

COLOMA PRIMARY SCHOOL, UGANDA

2025 UPDATE - November, 2025

Dear Friends

I wish each one of you a blessed and joyous Christmas with a happy, prosperous and peace filled 2026. Indeed isn't peace what we all long for in the world today! Here at Coloma, our hearts are filled with gratitude to have reached the end of the year. We express our grateful thanks for your kind thoughts, your communication, your good wishes and your great support in many ways. It is always a joy to hear from you and to be part of your life's journey and that of your families.



COLOMA CHILDREN

The mission of Coloma is to offer a holistic education to pupils in a conducive educational environment.



We are now in our 15th year at Coloma and this year, the number of pupils enrolled is 437: of these, we have 6 boys and the remainder are girls. These boys are neighbours who walk to school daily. The present top class P7 has 45 pupils who will sit their final State exam on 3rd and 4th November. This class is single stream while, from 2026, all classes will be double stream of approximately 90 pupils, except for the first and second classes who will continue to have a maximum of 45 children.

P7 pupils 2025

Since the first State exam in 2014, the standard has continued to improve and 2024 was no exception with 60% achieving Grade One, ie over 90% in all four subjects – English, Maths, Science and Social Studies and 37% achieving Grade Two. Those who have achieved Grade One and Grade Two are eligible to attend secondary school if the family has the finances to support them. A small percentage (3%) of our vulnerable children got a Grade Three and these, together with poor families, usually undertake an apprenticeship course. It is our joy that one such child undertook a 2-year technology course in engineering and now has a very successful job in a milk processing factory.



A very big thank you goes to our sponsors and donors for their support since the school began and especially during 2025. Without this support, many of the children would never be able to study at Coloma. We thank you on behalf of the administration and the families.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Apart from academic achievements during 2025, there was a high participation in **co-curricular activities**, as follows:-

- ❖ Handicrafts
- ❖ Gardening
- ❖ Sports
- ❖ Drama, Debating & Scrabble
- ❖ Music
- ❖ Girl Guides & Brownies

This participation in co-curricular activities encourages the children to learn and develop new skills and talents at a young age.



This year emphasis was put on participating in the **National Music, Dance and Drama Festival (MDD)**. To qualify, each school had to participate in **14 different items** from dance to drama, storytelling to sight reading, etc. Coloma, on a knock-out basis from June to September, having attained first place in Mbarara City, proceeded to the National finals. **Eighty-nine schools participated and Coloma came 37th**. What an achievement for our first time participating! We thank many sponsors who helped us in securing costumes, musical instruments and with the logistics of getting 104 pupils and teaching staff to the various venues. The finals took 8 days and the children had to be accommodated and fed, musical instruments, costumes and props had to be transported and all this without our own school bus! This whole exercise was expensive, but the children thoroughly enjoyed it and now MDD equipment is available for the future.



Debating: In the first term of 2025, the children undertook training in debating and then competed at district level: they happily came back with a trophy!

A Laudate Si club has been started in response to Pope Francis' call to protect the environment. Trees have been planted around the school, each being cared for by a group of children. They are very proud to demonstrate what they are doing for Planet Earth.

COLOMA TEACHERS



Presently, the school has 22 teaching staff, all of whom we find very satisfactory and are highly appreciated by the administration. However, **Uganda has a looming crisis regarding the availability of future primary teachers**. Beginning in 2027, the new Government ruling is that all aspiring primary teachers must take a new 4-year degree course; thus, from 2027 to 2030, there will be no newly qualified teachers available. Yet, without new teachers coming on stream each year, how can the increasing population of children be catered for! (When I came to Uganda in 1972, the population was 13.3 million; now it is almost 50 million).

SCHOOL STRUCTURES & DEVELOPMENT

- **The staff house** which had begun in 2024 is now completed. One block contains accommodation for 4 married couples with 2 rooms each and the second block has 8 single rooms for unmarried staff members; five rooms are already occupied and the remainder are ready except for curtains which are in the process of being made.



- **Extension to the dining hall:** As the dining hall is no longer able to accommodate the current and future number of pupils, we have had to extend it. We thank our friends very much for assisting us in this undertaking. We are hopeful that the completed dining hall with necessary furniture will be ready by the end of 2026. Thank you our friends!
- **The grevillea trees** that were planted in November 2024 are now 12ft tall and doing well. The school continues to expand this plantation. We pray for sufficient rain for the plantation and for all our crops. Uganda also suffers from the effects of Climate Change by a reduction in rainfall or too much at the wrong time.



SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE

Last year, in our 2025 Update, we mentioned our plan to build a Skills Training Centre. This did not happen but we have been bench marking and we are a step nearer to beginning.

DAUGHTERS OF MARY & JOSEPH COMMUNITY



2025 has been a blessed year for the Daughters of Mary and Joseph as a Congregation and also here at Coloma. We continue to receive young ladies wishing to become religious sisters. In August, nine made their first commitment to the Congregation and happily two of these have been appointed to Coloma – one as a teacher and the other as a store keeper. With young people, the future is bright and secure for the continuation of our work.

Once again, on behalf of Coloma Primary School Administration and of course on my own behalf, I thank you most sincerely for all you have done and continue to do for our children and for the growth and development of this school. You are in our hearts and our prayers. Without you we could not manage this school. Thank you very much – may our God and Lord bring peace, joy and love into your hearts and homes.



***Sr Justine,
Head Teacher***

Happy Christmas and a blessed year for 2026

Sr Mona Maher and the Sisters at Coloma