



UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

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REFLECTING ON THE JOURNEY OF THE BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL.

Buddhist Peace School, we are deeply As the Buddhist Peace School prepares to embark on its 2025 academic year, we take a moment to reflect on its remarkable journey. From a humble beginning to a flourishing institution of learning with a commitment to bring forth knowledge and wisdom to its seekers with a strong Buddhist foundation.

The school started as a Sunday school in 2009 at the Uganda Buddhist Centre. It took us almost 10 years to open as a full-fledged school. In addition, our aspiration to train future leaders who embody wisdom and compassion, we also got demands from parents wishing that UBC opens a school with an integrative curriculum.

In 2018, small piece of land was acquired

by the Uganda Buddhist Centre, and temporary classrooms were erected to provide shade for the learners. Under the guidance of Bhante Buddhharakkhita, the first formal Buddhist founded school opened its doors to especially students from its surrounding communities in February of 2019.

These children were from under-resourced families, which was also our initial inspiration for starting the school; to be able to provide formal holistic education to these children who had been left out on other schools.





The first batch of learners was sponsored by the Buddhist Global Relief (BGR), and we are grateful that BGR has continued this support since then. We started with 12 children that is, four boys and eight girls in Baby class. These learners have now grown and they are now in primary three. We also started with two teachers; Ndagire Esther and Dinah Nakiwala who provided care and early childhood education to our learners. Mr. Martin Mugabi provided us with his guidance through his wealth of experience in the education setting. However, the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 caused disruptions in the school's operations, and we had to close the school for almost three years until we reopened in 2022. This disruption did not however break our resolve. We remained committed, and renewed when we reopened in 2022. It was the same year that we also opened our first primary school, providing primary education to children from surrounding communities. We also expanded our nursery section to cover all the three classes.





BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL TEACHERS ENGAGE IN A MEETING FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE TERM LED BY THE DOS, GUIDED BY OUR HEAD TEACHER CHARLES SSEMWANGA.

By the end of the 2024 academic, we had 51 learners in our nursery section; and 112 students in the primary section from the initial number of 37 in 2022 when we opened. Over the years, we have registered a remarkable success. In 2023, we had 4 students participate in the national examinations and emerged with first grades.

We have also participated in various games and sports activities in the inter-school competitions and Buddhist Peace School has proved excellence. The BPS has been the champion in the promotion of environmental conversation and protection.

With its integrative curriculum, the school provides holistic approach to learning integrating Buddhist education approaches, with the African and secular education. The school exposes students to various languages,

creative projects, identifying and developing their talents, abilities and interests.

As we open to another academic year, we still remain committed to the school's mission of bringing "forth knowledge and wisdom by way of training the head, heart, and promoting health and happiness".

We now have 12 teachers on board who support the growing student population. As we look ahead, we feel indebted to all of you who have supported us for all the past years. We are eternally grateful. We were able to make a significant impact in the communities. Children now come from various parts of Uganda seeking admission.

We trust that Buddhist Peace School becomes a model that can be replicated across the African continent to exemplify the Buddhist approach to education. We also invite you to continue your support for a sustainable impact.



TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY OF YOUNG NOVICES AT THE 2024 ETHICAL PEACE CAMP.

The recently concluded 2024 Ethical Peace Camp, organized by the Uganda Buddhist Centre (UBC), left a lasting and profound impact on its 65 young participants. From the very start, the camp created an environment where the novice monks felt connected, valued, and spiritually enriched. So strong was the impact that when the time came for disrobing and returning home, many of the participants did not want to leave. On the morning of their departure, some participants approached Ven. Bhante Buddharakkhita, asking if they truly had to return home. When assured that it was indeed time to go, their response was a heartfelt “No, we want to stay.” Despite their reluctance, the children finally agreed to leave, promising to return and be ordained as novice monks and nuns in the future.

