



## Welcome to the March 2018 edition of WATU News

The management and staff at Watu Secondary School are pleased to report that, despite some difficult challenges in 2017, the school has developed more or less according to plan since the last newsletter about twelve months ago. Examination results at both A Level and O level continue to be excellent, the boarding facilities on campus have seen significant improvements, the delivery of science subjects (an important objective of Tanzanian education policy) is progressing although there is still some way to go especially in the provision of laboratories and equipment, enrolment is very healthy (178 in January of 2018, expected to rise to 203 in June when the new Form V students arrive) and finances, now that a larger proportion of students are contributing through fees, were stable.

**A large thank you to all our generous donors who continue to contribute to the smooth functioning of WATU Secondary School.**

## VISITORS

2017 and early 2018 has been a good year for visitors to WATU Secondary School. As well as students from College du Leman and La Chataigneraie, both in Geneva, who worked at WSS during their stay in late June, **Karen Weyergang Vartdal** has volunteered her services as a teacher of English from January of this year until April.

Of the students she is teaching she says *"they are eager to learn, hardworking, disciplined, polite, and friendly to each other and to their teachers. They are also very open-minded.....we discuss world affairs and they enjoy hearing about my own country, Norway."*

*I really appreciate teaching these students and I wish I could stay longer. The school, small as it is, is becoming very popular."*

Also **Charlie Barnes** revisited the school this time with **Jay Harris**. As before Charlie was very popular with the WSS students and Jay surprised everyone with his extraordinary drama skills. The students also appreciated that they contributed towards the school trip to Manyara National Park.

**As always, the school invites supporters and donors to visit and, like Karen, even volunteer to do some teaching.**

# WSS Students Perform Beyond Expectations Once Again

Good examination results are crucial to the success of any Tanzanian secondary school and WSS has developed a reputation for delivering in this area. As Karen Weyergang Vartdal from Norway, who is currently volunteering as a teacher, says: “hardly a week goes by without seeing a parent come to seek admission for their children.”

## There were three sets of results in 2017:

### In the National Form II exam

WSS entered 32 students. They all passed with **14** scoring Division 1, **11** scoring Division 2, **5** scoring Division 3 and **3** scoring Division 4. All students progressed into Form 111, and the school was placed **no. 16** out of 66 in the Kilimanjaro Region.

### In the National Form IV (O level) exam

WSS entered 32 candidates. The work of these students is a good indicator of the quality of teaching and learning at the school because they are the first group of young people who have progressed through four years of secondary school at WSS. Their results were as follows: **3** students scored Division 1, **12** students scored Division 2, **14** students scored Division 3 and **3** students scored Division 4. No student failed although four are, unfortunately, ineligible for Form V.

These results placed WSS **no 5** out of 55 schools in the Kilimanjaro Region and **no 60** out of 1738 schools nationally. (These are schools offering 40 or fewer candidates at the exam).

In addition to these Form IV students who were fully enrolled at WSS, 18 students who were re-sitting the examination, having failed to get sufficient credits from their previous schools, were also taught in Form IV. **16 of them** succeeded in acquiring all the credits they needed to enter Form V.

### In the National Form VI (A Level) exam

WSS entered **14 students**, all of whom scored Division 2 which qualified them to enter universities and colleges. They are all already attending their courses, very happy that they chose to follow their Form V and VI education at WATU Secondary School.

Congratulations to all these students in Forms II, IV and VI and to their teachers who prepared them so well. The management provide regular in-service teacher training seminars which are an enormous help to the teachers most of whom, whilst fully qualified, are straight from university and in their first year of teaching. Hongera (congratulations) to everybody.





# Boarding Facilities Extended and Improved



**Another reason for the high rate of success at WSS** is that the vast majority of students board on campus. As we have reported before, this has the great advantage of allowing them to avoid those obligations or distractions that might arrive at home whilst at the same time giving them much more access to learning (the library, the expertise of teachers and sharing ideas with one another) than they would otherwise have.

However, maintaining the boarding houses in an appropriate condition to keep up with the growing number of students is a continuing headache. Fortunately, in 2017 a grant from the European Council of International Schools (applied for through College du Lemman, Geneva) and a generous contribution from the students of The International School of Geneva, allowed the boys' boarding facility to be extended and the accommodation for girls was enlarged by the renovation of a bungalow near the existing girls boarding house opposite the school and just off campus.

By March of 2018 accommodation will no longer be a problem.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

**2 new teachers have joined the staff. Both are science teachers**

- Alex JOHN (B.Sc. with Education) teaching Physics, Chemistry and BAM
- William NJAU (B.Ed. in Science) teaching Biology and Chemistry

## 2018 EXAMINATION DATES:

	EXAM	DATE
Form VI	National Exam	May 2018
Form IV	Mock Exam	May 2018
Form IV	National Exam	October 2018
Form 2	National Exam	November 2018

These are all very important examinations which need good planning and hard work.

## SCHOOL TERMS 2018:

Opening	Closing (Easter break)	Back	Closing
08.01.2018	23.03.2018	09.04.2018	01.06.2018
02.07.2018	02.09.2018	24.09.2018	07.12.2018

**As always sincere thanks are due to all those who have generously contributed funds and support to Watu Secondary School. Since our last newsletter in March 2017 we thank:**



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Hannu and Elizabeth Ryponnen, UK, Eva and Per Nilsson, Sweden  
Matts Nilsson, Sweden, Gina Maranto and Mark Derr USA, The students of the International School of Geneva, La Chataigneraie, Founex, Switzerland, The European Council of International Schools, The students of College du Lemman, Versoix, Switzerland, The staff and students, International School, Moshi, Tanzania FOTIS, Geneva, Switzerland.  
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Jay Harris, Christchurch, UK  
Charlie Barnes, Christchurch, UK  
Manuella Baechler and family, Freiburg, Switzerland  
Magrit List, Germany.  
Christabel Spong, London, UK

**.....and an enormous thanks to Karen whose contribution to WSS and enthusiasm for the school is very inspiring.**

## 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.

**Contact:**

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**PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)**

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