

Ranfurly Goes Back To School!



If you have or had school age children, then you remember that feeling of relief you had on the first day of school. No more shopping for new uniforms, no more doctor's appointments for school immunizations and no more rushing around in traffic trying to get school supplies in time for the first day! Whew!

Just imagine if you had to get over 30 kids ready to return to school. Well, you don't have to imagine because we're going to share the joys and challenges of getting all of the Ranfurly residents prepared for the 2013-2014 school year!

Getting the Ranfurly students ready for school is never an overnight process. It can actually take up to two months. It all starts in early July when Mrs. Princess Burrows, the supervisor and "mother" of Ranfurly Homes, assesses the children's uniforms from the previous school year. Inevitably, she finds that most, if not all the children have outgrown their uniforms or the uniforms are worn beyond repair. That's when she measures all of the children, notes their sizes and goes to purchase uniforms along with belts, neckties, socks, pants, shirts, t-shirt and undergarments. With so many uniforms to purchase, it can take her several hours at the store. Then once the uniforms are purchased, she arranges for alterations.

Next, she makes an appointment at a local shoe store. With so many growing feet to fit, Mrs. Burrows knows that doing this during regular business hours would never work. That's why she works with the store to arrange an early appointment before the store opens for regular business. Bright and early in the morning, all of the Ranfurly residents get on board the bus for a trip into town to do shoe shopping.

Once school shoes are secured, it's time for another group visit - but this time it's the sporting goods store. This is where P.E. shoes and socks, backpacks, uniform swimsuits and slippers are purchased.

Next it's time to set the doctors' appointments. Each year nearly 40 pairs of Ranfurly eyes are checked by a local optometrist. Then each resident has a medical appointment at one of the government clinics. And of course, each child goes on a dental visit prior to going to school.

But that's only half of the back to school story! Mrs. Burrows works with Mr. Alexander Roberts, the administrator, and Mr. Thomas Hackett, the Ranfurly board's treasurer to get bank drafts issued to pay everyone's school fees. And then there's the long list of school books for various subjects and various grade levels that must be purchased along with pencils, erasers, calculators, rulers and dozens of other school supplies.

During the last few weeks, Mrs. Burrows and other members of the staff shop for toiletries in preparation for the school year and start stacking up on food supplies for school lunches. And in the last few days prior to school, arrangements are made for all the boys to get haircuts and for the girls to get their hair styled. Then there is the mad rush to get all uniforms cleaned and pressed.

Perhaps the most tedious task is working to get birth certificates and up to date passports so that the children will have sufficient identification to enroll in school. This is especially true for new residents. Since the children come from a variety of backgrounds, this information is challenging to find. Mrs. Burrows often has to make several trips to the appropriate government offices over a period of a few months to location this information.

You know what a financial commitment it is to get your children prepared for school, so you may be wondering how Ranfurly is able to afford the challenge of getting all of these students ready. Fortunately, Ranfurly has an amazing benefactor that has provided for many of the children's school needs for years. Without this donor, Ranfurly would have to find funding for all of the children's school needs.

Even with this support, a large part of the school preparation process comes from the Ranfurly budget. And during the school year, Ranfurly supports the ongoing costs of field trips, school lunches, extracurricular activities and the fees associated with BJCSE and BGCSE exams.

As a friend of Ranfurly, your support helps with the overwhelming task of providing education for our children. We're thankful for your support, and hope that you'll continue giving the most precious gift that you can to the children of Ranfurly - a solid education!

Mrs. Burrows - (AKA- House Mother)



2013 Grand Raffle Is A Success!

Grand Prize	7 Day Cruise for 2 on Royal Caribbean	Pierce LaFleur, Ticket #015362
2nd	3 Day stay package at Atlantis, Paradise Island, valued at \$1,600.00	Bonniemae Holbert, Ticket #014120
3rd	Bahamas Fast Ferries trip for 2 to Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera	Roy Lockhart, Ticket #036455
4th	Bahamas Fast Ferries trip for 2 to Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera	Petra Armbrister, Ticket #027131
5th	55" Flat Screen Television	Romauld Ferreira, Ticket #002166
6th	\$1,000.00 Gift Certificate for Super Value	Godfrey M. Archer, Ticket #030456
7th	Blackberry Phone	Lisa Percentie, Ticket #070059
8th	Gift Certificate for Windemere Spa	Paulette & Lisser, Ticket #069920
9th	\$300.00 Gift Certificate for Phil's Food Services	Dave & Sally, Ticket #011520
10th	\$300.00 Gift Certificate for Solomon's/Cost Right	Cornell Mott, Ticket #083263
11th	\$300.00 Gift Certificate for Bahamas Wholesale Agencies Ltd.	Premier Imports, Ticket #072647
12th	\$200.00 Gift Certificate for Kelly's Home Centre	Rosana Vildor

Ranfurly's annual Grand Raffle was held on Saturday, October 5th. The event took several months of planning which included soliciting and securing exciting prizes, distributing tickets to businesses and individuals, and of course selling thousands of tickets. With Mrs. LaToya Polacek chairing the Raffle, the hard work paid off! The event raised the equivalent of two months of expenses for Ranfurly Homes for Children.

The Raffle is the home's largest fundraising event, and greatly contributes to providing needed resources for the home each year. Ranfurly wishes to thank each of you for supporting the Raffle by purchasing ticket. And a special thank you to Mrs. Polacek and the board members who assisted her!



Congratulations to all the Raffle winners!

Make A Child Smile For The Holidays: Give To Ranfurly

The holidays are just around the corner, and Ranfurly is already making preparations. Although the residents of Ranfurly live away from their families, the staff works hard to make sure that each child has a wonderful Christmas that includes a home environment. After celebrating Christmas together as a Ranfurly family, the children are placed in stable homes temporarily for the holidays. This allows them to experience what it is like to have Christmas in a healthy domestic environment.

We'd like to invite the friends of Ranfurly to support us in three ways:

First, consider hosting a Ranfurly child in your home for the holiday season. Being a part of your family temporarily will make a world of difference for a child who has never experienced a stable home environment. To host a child, you must be willing to pass a vetting process with the Ministry of Social Work to ensure the child's safety. The vetting process is done quickly, and will contribute to a rewarding experience for both you and the child. To learn more about hosting a child, call Ranfurly today at 393-3115.

Or you can consider hosting a holiday activity for the children of Ranfurly. Perhaps your office would like to use your holiday Christmas party as a time to interact with our children or surprise them with presents. Many of the children have come from a lifestyle of abuse and neglect, so showing them love in this way will make an impact on their lives

Finally, please take a moment to make a financial donation to Ranfurly today. Your association membership is appreciated, but unfortunately association memberships alone are not enough to sustain Ranfurly. Consider making a donation today of \$200, \$150 or even \$100. Your donation will be used to help provide food, clothing, shelter and education for the children of Ranfurly.

You can call us at 393-3115 to arrange for us to pick up your donation or you can mail it to:

The Ranfurly Homes For Children
P.O. Box N-1413
Nassau, Bahamas

By supporting Ranfurly in any of these ways, you can help make our children smile this holiday season!

