



Watu News

MARCH 2016

Paul Amosi and Goodluck Abdallah helping Pontus

The Latest Film **A Day at WATU Secondary School**

Pontus Wallstén has made a follow up to the last major film he made at WATU Secondary School in 2010. In this latest 25 minute film he gives an excellent picture of a typical day at the school. The film is intended not only for those donors who have not yet been able to visit Shiri Mgungani but also for prospective new donors who we hope will help us to support the further development of the school so that it can continue to deliver quality education to able children from families that are financially struggling.

A huge thank you must go to Pontus for the tremendous amount of work he has put into this project. The film has been uploaded onto both Youtube and Vimeo (thanks to George Justo) and access details are listed below:



A Day at WATU



<https://vimeo.com/watu>



<https://www.youtube.com/watutanzania>



The School Meeting

The meeting was held by Josiah so that he could advise students on appropriate conduct during the October elections. A lot of the senior students are not present as they have already left to return home to vote.

Congratulations Year Two. What Wonderful Results!

On the 15th January, Josiah wrote with this excellent news.

We have just received our Form Two National Examination results. They are very good and encouraging. There were 30 candidates entered and the grades received can be seen here.

These are, to us, excellent exam results and we are very happy with them. We are thinking, when the financial position gets better, to give these students a day trip to Tarangire National Park, where they have never been; they deserve it!

Well done to all the staff and students who have worked so hard in all nine subjects. Especially good were the English results and it was interesting to see how well the students did in the science subjects. With the Proctor and Gamble Alumni Foundation grant to stock the laboratory this year, we hope that this performance will be even further improved.



RESULTS

Pass with **DISTINCTION**= 17 (**DIVISION 1**)

Pass with **MERIT** =8 (**DIVISION 2**)

Pass with **CREDIT**=5 (**DIVISION 3**)

School Grade Point Average =3.69 (out of 4) (DISTINCTION).

The Building Programme Continues

The important focus at the moment is on the boarding facilities at the school. Most of the students board, a situation that is very common in secondary schools in Tanzania. This is because students either live too far from school to travel daily or families recognize that their children will benefit from an environment where they can really focus on their studies and that they will find time, space and help by living at the school.

Work has begun on an extension to the boys' hostel and at the girls' hostel a new septic tank is in the process of being completed.

The building programme urgently needs funds and any help would be very gratefully accepted.



Graduation: Time to Move on

A ceremony was held, in the new dining shade, for the oldest students in the kindergarten who were graduating from WATU school and will be now attending local primary schools. There has always been good feedback from these primary schools about the competence and confidence of our youngsters, who have benefited not only from the Montessori approach but also from the contact and interaction with the school groups, visitors and foreign donors that they have met. Some of these children can be seen on the film singing their song "we are happy to say welcome" to two such visitors, Mr. Fauset and his daughter Darcey.



Editorial by Richard Heery

Mr. Alfred Phiri with Form 1 students

2016 is ten years since the plot of land at Shri Mgungani was purchased with the first donations made to the NGO.

The kindergarten pupils arrived in 2009 and the first few secondary school students in 2012. Now the school is thriving and successful with more than 130 students, all of whom are proud and very happy to be learning in this very stimulating environment. The excitement of the school is well brought out in Pontus Wallstén's film. A recent generous grant from Procter and Gamble Alumni Foundation will now allow us to fully equip our science laboratory which our students have been eagerly awaiting. The girls' hostel has been upgraded and we are extending the boys' hostel to accommodate our new Form 1 boys who arrived at the beginning of January. Our first Form 2 results in the national examination have been excellent.

One measure of how highly Watu Secondary School is regarded is the fact that Don Bosco College of Philosophy and Education send students to Shiri for their teaching practices. At the moment we welcome Amadi Joseph Abuto from Kenya, Philip Stener from Malawi,

John Chabu from Zambia and Alfred Namwera Phiri from Malawi. They will be with us until 31st March. We hope that they all four enjoy a rewarding teaching practice with us and we thank them for their work.

We also welcome our latest volunteer from Fribourg, Switzerland, Ms Manuela Bacchler who will be with the school until April 25th. Karibu sana.

We are also very proud indeed to include, as a supplement to this newsletter, the first magazine written and produced by the students themselves at Watu Secondary School. By publishing this magazine they have demonstrated that they can make full use of our computer facilities at the school and with our new internet access we will be able to send it to schools around the world. In this way we hope that our global outreach ambitions for the WSS students will be realized. Congratulations to all who participated in producing the magazine.

