



WATU News

DECEMBER 2020

Editorial

What a year (2020)!! but we “survived” the worrying and painful outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic disease. WATU Secondary School was particularly affected by the Covid problem in five main areas. One, the psychological fear that it is very easy to contract the disease because of the way it spreads. We (staff and students) were all worried and this became a problem in itself. Two, we had to plan for new sitting arrangements in order to have acceptable space in classrooms and in the staff room which was not easy for us, Three, we had to look for money to spend for protective devices which we continue to use. Four, our teaching programs were interfered with following the closure of the school for three months. Five, we lost income from school fees for those three months that students stayed at home. The year by all consideration will be recorded to be one of the difficult years the school has gone through lately. Yet with all this, we opened the school in July and everyone reported back in a good, healthy condition. We are now doing everything possible to recover from the damage inflicted on the school by the Covid-19 pandemic problem. We thank all those who helped us in one way or another during those very trying moments.

Josiah Mchome

The A Level Science Laboratory

For a long time, it has been the wish of WATU Secondary School to build an “A” level science laboratory. Everything possible was done to see this wish translate into reality but we did not succeed.

It is with great pleasure to inform our supporters that **AT LAST** the science laboratory is under construction and is now at the roofing stage. Great thanks go to Hannu and Elizabeth Ryooponen for donating the initial money and for sponsoring the project to its completion.



The laboratory will be used by “A” level students specializing in PCB (physics, chemistry and biology), and PCM (physics, chemistry and maths) combinations which are very popular among students. The building and all the necessary installations are expected to be completed ready for use in June/July 2021. This project is a great achievement for the school and for the country. In the past years, a lot of our students who wanted to do A Level science combinations had to leave because we did not have an approved laboratory for this level. With effect from July next year, the story will change.

Josiah Mchome

Geneva International School (La Chataigneraie)

This year, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic virus, GIS were not able to visit us as they normally do during their summer holidays. We missed them a lot.

It is, however, with great humility that we can inform our supporters that GIS students, under the guidance of their CAS Coordinator Sarah Lalaz, raised a substantial amount of money for us to pay our staff a monthly salary when the students were at home. What happened, as has been said in the editorial, was that for the three months our students were at home, the school did not receive school fees and this turned out to be a huge problem to a small school like ours. We continue to thank the Geneva students, their teacher Sarah and the parents who supported us during a very critical time.

Josiah Mchome

Academics

The 2020/2021 academic program was affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic virus and, as many schools did elsewhere, we closed the school for three months. Unfortunately, much as we wanted to keep in contact with our students while at home, we were probably only 10% successful because a lot of our students did not have computers and therefore communication became very difficult and sometimes impossible. The problem was, however, made less severe by the students following radio programs sponsored by the government through the national radio channels.

Examination results

The 2019/2020 **Form VI** results came out in August 2020, a bit late this year due to the COVID-19 problem. We had 23 candidates, 22 of them passed with Division II and they all qualified for university/college admission. One was admitted to do a certificate course in local government administration. Considering the three months absence from school, we were happy with the results.

Results came in January of the **Form II exams** which were taken in November 2019. Division one = 11 students, Division two = 9, Division three = 3, Division four = 3 and no student failed. There is no regional or national ranking of these exams.

Results came in March of the **Form IV** exams which were taken in November 2019. Division one = 7 students, Division two = 10, Division three = 11, Division four = 6 and one student received Division zero. Kilimanjaro Region ranking for schools with small classes (less than 35 students in a class) was 6/41 and national ranking for the same category of class was 87/1011.

The 2020/2021 Form IV class starts their Form IV national examinations on 23rd November 2020, finishing on the 2nd December. The Form II class has taken their National exams between the 9th and the 13th November; The end of year holiday starts on 18th December, 2020.

Josiah Mchome

WSS Staff

In August this year (2020) we were joined by two new teachers namely JACKSON NGONJA who teaches History and JUMA SHABAN KHATIBU who teaches English. The two were appointed to fill the position of one of our teachers who left after getting a job at a better paying school and to relieve some teachers who had excess teaching workloads. Jackson and Juma are former WSS students who excelled when they were students at our school. They join the WATU Secondary School staff pictured below.

