



PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

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School Campus Expands New Land for WATU Secondary School



Mr. Samwel Mchome on the new plot of land



Maize crop, helping towards reducing the food bill

Thanks to the enormous generosity of our major supporters, Mr and Mrs Henrik Svennas, Mr and Mrs Hannu Ryooponnen, and Mr and Mrs Conny Karlsson, together with some delicate negotiations by Josiah Mchome and Mr. Samwel Mchome over a period of several months, WATU Secondary School has been able to purchase a one and a half acre plot of fertile, irrigated land adjacent to the school campus. The importance of this land for cultivation and for teachers' housing and a sports facility cannot be over-stated.

The students have already planted a first crop of maize which is doing well. In the short term we are confident of a substantial reduction in the cost of food for the campus which, in the longer term will help us move towards a position of greater sustainability.

Breaking News

WATU SCHOOL FIRST IN NORTHERN ZONE

As we go to press we have learned that the success of our Form Six students, Hellen, Ficah, Venosa, Bahati and Moses in their recent "mock" National Advanced Level examinations places Watu Secondary School in **FIRST** place out of sixty-nine schools in the Northern Zone of Tanzania. Congratulations to all of you, and a huge thank you to the work of your teachers.



What a Year.....New Developments at WATU Secondary School

2015 looks as if it is going to be a significant year for WATU Secondary School. Not only have we the use of our **new piece of beautiful land** but, at last, we have **mains electricity**. Those of you who have been following progress at Shiri will know that



negotiations with TANESCO, the Tanzanian Electricity company have been ongoing for several years. However, everything is now in place and the power was turned on yesterday, which is fortunate because another important development, **a broadband**

internet connection, will of course need a stronger and more reliable source of power than that provided by the solar panels that we have been using for the last two years. **TIGO**, one of the large mobile and internet providers in Tanzania, have **erected, on our land, a mast** which should, all being well, **provide exactly the internet access that we have been hoping for and which should greatly enhance the students' learning**. Look out for more on this in the next newsletter.

School **pupil numbers are also growing**. We are very proud to welcome **26 new Form One students** and we hope that they will find WATU Secondary School to be an excellent place of learning, and a safe, caring, supportive environment. We wish them all the very best for their future years with us. This brings **the total number of students at WSS to 89 (well over one hundred with our lovely kindergarten children)**



At last the baby is born. He has been given the name **ELECTRICITY**. He was expected to be born yesterday with the whole school community outside the labour ward waiting for doctors to break the news but unfortunately, doctors delayed the process because there were a few things they wanted to assure themselves of. Today, the delivery process began and doctors confirmed that he would be born by an operation.

And true, the baby is here with us.

Students jumped as if Tanzania had won the World Cup.

I remember the many times Richard, Katherine and I spent at TANESCO office waiting to see the Manager and the pain we went through seeing nothing after waiting for months and years. But patience pays and here we are.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELECTRICITY.

Josiah

Volunteer Charlie Barnes..... My three Months with WATU

This was my first experience in Africa and my first experience away from home on my own. My name is Charlie and I'm 18 and a student in Christchurch, England. I set off for Africa on the 18th September 2014, my destination WATU Secondary School where I would be staying for 3 months at Josiah Mchome's house – the Tanzanian Director of WATU, in Majengo Moshi.

I had the most amazing 3 months of my life, meeting people I will never forget and having many life changing experiences. I felt so comfortable in this completely new place because of the welcome I received



from both the family and the staff and students at WATU School. **The students are bright, eager to learn,** in love with their sports and determined to improve their English to the best of their abilities.

All the teachers are very intelligent, very enthusiastic and show a huge commitment to their jobs and to the school.

Both **Josiah and Richard** (co-directors) are so **determined to make this a successful school. Their endless hard work and sleepless nights have been completely worth it!** The campus is beautiful, the whole school taking great pride in keeping it tidy and even helping in watering and cleaning toilets and classrooms.

I will no doubt be returning and I want to try to support the school in every way I can in the future. I met the most amazing group of friends and stayed with a truly amazing family and I can't thank them all enough. It was a pleasure to help and teach at WATU and can't wait to see what happens in 2015.



Goodbye to Charlie from staff, students and all at WATU

CAN YOU HELP US? Used Laptops in good condition needed!