Finally, I am sure that you all would like to wish Mr Mwarabu, our school principal and teacher of English, a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

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

Classroom: \$15,000



School bus secondhand, imported from Japan plus taxes: \$15,000



Hostel accommodation for 12 students: \$10,000



One teacher's salary: \$4,000

Food for one student for one year: \$220

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 November 2015:

Henrik and Linda Svennas, Value Creation Investment Ltd, Hannu and Elizabeth Ryoopponen, Christian & Annika Frank, Blue Ocean Sales, The Karlsson Family, La Chataigneraie student group, Int. School of Geneva, Jana Krainova and Mike Samadu with students from College du Léman, Proctor and Gamble USA Alumni Foundation, Flora Tarimo, Anthony and Sylvia Pitt, Tony Cole, Irene Echard, Margueritte Dieffenbach, Thomas and Henri Heery, Anita Wallstén, Christabel Spong, Pontus Wallstén, George Justo, Modern Languages dept. at La Chataigneraie, Int. School of Geneva, Pauline and Geoff Causey, Ned and Bobby Stokes, Robert and Jean Heery, Alison Gill, Claire Willey, Martha Heery, Mary and Michael O'Brien, Goodluck Abdallah, International School Of Moshi, Andrew Claus, Paul Nyansanda, Rosemary Samba and all those families who have hosted our visitors from abroad.

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:

r.heery@bluewin.ch



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.

Contact:

pontuswallstenplants.smugmug.com
pontus.wallsten@bluewin.ch



PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

P O. Box 10045, Moshi, TANZANIA. Tel: +255 27 2754502 / 0754 884013 / 0715 884013

Residence Alpes et Lac, 1938 Champex-Lac, Valais, SWITZERLAND. Tel.: 0041 (0)27 565 44 92

Emails: pamojatunaweza.watu@gmail.com. r.heery@bluewin.ch Website: www.e-watu.com



People's Participation in Education (WATU)



Watu Tanzania

We are very proud indeed to include, as a supplement to this newsletter, the first magazine written and produced by the students themselves at Watu Secondary School. By publishing this magazine they have demonstrated that they can make full use of our computer facilities at the school and with our new internet access we will be able to send it to schools around the world. In this way we hope that our global outreach ambitions for the WSS students will be realized. Congratulations to all who participated in producing the magazine.

WATU Secondary School

TOGETHER WE CAN

'Vision without action is day dreaming. Action without vision is a nightmare.'

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WATU school began in 2011 where Josiah Mchome and Richard Heery first applied to the commission of education to become an a level school. Their initial aim of the school was to support those families with lower income who struggled to afford government school fees. The school began with just 3 classrooms, 1 toilet block, a boys hostel, administrations office and a kindergarten classroom spread across the minimum expected land of 5 acres. They received the registration on 13th April, 2012 where they began to invite students to join WATU. The first form 5 class began with just 6 students, all of which eventually passed their exams and went on to attend university. The following year another form 5 class was introduced, but only 5 students attended, due to the low pass rate of form 4's in the country. They all passed their a level programme and went on to attend university. Due to the success of the students but minimal number of students applying, Josiah and Richard decided to apply for the registration to hold O level classes at WATU, which was agreed on the 8th December, 2014, where the first form 1 class was introduced. The school has developed a lot over this very short period of time and now has Form 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, and will have a form 4 class in 2017. The school now consists of 5 classrooms, boys hostel, boys wash-room, girls hostel, admin and kindergarten block, 2 toilet blocks, a kitchen, dining/shade area that doubles as another classroom and a successful shamba. Also under construction is another boys hostel, another classroom, science laboratory and a girls toilet block.

*'Don't change so
that people will
love you. Be
yourself and the
right people will
love the real
you.'*

*"Nobody can
do everything
but someone
can do
something"*

Marangu Waterfalls project trip

WATU Secondary school's form 6 students left the school early in the morning and started their journey to Marangu waterfalls. We reached Marangu at 10:50 am where we set off on our travel down to the base of the waterfall. We saw a beautiful place with a great plunging pool where we were fortunate enough to be able to swim. Our friends from England, Charlie and Chris took some lovely photos of us. We spent some time there where we had lunch together.

The main aim of the trip was to accomplish the Tanzanian Ministry of Education and Vocations command which asked every form 6 student to prepare and write a project which he or she would participate and get marked on afterwards. The marks would then be added to their final examinations marks at the end of form 6.

