



PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

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December 2013 2013 A Year Of Progress at WATU



Part of the campus: - flowering shrubs, student's washing and the mango tree

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the December 2013 edition of the People's Participation in Education (WATU) Newsletter and an enormous thank you to all of you who have contributed to making this year so successful. **We now have at Shiri Mgungani a substantial working school** which this year has **provided an education to nearly 50 young people** (and that figure does not include our wonderful children in the kindergarten) who would otherwise have been deprived of schooling. We are proud of this achievement but it most certainly could not have come about without your help.

The most immediate plan for 2014 is to open a Form I class with 25 students. This is dependent, however, on our completing our new classroom and stocking our science laboratory

THE KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

The kindergarten class is everyone's delight at **our school** and not least to our visitors. But each year we have to say goodbye to those who have to "graduate" to the local primary school. **To show our love for the eleven children leaving us this year who we will greatly miss, the school prepared a goodbye programme**, mostly funded by parents, on 28th November. The children were awarded with certificates by Joe Wright, Head of the English Dept at the International School of Moshi and by Ingrid Chavez, who were our guests of honor.



The children entering the graduation hall

CONSTRUCTION OF A THIRD CLASSROOM FOR FORM ONE

Work is on the way now towards **constructing a third classroom which will house our first intake of Form I students**. The foundations of the classroom have been in place for some time which will, of course, reduce the cost, but the walls, roof and fittings, not to mention the necessary furnishings are still expensive. If you would like to help by funding a wall, or a portion of the roof or the windows and doors then we would be very grateful indeed. **Opening our school to Form I students is essential**. A few of these students we hope will be able to pay our full fees and whilst the others will be able to pay only a proportion and some hardly anything at all **the greater numbers will bring in extra income** without our having to increase the number of teachers, **thus moving us closer to some kind of self sustainability**.

In addition to the classroom **we will need to stock our science laboratory**. The laboratory, complete with fixtures, has been in place for a couple of years now but until now it hasn't been necessary to equip it because at the senior level we have not been offering any science subjects. However, **General Science is compulsory in the lower classes which makes this work imperative**. If any of you scientists would like to make a contribution to this work then we would be extremely grateful. (We would like to thank the Uppal Family for their very generous donation two years ago which allowed us to fit the room with benches and connections for water, gas and electricity.)



Thank you so much to those who responded to our appeal in the July newsletter to sponsor a student's fees. Our urgent need now is to fund the building of the new classroom so would you consider sponsoring some of the necessary material? Any help, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated.

CAN YOU HELP US ?

Area	Cost Tz shillings	Cost Euros
Brick walls	4,783,000	2,179
The roof	5,362,400	2,443
Ceiling boards	4,537,700	2,067
Windows (without glass)	1,475,000	672
Fitting windows	595,000	271
Plastering	1,083,000	493
Light fittings	490,000	223
Floors	1,655,000	754
Painting	1,461,000	665



The site of the new classroom

FORM IVs ARE SAD TO LEAVE SHIRI

FAREWELL TO THE FORM FOUR RE-SITTER CLASS

After **8 months of serious revision** to re-sit the form IV examination, **our 30 students left the school** on 15th November.. They **were a highly motivated group** who worked hard in order to do better this time. The school in cooperation with the students' council organized **a small farewell programme** which included lunch with their teachers, drama, singing and presents to those students who were chosen by staff for their hard work and for their self motivation to do more outside the classroom (extra curricular).



Anna Mbwambo receiving the prize for the most disciplined and well behaved student



Students in a play about HIV and how drugs contribute to the spread of HIV in young people



Jackson Mgonja receiving the prize for the most hard working and cooperative student even helping with the cooking when Mama Mlezi was ill

: After careful monitoring of students work over those 8 months and following the results they achieved in their internal and external mock examinations, teachers believe that **11 students** will pass their examination and **qualify to be selected to join the A level program next year**. They are now at the school and are working hard to catch up with those who started the program in May this year. *Josiah Mchome*

A HUGE THANK YOU

We have been thinking a lot about your charity heart, and we feel that it would be best for both of us if we write these appreciations to your school and our sponsors as our time of living together comes to an end. We have enjoyed the time we have spent together and will always remember this school. We thought your Ideas of helping marginalized children's in whom we are the part; it could be difficult for us to handle our life. With all respects we thank much our sponsors because even though they don't know where we come from and our families they manage to help us. They travel from far away to see us, and we remember the way Mr. Richard and those who visited us few months ago advise us on the ways to handle life difficulties. A word which we can say is to thank them very much for their charitable heart.

We thanks much our teachers and school workers as they offer a lot during our school journey and may God bless them forever. We value the education we have gained during our time, as well as the lifelong friendship we have made since it could help as a light in our future.

