



Watu News

November 2015

Thanks to Pontus Wallsten the first aerial views of the school. Foundations for a new classroom and an extension to the boys' boarding house can be seen.

In WATU newsletter no. 1 of September 2008 we reported that we were just about to put the roof on what is now our administrative and kindergarten block (the building on the far right).

The photograph shows the extent of the campus today: four classrooms and science laboratory in the foreground, two wings of the boarding hostel, and behind the admin block a dining "shade" which doubles as classroom space, and the kitchen and toilet blocks. The campus is secured by a thick hedge and a sturdy gate and is described by nearly all visitors as very beautiful. Certainly, the students put the "peaceful environment" at the head of their list of what they like about the school. Interestingly, this first "aerial" shot of the entire campus was taken from halfway up the new internet tower that the local provider TIGO have donated (see photo above). For all of this impressive physical infrastructure WATU would like to thank, once again, all donors, and warmly invite you all to come and pay us a visit; Karibu!

But buildings are not everything.

On my recent arrival at the school at the end of October I was greeted by the results of our first Form 2 "mock" exam results: WATU Secondary School came third out of 22 schools in Moshi urban area; with some training on exam technique our students are confident of doing even better in the final papers in 2016. Currently, the Form 4 re-sitters are taking their final examination and the Form 6 students are preparing their "mocks". They are following two years of spectacular A level results but they feel confident they can do even better. Best of Luck.

But academics also are not everything.

During my visit I listened to our accomplished choir, watched a marvellous fashion parade of dresses designed and made by the students themselves, watched football and netball practice sessions, and the students performing cultural dances from four different ethnic groups in Tanzania. There are regular debates with the local International school where WSS more than holds its own. And what is perhaps even more

impressive is that most of these extra curricular activities are organized by themselves. You would, I am sure, be very proud of them.

Attracting new students

The school's reputation is such that we can now attract some students who come from families who are prepared to pay what we have established as "full" school fees ie 1,500,000 TZ shillings or approximately \$800 a year (incidentally, still much less than most private schools).

These students are very much in the minority and we are in no danger of going against our mandate of supporting the least-privileged young people, but at least, these fees do provide some valuable income as we struggle towards some kind of sustainability.

We are currently, for instance anxious about being able to construct a new room in the hostel to welcome our new students in January 2016; we need at least another \$5000 to be able to complete it to the standard required by the authorities.

If you know people who would like to support us the following specifics might be useful as guidelines:

Sponsorship of a student for one year: \$800



Food for one student for one year: \$220

Classroom: \$15,000

One teacher's salary including superannuation and insurance: \$4,000



Science lab supplies: \$6,000



Hostel accommodation for 12 students: \$10,000

School bus secondhand, imported from Japan plus taxes (considerable!): \$15,000



THANK YOU

The assembly is being held in order to distribute prizes for excellent work. Classes 5,6,1 and 2 are in uniform whilst at the front is the pre-form one group who will start in January at the beginning of the 2016 school year. They're already attending classes, eager to get started and make the most of the opportunity to attend WSS.

Elephant Day at WATU Secondary School

At the end of September WSS was fortunate to be visited (apparently the first of all schools to be visited in Tanzania) by an international group of film-makers and local conservation officers who were educating Tanzanians on the plight of the African elephant.

This excellent day was followed up a month later with a trip to the Ngorongoro Crater National Park, the first time that our students had ever been there. The staff are to be congratulated on their initiative in organizing these two events which extend the experiences of our students way beyond what they would normally expect at school.



Agriculture Sector at WSS

An article by Fadhili Mbenea
Form 6

WATU Secondary School are very happy after the harvest of their maize and vegetables which were planted October. The farm is allocated beside the girls' hostel. This farm has reduced the difficulty of getting food in Watu Sec. School to some extent. That farm is divided into two portions, one portion is for maize and the remaining one is for vegetables which is very important for those students who can not eat beans because they are suffering from ulcers. For this season of October, November and December there is no rain but we use irrigation system for watering the crops. And the ones who are responsible for watering are students only and mostly boys only. The process of irrigation takes place once a week, that is only Saturday and the most common time when irrigation is taking place is night especially 10.00pm up to 00.00pm (midnight) or up to 02.00am. Now we expect to use artificial manure for the purpose of boosting growth.



Dining Shade... FINISHED!

The students are enjoying using the new dining area, invaluable during the rainy season and for providing temporary classroom space for the pre-form 1 students. It has been built with a donations from The Cicely Foundation, the Fauset family and a grant from ECIS accessed via College du Leman.

Thank You, Asante Sana



This is how the photographs were taken. Pontus's shot of his position, half way up the new internet tower (donated by TIGO). Needless to say the students are NOT allowed to do this! Here can be seen the security gate (International Women's Club of Nyon) and the hedge (College du Leman.)



All part of school life

There's more to Watu Secondary School than exam results. After school relaxation, extra-curricular activities and service responsibilities are all part of the school day.



The choir welcoming members of the Fauset family visiting the school for the first time. Performances have been given at the International School of Moshi



A game of football at the end of the school day. The younger boys are in their new shirts (the Wallsten family)

The school is providing a varied experience for the students. Debates involving the whole school, a trip to a game park by the older students, a chance to meet students and visitors from different parts of the world make our school stand out.



Sweetbeth Mwacha (in the foreground) designed the dresses that were part of a recently held fashion show. She's in Year 2.



The students work on the shamba, the land bought in 2014 (the Sennas and Ryopponen families) being used to already provide a good part of the school's food needs.

Asante Sana



Thank You

On behalf of the students and teachers at WATU Secondary School we would like to thank the following for their generous support since our last newsletter in July 2015:

Henrik and Linda Svernas, Value Creation Investment Ltd, the Fauset family, the students of the International School of Geneva La Chataigneraie, The Cicely Foundation, Mats Nilson, Andrew Maclehose, Tony Cole, Joanna Coates, Barbara Swindin, Beatrice Hoesli, Pontus Wallsten Plants, Anders Wallsten, Ginny Wilde, George Justo, Peter Kennewell, Alison Gill, Claire Willey, Michael and Mary O'Brien, Martha Heery, Robert Heery, Christabel Spong, The International School of Moshi, Geoff and Pauline Causey.

Fundraising

.WSS Students to climb Kilimanjaro.

Thousands of foreigners climb Mt Kilimanjaro every year but even though the mountain is clearly visible behind Watu Secondary School, our students, like the vast majority of Tanzanians have never even set foot on the mountain.

One of our ex-sponsored students, Paul, (supported by FOTIS) is now an experienced mountain guide. With his assistance we hope, in April 2016, to celebrate the 10th birthday of

WATU, by putting some of our current students on the summit of the mountain at nearly 6,000 metres. This would be a truly remarkable achievement.

WSS students are eager to play a part in raising funds for the school of which they are so proud. They would like to ask all their friends at home and abroad to sponsor them in this amazing adventure. More details in the February newsletter or in a special announcement.



Pontus Wallsten's Plants

Flame trees, baobab and jacaranda seeds, unusual bulbs e.g. hymenocallis littoralis and habranthus pedunculoe, are for sale and profits go to Watu.

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PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

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People's Participation in Education (WATU)



Watu Tanzania