

Uganda Pandas

Hi Uganda Pandas,

We hope everyone has had a great start to their new year! As we start the new year, we realize that the exciting things we would typically do as a club are somewhat limited. With that in mind, we have decided to create a monthly newsletter. While this can not replace the wonderful pen-pal notes, we hope that it will bring some joy and insight to each one of you. The newsletters will be filled with headline stories taking place in Uganda, while also keeping you in the loop regarding our sister school.

Uganda Sisters Update:

Our sisters were scheduled to return to school on January 11. Unfortunately, with the great unrest due to the election, they postponed their return. The sisters along with some students eventually went back in mid-January. They are now preparing to take their rigorous, comprehensive National Leaving Exams during March and April. Please keep them in your prayers during this time!

The country went into a lockdown during this year's presidential election. The military was extremely present throughout Kampala (the capital). Social media was also blocked by the government. The restrictions have started to loosen up now that the election is over.

We added more information about the election down below along with a special Uganda recipe. We hope this helps to understand what it is like for our sisters right now. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this difficult time.

Have a good rest of your week,
Sidney, Abby, and Pascale



Politics

Uganda was previously in the middle of an election year. The two main presidential candidates include the current president, Yoweri Museveni (top picture) who has been the president since 1986. His competitor, Bobi Wine (bottom picture), is a former singer and actor. Bobi Wine was arrested during his campaign rally due to the fact that he was breaking COVID-19 safety guidelines. Due to the election, there were many outbreaks of violence and protests. Around two dozen people were killed. The election took place on January 14, 2021. Museveni won the election.



Floods

Recently, East Africa has struggled with enormous amounts of rainfall resulting in flooding and landslides. The floods have reportedly caused hundreds of deaths while also destroying homes, buildings, and leaving many without power. The people suffering from the loss of their home were placed into makeshift camps. While this solves one problem, it puts the people at higher risk of contracting coronavirus.



Recipe for Mandazi

("African donuts")

Ingredients (for 40 mandazis):

- 3 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dustin
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cardamom
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 egg, beaten
- 13 ½ oz coconut milk (1 can)
- oil, for frying

Preparation:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, cardamom, and salt. Make a well in the center, then use a rubber spatula to mix in the egg and coconut milk until the dough comes together.
2. Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead until smooth. Dive the dough into 4 portions. Roll out 1 portion of dough into a circle about ¼-inch (6 ml) thick. Cut into 8 triangles. Repeat with the remaining dough portions.
3. Heat the oil in a large pot until it reaches 350 ° F (180 ° C).
4. Working in batches, fry the mandazi for 2-3 minutes per side, until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve as breakfast or a snack with Kenyan coffee or chai.
5. Enjoy and please send us pictures of them if you decide to make them!