Yours Faithfully,

Form four re setters

VISITORS TO SHIRI



Breakfast under the mango tree



A heartfelt speech

On Monday September 23rd WATU School at **Shiri Mgungani** was pleased to welcome some of our most generous sponsors. **Henrik, Linda, Hannu, Elizabeth, and Karin** flew in from Zurich and within less than two hours of landing at Kilimanjaro Airport they were being greeted by our beautiful kindergarten children “We are happy to see you” the children sang, proudly in English, followed by the Tanzanian National Anthem. A wonderful start to what would turn out to be **a very productive day**. Mama Mlezi served us all breakfast in the shade under the mango tree, after **our guests had toured the campus which, I must say, was looking splendid**, and then it was down to business **discussing the almost intractable problem of purchasing land in the neighbourhood, the interminable difficulties with the power supply and the challenge of obtaining an affordable Internet connection**. Later in the visit we gathered in one of our classrooms to meet all of the students, some forty or so eager young people, who listened closely to



Henrik Svernas talking to the students

the speeches led by Henrik and Hannu and then asked and responded to questions and thanked our guests for their invaluable support without which, they said, they would not be receiving an education. They finished by presenting the songs and dances that they had performed at the concert at The International School of Moshi two nights earlier to conclude a visit which, I am sure, had been enjoyed by everyone.

MORE CON TACT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MOSHI

Saturday night September 21st saw **virtually all of the WATU School students performing at the International School of Moshi concert**. They sang three songs beautifully including Miriam Mkeba’s *Malaika* and later in the concert Stuart performed his most expressive and athletic dance to great applause. **We are very grateful to ISM for giving our students this opportunity**, an opportunity which, in fact, has

Some of the students preparing for the concert



arisen out of an **initiative between Josiah Mchome – who used himself to be IB Economics teacher and CAS co-ordinator there – and Joe Wright, currently Head of the English Dept** which has seen football matches between the two schools and, perhaps even more importantly, twice weekly discussion groups on very wide ranging serious topics bringing our senior students and the IB students at ISM together for what I believe to be their mutual advantage. WATU school must also thank ISM for donations of books and materials. **We hope very much indeed that this co-operation will continue long into the future.**

WATU PLANTS A YEAR'S PROGRESS



Plant nursery businesses on the lower slopes of Kilimanjaro are flourishing and in January 2013, Pontus Wallstén and Richard Heery began **the WATU plants project which involves locating rare and unusual bulbs in Tanzania**, be they indigenous or naturalised and bringing them back to Europe. Pontus can then build up a stock of various species at his **nursery, Pontus Wallstén Plants,**

now based in Perroy in the Lake Geneva region. These bulbs are sold at rare plant fairs across Switzerland from April to September, **both as dormant and potted, established specimens in leaf.** The profits from the sales go both to WATU and to the nurserymen from whom the original bulbs were purchased.



Our main source is Samuel Muchiwa who is already working on various conservation projects. He gathers seeds and bulbs, multiplies them in his nursery and replants them in the wild. Samuel has agreed to help to find rare bulbs and work has begun on a small plot of land owned by Samuel just outside Moshi where he will grow more WATU bulbs.



So far, the project has gone well, approximately half the stock of bulbs having **been sold, raising 775 chf. for WATU which has been used for essential landscaping (hedges and flowering bushes);** funds in 2014 will go towards the new classroom. A film is being made about the project which will be available for purchase on DVD in 2014, for 25 CHF; again, profits will go to WATU. **Bulbs are regularly updated, and available all year from Pontus'website:**http://pontuswallstenplants.smugmug.com/Other/WATUPlants/21268763_9Zjf8x#!i=2364896641&k=QLsb5XG Pontus can also be contacted by email for more information at pontus.wallsten@bluewin.ch

We would like to thank all those of you who have continued to support us since our last newsletter in July as well as new donors. Our particular thanks must go to:-

Henrik and Linda Svernas, Hannu Ryponnen, Brian Wheeler, Conny Karlson, Karin Stromberg, Philippa Romig and the Montessori School of Crans, Claes Osterlin, The Cicely Foundation, FOTIS, The Pitt Family, Heather Maclehose, Mary and Michael O'Brien, Peter and Mary Jo Giroux, Geoff and Pauline Causey, Tony Cole, Claire Wood, Robert and Jean Heery, Stephen and Anne Heery, Pete Kenewell, Silvio Pioveson and Karinne Cavalcanti, Nicole Freitas, Niki Lowe, Jeremy Mbise, Claire Willey, Betsy Willey, Ruth Stokes, Pontus Flowers, Richard and Linda Williams, Michael Wheeler, Alison Gill, Eleanor Bates

THANK YOU ASANTE SANA