

January 22, 2009

Dear Parents,

Over Christmas break a small group of PUCE students got together and formed the idea of helping hungry children in Africa. We decided to work with Project Peanut Butter, a foundation that relieves malnutrition. The foundation uses a locally made product based on peanut butter, called Plumpy Nut to bring relief to malnourished children in various countries in Africa. We are calling our fund raising effort Project Plumpy Nut.

In the very poor regions of Africa where the project peanut butter is working, the average household income is only \$44 per year. This makes it very tough for the countries to face the challenges of establishing a strong economy, fighting infectious diseases, and most importantly, struggling with the issues of malnutrition or lack of nutrition. To address the problem of malnutrition, Project Peanut Butter has set up Plumpy Nut factories right in the countries of Malawi and Sierra Leon, close to the problem itself. The factories mix vitamins, minerals, milk powder, and sugar into peanut butter and use it as a highly nutritious food supplement for children suffering from malnutrition. Because the product is locally produced, the project is more sustainable than it would be if they had their headquarters somewhere else. Since Plumpy Nut is a paste, it does not need refrigeration and can easily be transported and distributed to the children in the greatest need. The project delivers Plumpy Nut to each child that has reached a certain criteria of malnutrition. A child will be put on the program for approximately 6 weeks. The results of studies where the Plumpy Nut product was used were very positive, with as many as 80% of the treated children reaching their 100% weight and height goals.

These results seem so effective to us that we would like to help fund this foundation. To fully fund one child in this program it costs \$15. We have set as a goal **for our school** to sponsor the same number of African children as there are students and staff in PUCE, around 151 total or \$2,265. To launch this campaign we are suggesting (this is not mandatory) that students and staff skip lunch for one day, so we can experience what it feels like to go hungry, and then donate the four dollars it would have cost for hot lunch, toward our fundraising goal. On the day of the campaign kick-off, MONDAY, JANUARY 26th NO HOT LUNCH will be served. At 11:45 a.m. we will host a school-wide assembly to explain the point of the project in greater details. At the end of assembly we will give a spoon of peanut butter to each child who would like it.

To find out more information about Project Plumpy Nut or our plans, feel free to join us at our assembly on Monday, January 26 during lunch time, or visit www.projectpeanutbutter.org. Remember, half of all child deaths worldwide are caused by malnutrition. Until recently, 23% of Malawi's children died before their fifth birthday. Project Plumpy Nut is making a difference.

Lauren Madrigal, Ian Johnson, Stefaan Dick, Joshua Penners & Katie Begerow

P.S. We will be showing a video clip at the assembly which may contain some pictures of severely malnourished children that your child may not be comfortable seeing. If you would like to view the clip before the assembly you can go to Google, and type in CBS 60 Minutes Plumpy Nut.

P.P.S. Major national brands of jarred peanut butter are not affected by the current FDA recall of peanut products.

I _____ give permission to my child _____ to skip hot lunch and donate the \$4 to Project Plumpy Nut. This amount can be charged to my monthly school bill.

I would like to make a donation of \$ _____ to this project.

Parent Signature