With our new electricity connection and TIGO mast ideally we would like to provide laptops for all of the classrooms. We have been very fortunate to have had laptops donated from the World Economic Forum and more recently a large donation from Mr. and Mrs. Kaarlson, all of which have been well-used although some need replacing. If you know of companies, organizations, schools etc who want to dispose of second-hand but still completely reliable laptops and who might like to donate them to WATU please let us know.

Fund Raising

EDITORIAL

WATU Secondary School at Shiri Mgungani is growing rapidly. We are becoming well known, mostly because of our excellent academic results and the commitment of our teachers, but also because of our wonderfully stimulating environment and our facilities which we most certainly would not have were it not for our generous supporters. A huge thank you once again. However, if we are to continue to grow to our planned final size of 150 students (ie six year grades of 25 students each) **it is clear that we have to move much more closely towards a position of self-sustainability.** We cannot depend for ever on the generosity of foreign donors, neither practically nor indeed ethically.

We have made one important step in making this move by purchasing an adjacent piece of land (see the article in this issue). But we have also made the important decision of inviting **some Form 1 students from families who are more able to pay school fees** than our students up to now have been. We realize that this move may be seen as contradicting our mandate of supporting only the financially poorest of students but we can also say that **these “wealthier” students will be very much the minority.** Moreover, WATU would also like to go back to a very important principle which was in our minds when we began seven years ago: providing teacher training. **We believe that, with our excellent teachers we are in a position to offer workshops, discussion round tables, maybe even model lessons to other teachers and, thereby, impact an even wider number of students** than we are at present and thus satisfy our mandate.



Consultation hour

Champex-Lac Apartment for Rent



Help WATU and take a holiday or a weekend break in the Swiss Alps.

Available for rent (in the pictured block) in the small ski resort of Champex-Lac is a comfortable, fully equipped one bed roomed apartment with a sofa bed in the living room to allow **sleeping for 4.**

For a week 300 chf For a weekend 100CHF (Friday to Sunday) Cleaning and towels and linen included

Contact for more information: r.heery@bluewin.ch

Football

As Charlie (our volunteer) said the students love their football and “managed to show him up all the time”. We are very grateful for the donation from the Wallsten Family of shorts, t-shirts and socks for the older students but there is now an eager and talented younger team. Any help towards any sports equipment would be most welcome.

THANK YOU ASANTE SANA



Thank You

Asante Sana

Thank you to Josiah , Mr. Mwarabu and all the staff for developing and instigating new professional structures all of which will help the students and inform the parents. A **detailed report form** has been implemented, **parents have been invited to come and meet the teachers** (some came all the way from Dar es Salaam) to discuss **their child's progress** and students have been given the opportunity to attend **consultation hours when extra individual help can be given after class**. Mr. Mwarabu has also worked hard on the process of getting **WSS as an O and A level exam centre**.



Parent meetings: students are also present so they can listen to the suggestions made by the teachers.



Consultation hour : individual problems can be sorted out after class. Such one to one help is invaluable and clearly demonstrates the teachers' commitment.

To all donors:

Watu Secondary School students and teachers would like to thank the following for their invaluable support since the publication of the last newsletter in August 2014. Without you none of the achievements described here would be possible:

Mr and Mrs Svennas, Mr and Mrs Ryoponnen, Mr and Mrs Karlsson, International School of Geneva La Chataigneraie students, Procter and Gamble Alumni Association, FOTIS, TIGO, Mr and Mrs Sivakumaran, The Cicely Foundation, The Righ Foundation, Blue Ocean Scandanavia, Mrs Asha Williams, Mr Brian Wheeler, Ms Victoria Seymour, Mr. Claes Österlin, The International School Moshi, Mrs Judith Johnson, Mr and Mrs O'Brien, Mr Peter Anderson, Mrs Claire Wood, Dr Michael McKeogh, Ms Marie Paule McKeogh, Ms Martha Heery, Mr and Mrs Robert Heery, Ms Claire Willey, Mrs Alison Gill, Students of College du Lemani (donation to support Majengo Primary School through People's Participation in Education), Ms Marguerite Dieffenbach, Mr and Mrs Stephen Heery.

And a big thank you to Charlie Barnes who was so valuable as a volunteer for three months, and Jae Harris and Maureen Clifffen who both supported him;



Students from Year Five and Year Two who are sponsored by FOTIS(Friends of the International School) .Individual donors sponsor other students, for example Mr. and Mrs. Arjuna nad Magali Sivakumaran's very generous donation from their wedding is destined for sponsorship of the new Year One.