



FRIENDS
OF PEB

March 2026

NEWSLETTER



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A Letter from Cheryl

This newsletter update has been really difficult to write. I try very hard to keep these focused on our schools and the incredible work that is being done there but the world continues to intrude on that and I can't find a way to write about our schools without also writing about what is happening in the world. What is happening in the world breaks my heart on a daily basis but the way our teachers, students and staff are responding brings me hope as well. So, here goes...

As is often the case, developing nations, like Pakistan, experience the worst impact when there is a worldwide crisis. There are so many systems and structures already on the brink of collapse that “hits” from the outside are even more destabilizing than they would be in wealthier nations. Also, with Pakistan’s geographic location, they are affected directly by happenings in the Middle East as well as those in South Asia almost immediately. They have very few resources to fall back on and have already had years of failing economy and infrastructure.

Now, with a war with Afghanistan occurring alongside the Iranian conflict, Pakistan faces serious internal and external threats. The threat of terrorist attacks from organizations sympathetic to Afghanistan is VERY real. In addition to that, Pakistan relies heavily on fuel and materials imported through the Strait that is currently closed. This has led to increased fuel costs, increased power blackouts, slowing or stopping construction and infrastructure projects, concerns about debt repayment deadlines being missed, etc. The list is long. None of this addresses the fear of just operating in daily life because daily life puts people in areas like marketplaces, parks, and schools—the very places most likely to be hit in a terrorist attack.

Often, when we read about wars and international conflicts, there is not a lot of reporting on the “everyday life” that just stops. One of the pieces of that life is education. In Pakistan, schools, particularly mission schools, are considered soft targets. Security is lower than other areas and the children within are unlikely to fight back. For that reason, and other historical ones, Pakistan has closed their schools and has asked them to increase their security without providing any means for doing so. We will be sending out more information in the next few days about what is needed for security and ways you can help with that.

School closures mean children lose “normal”. For many of our students, school is the safe space. It is a place where they can be children without worry about food, money, or all the things that we would likely consider grown-up concerns that face them daily when they return home.

The principals and teachers in PEB schools are doing everything they possibly can to ensure that their students continue to learn. They are also working to keep in touch with them so they know which families and/or children may be facing issues that require some sort of assistance. Using Whats App, recorded video lessons, small group sessions with children in plain clothing (no uniforms), learning packets and homework assignments that can be picked up from the school, and one on one help if children need it when they come to drop off or pick up assignments, our teachers are working overtime to keep our students up to date on their studies and to provide them with support.

It is a difficult time in the world and there is so much going on right now that it is sometimes hard to figure out what to do. Please know that what you have done in the past through your gifts, visits, and prayers has been the reason that PEB is able to continue to help these children now. Education and life-changing interactions are still happening every day in spite of all of the obstacles. Please continue to pray for the safety of these children and their families and teachers as well as the nation of Pakistan and peace in our world.

The security needs are in addition to the everyday needs of operating these schools. They include reinforcing boundary walls, adding armed security guards, metal detectors and creating walk through gates. If you are able to give beyond your regular gifts so that we can get these schools the increased security that they need, it would be an answer to the prayers of the staff and students of PEB.

Thank you, as always, for the love you give to these children and these communities.

Praying,

Cheryl Burke

Friends of PEB Executive Director

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678-697-6454

GIVE NOW



Friends of PEB also welcomes planned gifts, donor-advised funds, IRA distributions, or gifts in other forms. If you have questions about your gift, please contact Cheryl at cheryl@friendsofpeb.org or 678-697-6454. If you've recently added Friends of PEB to your will, please reach out to let us know!



Kinnaird Academy Expansion

Goal: \$850,000

Currently Raised: \$201,821

Construction on the new administration building is underway, progress made possible by generous supporters like you. *Read the section below for a detailed update!* Once finished, it will immediately free up three classrooms in the main school building currently used as staff offices.

But we cannot pause here. Funding is urgently needed to begin construction on the academic block that will add nine more new classrooms. Every classroom is full, and more than 200 children are on a waiting list. For many families, Kinnaird is the only affordable, safe, and high-quality education option available in this densely populated area of Lahore.

Give now to help us keep building and open the door for 200+ more students.

GIVE NOW





News from Pakistan: Administration Building at Kinnaird Academy is almost complete!

At Kinnaird Academy, construction progress continues on the new Admin Building, an important project that will both strengthen school operations and create more space for students to learn.

The main structure is now nearly 80% complete. Along the way, a few structural adjustments were needed and are being finalized this month. Progress has not come without challenges. Recent nationwide transportation strikes, caused by rising fuel prices amid ongoing conflict in the Middle East, have delayed the delivery of key materials. Even so, construction has continued steadily, with teams even working through the Eid holidays to keep things moving forward.

As the structure nears completion, the next phase will shift to interior finishing. Engineers are hopeful the building can be completed by mid-May 2026, assuming no further disruptions. To help meet this goal, teams have begun working double shifts, aiming to complete as much as possible by the end of April.

Once the building is ready, current office furniture will be moved into the new space, allowing for a smooth and immediate transition. This move will also make room for three existing office spaces in the main academic building to be transformed into much-needed classrooms. One will become a dedicated Scripture Room, while the others will serve students in Grades 9 and 10. New classroom furniture has already been ordered and is expected to arrive in time for this transition. The impact of this building will be felt quickly—creating more room for students and strengthening the daily life of the school.

At the same time, daily school life across Pakistan has looked very different in recent weeks. The Government of Pakistan directed the closure of all educational institutions from March 10–31 due to economic pressures tied to regional conflict with Afghanistan and rising fuel costs. Schools were asked to shift to online learning, and across PEB schools, staff responded with creativity and determination.

Principals and teachers have stayed closely connected through Zoom meetings and regular check-ins, sharing both challenges and encouraging progress. Learning has continued through a mix of online tools, including WhatsApp voice notes, video lessons, and worksheets, along with limited in-person

moments. In some schools, students are able to visit campus in small groups to submit assignments and stay engaged with their teachers. These simple interactions have become an important part of maintaining continuity in learning.

Even with the possibility that closures may extend into April, what stands out most is the resilience of both PEB educators and students. Across every school, there is a shared commitment to keep learning moving forward, no matter the circumstances. This is made possible through the support and training our teachers have received. Thank you for being part of what makes this possible.



Available Student to Sponsor

Day Student | \$35 per month

“My name is Sonam. I’m in Class 5 at Christian Girls’ High School Kasur, and I dream of becoming a architect”

Sonam’s father is a laborer, and her mother is a housewife. Sonam’s family cannot afford school fees on their own. She is waiting for a sponsor to help her continue her education long-term. Would you consider helping her family with tuition costs?



MORE INFO

To make a gift to Friends of PEB, click the button below.

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Friends of PEB

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