The emotional farewell did not mark the end, but the beginning of their journey as Buddhists. Upon returning home, the three young participants who appear in the picture continued to embody the teachings and practices they had learned during the camp. Their parents, astonished by the positive changes, shared remarkable stories of transformation. One mother, in particular, expressed her gratitude to the Uganda Buddhist Centre. She recounted how her son Marvin, once known for being “rebellious” and “headstrong”, had become humble, hardworking, and attentive since attending the camp. The children’s daily routine now includes morning and afternoon meditation sessions, walking meditation, and chanting in Pali, using makeshift bells fashioned from household utensils such as saucepans and knives. What was perhaps most endearing was how the children would robe themselves in bedsheets to mimic the monks they so admired. Their sincere dedication to preserving and practicing the camp’s teachings demonstrate the transform-

As the Uganda Buddhist Centre continues to promote peace and ethical living, stories like these reaffirm the importance of organizing similar camps. The Centre looks forward to

welcoming back these inspired young participants, many of whom aspire to deepen their spiritual journey through ordination.



L/R MARVIN KABANDA, MERISA NANDAWULA PRINCESS, MARGARET NAKIMERA MEGAN AFTER THEIR MEDITATION



UBC OPENS ITS FIRST AFRICAN BUDDHIST HIGH SCHOOL IN UGANDA.

As you have probably read in our recent newsletters about the introduction of the African Buddhist High School. Following extensive preparations and robust promotion campaigns, we are happy to share the news that we have finally opened the school for its first academic year.

Registered and licensed under the Ministry of Education and Sports, is set to offer secondary school education with an integrated curriculum and a holistic approach. Over the past months we have been busy with preparations; including construction of biology, and physics laboratories, boys' and girls' dormitories and minor renovations on the existing structures.

So far, we have registered 9 students in the Senior One, and 5 in Senior Two. We have also recruited 7 teachers and 2 administrators who will support the administration of the school. Each of these recruits comes with a wealth of experience and skills in education.

Senior Two students are expected to report

on February 6, while Senior Ones students are expected to report to school on February 10, 2025.

We remain committed to fostering a culture rooted in key values that shape students into responsible and mindful global citizens. The African Buddhist High School is founded on the following core values:

- **Obuntu Bulamu** — Cultivating interconnectedness and humanity toward others.
- **African Moral Conduct (Maat)** — Promoting truth, justice, harmony, and balance in everyday life.
- **Critical Thinking and Curiosity (Sankofa)** — Encouraging learners to draw valuable lessons from the past to innovate for the future.
- **Right Mindfulness Meditation** — Developing focused awareness and emotional balance.
- **Wise Compassion** — Fostering kindness guided by wisdom.
- **Concentration Practice** — Enhancing mental clarity and academic excellence.
- **Equality and Gender Equity** — Building an inclusive environment for all students.
- **Science and Technology Innovations** — Encouraging creative problem-solving and technological advancements.

- Entrepreneurship — Preparing learners with skills for self-reliance and innovation.

These values form the bedrock of our educational approach, nurturing well-rounded learners who are mindful, innovative, and capable of making meaningful contributions to their communities.

Juliet Nassejje, the Honorary Head Teacher,

expressed optimism about the year ahead, inviting parents and guardians to maintain open communication for the success of the success.

The Uganda Buddhist Centre celebrates these milestones and remains committed to champion the growth of Buddhist inspired educational institutions like the African Buddhist High School in promoting Buddhism values and quality education.



INSIDE THE GIRLS DORMITORY



BOYS DORMITORY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

SUPPORTING UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

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
2. Please write out the Check/Cheque to: Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities
3. Please Write in the Memo of the Check: Dana for Uganda Buddhist Centre or Bhante Buddharakkhita
4. Please take a photocopy of the check and send it via email: ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com
5. 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

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Bank Name : I & M Bank

Bank Account Number: 41261302010523

Bank Account Name: Uganda Buddhist Centre

Swift Address: ORINUGKA

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