**JACKSON
MGONJA**



**JUMA
SHABAN
KHATIBU**

Getting the school to be known by many more people

WATU Secondary School has a good working relationship with the media, mostly local radio stations in Moshi town. We think this is very important for a new and small school like ours. We invite radio journalists to cover our graduation ceremonies and ask them to put on air some basic information about our school.



Recently Josiah Mchome was invited by RADIO FOUNTAIN to talk about Education in Tanzania and he took the opportunity to talk about WATU Secondary School. In his talk, he informed the public that a science laboratory was under construction at our school which will give the school the opportunity to conduct "A" Level science combinations next year (June 2021) to the delight of students, teachers, parents and the government of Tanzania.

THE SCHOOL INTERNET

After almost a year and a half of internet disconnection using the TIGO fast internet tower, at last the problem has been fixed by TIGO engineers and we now enjoy internet communication again, although it is very slow. Thanks to Hannu Ryoopponen for his endless communication with us and with senior TIGO officials in Europe, for looking into the problem and fixing it when possible, because the school needs internet communication desperately. We have asked TIGO engineers to re-visit the school and see if they can make the facility work faster.



This year has, indeed, been difficult but, as Josiah says in his editorial, the school has survived. That it has done so is the consequence of the extraordinary commitment of the administrative staff and teachers at the school and that of those many faithful supporters whose generosity enabled the school to pay 80% of the teachers' salaries during the three-month closure.

Josiah has already paid tribute to Hannu and Elizabeth Ryoopponen, Sarah Lalaz and the La Chataigneraie campus of The International School of Geneva. But WATU would also like to thank Association WATU and its two major contributors Henrik and Linda Svennas along with Conny Karlsson, Karin Stromberg, Birgitta Lindgren, Philippe Fournier, Anders Svennas, Kristofer Svennas, Per & Eva Nilson, and Nicolas Dzierlatka for the regular tri-monthly remittances which helped to keep the school afloat during its closure.

Our friends at FOTIS have also been very generous indeed.

Grateful thanks to:

Funding for the physical infrastructure of the science laboratory is secured but I would like to thank very sincerely the following for their contributions made through their purchase of Towards Infinite Horizons which mean we are now sure of furnishing, equipping, and stocking the laboratory: Katherine and Richard Heery, Andrew and Heather Maclehorse, Barbara Swindin, Pete Kennewell, Brian Wheeler, Rob Kirkham, Pamela Harris, Alan Norton, Bill and Rosie Westermeier, Dinah Nichols, John Dempster, John and Margaret Strachan, Geoff and Pauline Causey, Marine Siznaki, Eleanor and Terry Papaionnou, Martha and Dan Heery-Wise, Jim and Janet Luongo, Jay Turner, Victoria Seymour, Pontus Wallsten, Anders Wallsten, Robert and Jean Heery, Stephen and Anne Heery, Francis and Theresa Heery, Ruth and Sean McDonagh, John Kerrigan, Bridie Rubin, Mary Silvio, Patricia Fitzgerald, Tony Welling, Mike and Kiki Lee, Viv Cripps, Sarah and Rory Armstrong, Thomas and Henrietta Heery, Mike and Dorothy Wheeler, Fred Piderit, Philip Wingate, Irene Echard, Deborah Powell, Justin Edwards, Steve and Maureen Clifflen, Carole Sharpe, Bobby and Gus Ritson, Bobby and Ned Stokes, Joan and Ben Holden, Judith Johnson, Marta Meija, Diane Mueller, Michael and Mary O'Brien, Alison Stuart, Peter and Mary-Jo Giroux, Mike and Glen Pasternak, Frazer Cairns, Fay Curtin, Pushpa Pandey, Christobel Spong, Tony Cole, George Justo, Deborah Henley, David Todd, Claire Willey, Marie-Helene and Peter Potter-Lesage, Asha Williams, Michael and Eleanor Kanter, Ian Menzies, Emmanuel Samusaure, Thomas Bove, Jenn Stone, Frank Clarke, Leslie and Enzo Bencini, Chris Holland, Rosemary Cooper, Shirley and Charles Curran, Robert Westwood, Gary Stahl (Names given in the chronological order of contributions received).

Grateful thanks as always to Christabel Spong for the layout of this Newsletter and to Katherine Heery for funding and updating the website: watusecondaryschool.com.

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

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People's Participation in Education (WATU)



Watu Tanzania