Orient Plaza, 6/6A, Kampala Road.