We left Marangu after knowing the full history of the waterfalls and that the original name of the waterfall was KINUKAMORI, a word that came from the name of the chiefs daughter that lived in that area who had committed suicide by jumping from the roof of the waterfall. After she had died, the father became aware that she was pregnant, which in their society, was a sin to become pregnant before marriage.



Written by Yvonne Prince.



Form 1 district Examination

It was a wonderful moment at WATU secondary school whereby form 1 students sat for their first district examination at HAI district which will enable them to enter in to form 2 next year. It was a very serious examination which was different to any other examination they have done before, and we expect that they will perform well due to the large amount of preparation they had.



Above is an image of the form ones concentrating during their exam after many months of preparation.

WATU SECONDARY SCHOOL

We consume what we produce

WATU school have been blessed with arable land very close to the school, called the shamba. This is due to having favorable soil and plenty of water for irrigation. This factor influences the school to introduce the project to enable us to grow green vegetables as well as maize. This project is expected to reduce the cost of food for the school. Under supervision of Deogratious Fidelis who is the project leader, followed by the help of Geoffrey Japhet and Fadhili Mbonea who are shamba leaders. We have great visions of this project ensuring minimum expenditure on food in the near future. This project is conducted across approximately two acres wide. The students of WATU secondary school expect to get high yields of maize and vegetables from the shamba. On 25th and 26th of November 2015, the form 6 with the help from some form 5 students weeded the shamba to remove any unwanted plants to encourage the growth of the vegetables and maize. Written by

Geoffrey Japhet and Fadhili Mbonea

***'If you keep
choosing
yesterday, you
are going to
miss tomorrow'***



Environment

Our school environment is built by members of the local community. The students and teachers at WATU school are responsible for preserving the environment. This preservation is done through planting trees around the school compound and regular checks to make sure everything in the environment is working and not damaged in any way. The school environmental programs are supported largely by the school– director Mr. Josiah Mchome and the head teacher of the school Mr. Mark Mwarabu work together to make it succeed. “thanks to you”

We believe that “we preserve the environment for the future generation” as our program motto is with good environment people will have a good place to stay. Moreover the more trees that are planted the more oxygen is being produced which helps with general environmental issues. “we are proud to be living in a green school environment” A green school environment in WATU is giving the students a natural, holistic environment for the students to live and work in.

Our Objectives:

- We as students of WATU secondary school want to plant as much vegetation as possible to create a good green learning environment.
- To help find resolution about the world wide issue global warming by educating the younger generation about how to fight against it.

written by: Mr green– Steve Mwamkay

And Tunu Sekurume



This newsletter was written entirely by the Form 5 and Form 6 students with the help of 2 volunteers mzungus

Volunteers opinions

My name is Charlie, I'm 19 and from Bournemouth in England. September 2014 I arrived at WATU for the first time, I stayed there for 3 months. I felt very welcome when I arrived at WATU, everyone was quick to introduce themselves and show me around the school. I was extremely impressed with what I saw, very appreciative students with experienced, caring teachers. I returned to WATU for a further 3 weeks in November 2015 because I was felt a huge bond with the school. I was astounded by the successful changes WATU had made. The upkeep of the shamba which was built to reduce food cost which has since harvest twice in the past year, the new shop, girls toilets and the beginning of a new classroom and boys dormitory. I hope the school continues to thrive to achieve its goal to become an independent school and that all the students achieve their ambitions as I am sure they will.

My name is Christopher Dear I am 19 and from Bournemouth in England. I spent 3 weeks at WATU and upon arrival my first impressions of the school were very high. The students and teachers there were very welcoming and made me feel at ease as soon as i entered WATU. It became very apparent to me during my time spent there that the students worked very hard and appreciated what WATU has and will do for them in the future. It is very professionally run and has helped many people there including both teachers and the pupils. I know the school will continue to grow and help more and more people which is a great thing for everyone involved.

Contact Details

WATU Secondary School

P.O box 10045
Moshi,
Tanzania

Josiah Mchome– Director
Tanzania– Moshi
Phone- +255 754884013
Email–

Richard Heery– Co-Director
Switzerland– Geneva
Phone–
Email– r.heery@bluewin.ch

<http://www.e-watu.com/>

Fund raising

WATU Secondary school has planned to climb mount Kilimanjaro in April 2016 to raise money for the construction of two new classrooms, a boys hostel and providing fittings and furniture for the science laboratory to accommodate 40 form 1 students in 2016.

Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest free standing mountain in the world, it is nicknamed the roof of Africa with a height of 5,895 meters above sea level.

If you wish to donate or join the climb please contact Richard Heery or Josiah Mchome.