



PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to an interim edition of the WATU newsletter, the consequence of **an important new development** which you will see outlined below. A large number of students in the Moshi district, for many different reasons, have not been successful in their **O Level examinations** even though they were expected to do well. WATU School is, therefore, **offering an intensive eight month resit programme** to students in this category, lessons which will be subsidised by WATU for those students who come from financially impoverished families.

Josiah and Richard would like to take this opportunity to thank very sincerely our regular and new donors whose details you can read about elsewhere in the newsletter. Without your support nothing could be achieved.

RESPONDING TO AN URGENT NEED WATU School Opens a New O level Class

As of March 30th **WATU School's O level resit programme** is full with 25 students, all of whom are now registered to take the examination in October 2013. This emergency programme will allow those students for whom their previous schools predicted good grades to have a second chance, following the country-wide disastrous performance in both public and private schools in the Tanzanian National Ordinary Level examinations at the end of last year. WATU is expecting that with good teaching, individually-tailored courses, and the facilities that we have in place at Shiri Mgungani, particularly good textbooks, these students will achieve their objectives. **The boarding facilities will provide a quiet environment** in the evenings for the completion of homework. There is a great deal of work for these students to do and **no time at all to be wasted**. Students will pay fees which are much lower than those in local private schools and financial support has been given to those who come from economically impoverished families. **We owe our teachers, who have agreed to take on the extra workload, a sincere vote of thanks.**

So, as our new O Level students join our A Level candidates and our little ones in the kindergarten, we are now seeing a **thriving educational community at WATU School.**

UPDATE TO THE WATU FILM

The **update to the 2010 film** Pamoja Tunaweza is almost finished. It will soon be **available on Youtube and the web site, e-watu.com**. Pontus Wallsten spent ten



days in Tanzania in late January filming our students doing community service, training for football matches as well as in the classroom. There is also a short but very lively feature on music at WATU school which amongst other things **stars our school principal, Mr Mwrabu**, playing the accordion – which was a surprise to all of us.



BLACK SEA OR BUST: Cycling Across Europe for WATU

With 4300 kilometres already covered in 2012 from Galway in the west of Ireland to Dobreta Turnu Severin in the south of Romania, **Richard will set out on 10th May to complete the remaining 800 kilometres** to Constanta on the Black Sea and then on to Tulcea on the Danube delta with Katherine in support. Richard reports that **so far he has raised 17,125 Chf** and is extremely grateful to all those of you who have so generously supported his efforts. If anyone would like still to contribute something no matter how small then the best way is to go to the e-watu website and follow the instructions on the “donate now” facility.

Many, many thanks.



THE WATU HORTICULTURAL PROJECT

Pontus has also been active for WATU on another front.

He has built upon work he did during his 2010 visit to cement **a business relationship with Mr Samueli Mchuwa**, a nursery man in Moshi . Pontus has arranged to buy plants and bulbs from him at a price which Mr Mchuwa finds attractive and then re-sell them via Pontus’ web business <http://pontuswallstenplants.smugmug.com/> with the **profits shared between WATU and Mr Mchuwa**. Orders have already been arriving. If you are interested please visit Pontus’ website for details.



Samueli, Pontus and Richard at the plot where the WATU plants will be grown.

RENT A SWISS APARTMENT AND HELP WATU

Thank you also to those of you who have contributed to WATU by renting Richard and Katherine's apartment in Champex. This winter has been spectacular and we expect the summer to be the



same. 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.



GRATEFUL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We would like to thank all those of you who have continued to support us **since our last newsletter in early December** as well as new donors. Our particular thanks must go to The Righ Foundation, Munich International School, Mr and Mrs J. Fauset , George Justo, the Wallsten family,* Mr and Mrs C. Karlson,** Mats Nilsson, Henrik and Linda Sennas, Flora Tarimo, Irene Echard, Claire Wood, Mary and Michael O'Brien, Mr P Nicolet, Lara Fabris, Jeremie Mbise, the Robinson family, Mr and Mrs T. Fealey, Sarah Armstrong, The Trefoil Guild, Ruth Stokes, Robert and Jean Heery, Hannu Ryypponen, Judith Johnson, Stephen and Anne Heery, Claire Willey, Alison Gill, Mrs M. Medd, in addition to all of you who sponsored Richard's ride who are too numerous to mention here, many of whom were very generous indeed.

*(for the donation of 16 football strips)

** (for twelve excellent used computers together with the-difficult-to-find Swedish/ Tanzanian plugs)

ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE REQUIRED URGENTLY

One of the challenges that needs most urgently to be tackled in our school, both with the A Level as well as the O Level students **is that of written and spoken English**. All secondary education is in English but the vast majority of students struggle with the language and need intensive instruction.

If you should know of **any ESL teacher who is perhaps looking for adventure and experience** and is ready to take on a serious challenge then please encourage him or her to contact us. The work would need to be voluntary and, unfortunately the Tanzanian government asks for an additional visa fee for volunteers: 200 dollars for up to 3 months and 500 dollars for any period over 3 months. WATU would be able to provide simple accommodation and food but anything more than this would have to be at the volunteer's expense.

Please ask any interested teachers to contact Richard at r.heery@bluewin.ch so that we could open discussions.

AHSANTENI SANA