



PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

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EDITORIAL



O level class at work



Staff meeting under the mango tree

Welcome to the July 2013 edition of the WATU Newsletter. We reported in the last interim newsletter in March that WATU Secondary School was pleased to welcome 25 students to whom we were giving the opportunity of **resitting their O Level examinations**. In fact, we **accepted 30 students** and preparation for their exams under the guidance of their teachers is progressing very well indeed, Mark Mwrabu, our principal, reporting that recent school examination results show most of the students moving closer to their target. There is still a long way to go yet, though, and they will continue to prepare **without breaking for a holiday**, until the examination itself in October. It is uplifting to see these young people grasping this opportunity so seriously and we wish them every success in their studies and, of course, in the final exam.

REQUESTS TO JOIN FORMS V AND VI

Due to the appalling Tanzanian O Level results nationwide last year, where **only 5%** of those taking the examination were originally deemed capable of following a Form V course, many schools in Tanzania are, not surprisingly, finding their senior classrooms empty. WATU Secondary School, however, is pleased that **eight students have applied to join Form V**, four of whom, coming from economically poor families, are the kind of students that WATU is pledged to support and will require some financial assistance.

It is perhaps difficult to comprehend but **Ficah David, Hellen Mngara, Lydia Makanga and Moses Malisanga** all of whom have been successful in their O Level examinations and who all come from the Moshi area, have been assigned public senior secondary schools hundreds of kilometres away from home for which their families are obliged to pay a substantial fee. In addition to the proximity of WSS they give as their reasons for wanting to attend our school

the **environment which they see as being conducive to learning**, the adequacy of the **teaching and learning resources**, the fact that the **teachers care for them and are interested**, and the **small classes**, none of which are a given at the public school..

The families of these students are prepared to make as large a contribution as possible to their children's education; they do not expect something for nothing. In this context, therefore, we are putting out a request for support for these youngsters. Josiah and Richard appreciate that many of you have already supported WATU more than generously. Please, though, do be so kind as to pass on this request to your friends and acquaintances who you think might also be interested.

**Ficah needs €494 per annum
Hellen needs €423 per annum**

**Lydia needs €235 per annum
Moses needs €517 per annum**

**Each of these students will enroll in a two year course.
In anticipation of a positive response Josiah and Richard thank you very much indeed. Asante Sana**

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



After **riding from Galway** on the west coast of Ireland to Dobreta Turnu Severin in south west Romania last year there remained about 700 kilometres to go **to Constantja** for Richard to complete the full traverse of Europe from the Atlantic to the Black Sea. This exciting final stretch was completed in seven days in June. Apart from raising essential funds for WATU – to **date a staggering 19,003 Swiss francs** – for which **Richard thanks all of you very much**, the ride was an amazing experience, leading Richard

(and Katherine, without whose support the journey would have been impossible) into many parts of the continent most people might not normally visit. Perhaps, Richard says, he should now continue on to Istanbul, cross the Mediterranean and cycle down the Nile to Tanzania!

RENT A SWISS APARTMENT AND HELP WATU



Thank you to those of you who have contributed to WATU by renting Richard and Katherine's apartment in Champex. There are still a few weeks available if you would like to reserve for the late summer or autumn, or even next winter 2014. The apartment is small, with one bedroom but it sleeps four by using the sofa bed in the living room. 300 chf/week which all goes to WATU.

One of the **advantages that WSS students enjoy** over perhaps most of their Tanzanian contemporaries is **contact with other European students**. Mike Samadu, who has just returned to Switzerland with his school group which he led with Jana Krainova, a long time supporter of WATU, and who, himself, gave a stimulating talk to the WATU students, has sent us this report:



July 2013 was the **fourth visit of a WATU Collège du Lemman student group** to the Shiri complex. On the first visit in 2007 there was just a concrete base in the middle of a corn field. That year we poured hundreds of 'plates' of cement into the trench foundations for the student dormitory. On our second visit the Kindergarten had been beautifully finished and the dormitory was close to completion. Next came the science laboratory and the foundations for the teaching block. **The Shiri School has to be seen to be appreciated**. Simple constructions lined with immaculately tended hedges and low trees. The atmosphere is of a Greek Academy. Shade and silence, **the perfect site for concentrated study** under the magnificent profile of Africa's snow-capped Kilimanjaro. Our dozen students from CDL Geneva looked with admiration at **the beautiful surroundings that had been created with a minimum of funding and the maximum of love and care**. In a cool large classroom the visitors were



welcomed by the A level students and the Grade 4 cohort. The ceremony ended with an impassioned talk on the unfairness of the local examination system where a command of English was required if success was to be achieved.

The friendship of their hosts and the serenity of the surroundings charmed each and every one of the visitors, many of whom hope to return to Shiri to witness **the growth of this remarkable educational centre in rural Moshi, Tanzania**.

Mike Samadu

STUDENTS ENJOY MORE COMPUTERS AT WSS

In addition to the computers provided by the World Economic Forum some years ago WSS now has **a further twelve machines donated by Mr and Mrs Karlson**, to whom go our grateful thanks. WATU would also like to thank College de Lemman students who, on their recent visit, were able to transport most of these computers. Although mains electricity remains a huge obstacle, WSS's solar power facility is slowly expanding to the extent that the students are able to use these computers, and even access the Internet which is **making a huge difference to their studies**.



NEW FILMS ON YOUTUBE

The recent **series of five minute films on the activities at WSS** which **Pontus Wallsten** made in March is now available direct from the

website which thanks to Philippe Mbesi, is now as fully updated as possible (there is always something going on which should be included). These films show the football team, the community service, some classroom teaching, and even some music on the Shiri campus. These short films make a welcome addition to the 2010 film also made by Pontus on Watu Secondary School, found also on the website. We hope you enjoy them.



THANKS TO DONORS



Jackson Mgonja involved in a CAS activity He also helps if MamaMlezi is sick by cooking the ugali.



The CDL group delivering materials to the kindergarten

As always we are very grateful indeed for the generous donations that many of you have made. We would like to thank the following who have made a contribution since the last newsletter in March this year: Henrik and Linda Svernas, The Righ Foundation, Mary and Michael O'Brien, Angela Lonsdale, the Pitt family, Pontus Wallsten, Tony Welling, Vicky Seymour, Sarah Bills, Arthur Montgomery, Christopher and Jennifer Jones, Claire Willey, Alison Gill, Robert and Jean Heery, Marguerite Dieffenbach, students at the International School of Geneva, La Chataigneraie, Asha Singh-Williams, Barbara and Les Swindin, Joanna Coates, Geoff and Pauline Causey, Brian Cox, Rick and Carole Saynor, Howie Muir, Ruth Stokes, Tyler Schmoll, CDL students.



Teachers' workshop



Part of the school campus