

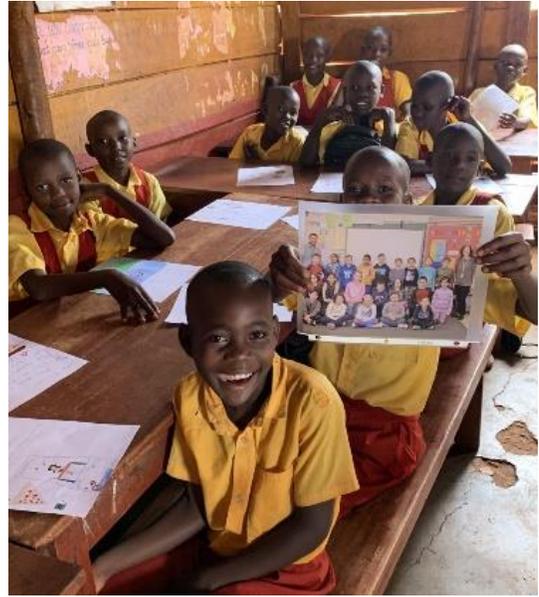
## Superintendent's Highlight

May 29, 2020

During these unprecedented times, the need for charity is present more than ever. Our third-grade teachers and students at Stratford Road Elementary School have really embodied this virtue while working with the organization HELP Uganda International. This organization works to empower the people in Uganda through education, business training, nutrition programs, and health initiatives.



Since this was the second year that Stratford



Road students worked with this wonderful organization, the students embarked upon this project and followed in the format that was established by last year's program. The teachers

prepared the students by learning about the land, economy, and the people of Uganda. Mrs. Delia Garrity, a representative from the organization, then visited the school and shared actual photos and videos from the students. Each class then wrote letters to connect and establish pen pals with their new friends in Masese. The letters would then be collected and delivered to the students in the village. Our students would eagerly wait for a response from their new pen pals.

Last year would have ended our participation in our global pen pal connection. However, this year, as the students delved deeper into their research of the people of Uganda, they realized that a genuine need existed for the students in the village. The need for proper footwear and clothing. The students determined that they wanted to give more to their pen pals than just letters. They decided to help their pen pals by coordinating a flip flop and sweatshirt drive. They created signs and prominently displayed them on a box in the lobby of the school. The school community responded, and the response was overwhelming. The teachers and students donated 150 pairs of flip flops and 28 hooded sweatshirts.

The students were thrilled to know that their actions created a difference in the world. According to the organization, the villagers were filled with utter joy and could not stop saying "thank you" as the items were being distributed. A Masese village in Uganda, Africa has benefited from the charity of well-intentioned third-grade students in Plainview, NY. The students of Stratford Road hope that their act of charity will create a ripple of positivity and inspire others to do the same.

