

## Chikumbuso Preview

**An amazing learning experience has come to our attention at Pawcatuck Middle School called Project Chikumbuso. Annually, at PMS, we participate in year long service learning/school climate themes. This year, our efforts will focus on Project Chikumbuso in Ngombe, Zambia!**

**Chikumbuso is a project started by Linda Wilkinson from North Stonington, which involves a school for orphans(grades 1-4) and support programs for health care, food, clothing, and a widow/grandmother household management program... In Zambia, many people have died of HIV and AIDS(including up to 80% of the men) – leaving many children orphaned and in need. By the year 2010, it is estimated there will be over one million orphans in Zambia. Only one and a half years in existence, Project Chikumbuso has already positively touched many lives. The school is now working with 250 children!**

**At Pawcatuck Middle School, our major goals are 1. to help build and provide supplies for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom addition, and 2. to provide free health care cards for as many children as possible(\$2.00 a month). Students, staff, and families will be working on projects including: tag sales, pasta dinner, dances, dodgeball tournie, clothing drive, holiday memory lights, ink cartridge collection, coin drive, Christmas ornament collections and sales, and jewelry creations... The staff held a preview meeting, and as usual their enthusiasm is contagious!**

**Students plan to create gifts for the Chikumbuso students including bookmarks and friendship bracelets. Through Art class, they are creating a tile wall hanging to have displayed in the Chikumbuso School. We are also sending all the Chikumbuso students Pawcatuck Middle School logo T-shirts.**

**We hope to develop empathy, cultural awareness and a sincere appreciation of life in our young people. Through computers, videos, music, photography, and the mail, students will have many opportunities to interact with children from Zambia. The possibilities are endless...**

**We are reaching out to community businesses for support in the form of donations or matching funds, but our main focus is internal. Our Chikumbuso Project kicks off on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 with a presentation in the Gym to introduce the whole student body to our goals through a slide show on Chikumbuso and friendship. Our first Panther Pause will follow.**

**Chikumbuso means “remember forever what others have done for you.” We will all remember this experience, and we invite each of you to join us in anyway you can. Please call if you have any questions (599-5696). Ask for Janis Ingham or Jeanne Steinnagel.**