



Watu News

DECEMBER 2019

Brilliant results at WATU Secondary School in 2019 Hai District Public Exams

Form III student Christina Abdul Mgonja was placed 4th out of the 2890 students in all subjects in the Form III Hai District Public Examination. Many congratulations Christina on this superb achievement.

WATU Secondary achieved 1st place out of 40 schools for its performance in the Form III Hai District Public Examination. Particularly impressive: the school was 2nd in all three sciences and 1st in maths!

Editorial

It can safely be said that WATU Secondary School is now a very successful academic institution indeed. At all levels of public examinations our students are consistently placed in the higher ranks. Particularly commendable are the performances of our lower school students in the sciences. The school has only a rudimentary science laboratory so that teachers have to be even more inventive and rigorous to achieve the astonishing results with our students that they do.

However, WATU Secondary does not possess a science laboratory for senior A Level students which means that many students who would love to stay to work in the stimulating academic environment that is WATU Secondary have to leave if they want to study the sciences at A Level.

Whilst the school is moving very quickly towards complete sustainability in day to day business it does not have the income to construct a science laboratory. The laboratory will cost about 25,000 \$US. In this issue you will read about a special fund-raising project which we hope you'll be keen to support.

Towards Sustainability

Josiah Mchome writes in his annual report that the **school numbers 177 students and that 97 students**, 55% of the school population, now pay full fees of 1,500,000 Tanzanian shillings.

This is for tuition and full board and is amongst the lowest of all private schools in Tanzania. A further 18 students (10%) pay full day student fees of 750,000 TZ shillings whilst 51 students (29%) are all more or less subsidised, paying between 300,000 and 1,200,000 shillings. 6% pay nothing at all. Thus 35% of the student body is subsidized by the rest of the school population, testament to the school's fundamental philosophy of supporting those who are financially least able to access quality education.

It is important to note that 33% of annual income still comes from foreign donations most of which is spent on infrastructure (as of 2018).

We also must not forget the 37 children in the Montessori kindergarten which continues to thrive. The kindergarten has always been self-sustaining financially and provides a crucially important service to the local Shiri Mgungani community.

Examination Successes

In the **National Form IV** public examination, the results of which were published in January 2019, WSS was placed 444th out of 3483 schools, nationally. In Kilimanjaro Region the school was placed 51st out of 271 schools.

In the **District public examinations for Forms I and III** WATU Secondary was placed 6th out of 40 for Form 1 and 1st out of 40 for form III.

(Particularly pleasing were the science results in Form III where WSS students were 2nd out of 40 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and 1st in Maths. Moreover, Form III student **Christina Abduel Mgonja** was placed 4th out of 2890 students.)

The **National Form VI** results were also very good indeed: 8 students scored Division 1, 12 students scored Division 2 and 2 students scored Division 3. There were no failures. All WSS graduating students are eligible for university.

(Of the 12 students who scored Division 2 the majority missed Division 1 by only one point!)

Graduation

The 2019 Form VI graduation ceremony took place on May 11th. Dr Mollel from the Tanzania Blood Bank addressed the 22 graduating students and their families.

The 2019 Form IV graduation ceremony took place on 16th October and invited as Guest of Honour Ms Lilian Badi, Country Director of World Education (Bantwana), a USAID-funded organisation based in Arusha, who addressed the 35 students.



New classroom and computers

The completion of a new classroom, begun in 2017 and funded by The International School of Geneva and WSS, provides an essential teaching location. This classroom also enables WATU Secondary to be an examination centre. No longer need our students face the considerable psychological challenge of taking their examinations in an unfamiliar school.

WATU Secondary School is very grateful to College du Lemane, Geneva, for the loan of 40 i-pads which should greatly improve the students' access to information technology. Josiah reports that the internet tower is working well – with only occasional power hiccups.

Mr Hannu Ryyopponen and his daughter-in-law Ellie were instrumental in securing the donation of 7 laptops from the Swiss operation of E-bay. Thanks also to Henrik Svensnas for facilitating their transportation.



The New Well

In June, students from the International School of Geneva, La Chataigneraie provided \$US6500 for the drilling and installation of an on-site well which now provides the school with 100% of its water needs.

Mr Josiah Mchome says:

“The well has not only been received by the school with jubilation (water cost-cutting) but also by the government. The Regional Education Officer on her routine school inspection was very happy about the school having water 24 hours a day.”

It was very satisfying for the Geneva students to watch the drilling process and see exactly where and how their hard work in fund-raising was reaping benefits



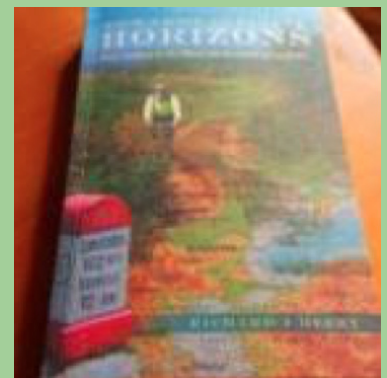
MAJOR NEW FUND-RAISING INITIATIVE: TOWARDS INFINITE HORIZONS

Richard Heery has just published a memoir/travelogue/biography *Towards Infinite Horizons*. The book describes his bicycle ride from Galway in the west of Ireland to Constanta in Romania on the shores of The Black Sea. But this is a guidebook only insofar as it explores what it feels like to make that journey. More importantly it is an edited biography of his father for whom Richard has a great deal of admiration.

Richard wrote his book with the intention of raising funds for the urgently-needed science laboratory at WATU Secondary School. He is trying to move away from simply asking donors for money towards trying to earn funds. Therefore, all profits from the book will go to WATU.

Richard is charging £10, 12euros, 15CHF or \$15 to cover 75% of his costs. He is hoping however that buyers will be prepared to give more, all of which will go directly to supporting the science lab project.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of *Towards Infinite Horizons* please write to Richard at r.heery@bluewin.ch with your address for payment and delivery details.



Asante Sana



Thank You

Grateful thanks to:

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Fundraising

.Champex-Lac Apartment for Rent. ALL FUNDS GO TO WATU

Help WATU and take a holiday or a weekend break in the Swiss Alps.

Available for rent (in the pictured block) in the small ski resort of Champex-Lac is a comfortable, fully equipped one bed roomed apartment with a sofa bed in the living room to allow sleeping for four. Cleaning, towels and linen included.

Week Rental: 300 chf Weekend Fri - Sun: 100chf

Contact for more information:

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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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