Nsobe Community School

Term 2 & 3, 2018 Newsletter

Dear Nsobe Community School Friends and Teacher Aid Supporters

This year has certainly flown by fast, and our school has been growing in leaps and bounds with it. We are most grateful for your support of Teacher Aid which enables our school to keep on educating children and offering hope and the opportunity for a brighter future. Much has been achieved in 2018, but it has also been a year marked by loss and struggles.

In July, the founder and father of Nsobe Community School, Mark Tomlinson, tragically died. Mark was a visionary man with a huge heart for Africa and her people and especially her children. He touched so many lives and passionately committed his life to the development and empowerment of our community and Zambia. Mark was loved deeply, and is hugely missed. We are all dedicated to carry on his work, safe guard his legacy and the vision for the school:
"*Developing the Nation's human resources through education, personal empowerment and opportunity, for the glory of God.*

Our first Grade 9 class sat for their national exams, as did our third Grade 7 class. We are not yet an exam centre and so our children had to walk to the closest Government school which is 10km away to write each exam. This year's exam process was marred with "leakages" within the greater education system (exam papers being given out by certain teachers to pupils before the exams to ensure by cheating that they pass, rather than teaching them effectively throughout the year to guarantee learning). This affected us all as papers had to be rewritten and the period of writing exams was extended by a month. It was hugely demotivating for our children who had studied hard and sat for their exams honestly, however, we wait eagerly for their results, and trust that they have done very well despite trying circumstances.

Nsobe term times are always action packed with different sports and clubs on interhouse and interschool level, assessments, grade field trips and this August even a teacher trip (self-funded by making bricks to build our school) to Malawi for team building and exposure. We have had a wonderful Grade 7 graduation ceremony celebrating the children and all they have achieved and our hopes and dreams for their brighter futures. We have had a career's day, outreach days, Independence Day community interaction, National day of prayer, art and culture celebrations, singing and dancing, village visits and a wonderful stream of volunteers and visitors to boost us.

2018 has been a year of infrastructure development and growth. Through Teacher Aid fund-raising, a solar powered computer Lab has been setup and installed at our secondary school. Maggie Beecher (founder and Chair of Teacher Aid) and Mike came out in October to oversee the setup of it all, bringing a load of second hand laptops with them. Mike installed the wonderful Rachel software system which will change our children's and teacher's understanding and learning for ever. The world is now at their fingertips, with endless information, worksheets, interactive learning and Wikipedia to name a few of the endless resources. Thank you so much to all who donated or participated in the Gower Yomp (Wales) to make this possible.

We were also blessed by an amazing group of Irish volunteers who fundraised and came out to personally build 2 much needed classrooms and Teacher Accommodation. Thanks to their generosity we are now set to grow into Grade 10 next term.

Wimslow Wells donated a borehole and solar pump which was brought life changing water to our secondary school, as there was no water at the secondary site before. It is wonderful to now have clean and constant water for drinking, cooking and cleaning, and we hope now to be able to keep our school looking greener. Teacher Aid very kindly assisted in this project by paying for the piping and reticulation of the water around the school and especially to the toilets.

Our inspirational Head, Reagan Shipekesa, continues to lead Nsobe Community School challenging pupils and staff to strive for excellence. This year we were visited by retired Welsh Headmaster David Pedwell, who was able to advise and guide us with his wealth of knowledge and experience. Our wonderful team of dedicated teachers work with deep commitment to nurture, encourage, safe guard and educate the children of Nsobe. The feeding scheme ensures that children are being fed a protein meal each school day.

We greatly look forward to 2019 as we expand into Grade 10 and expect over 380 pupils to be enrolled. However growth means we need more teachers and financial assistance. Thank you for your past support of Nsobe Community School through Teacher Aid, we hope that you can continue to help us uplift the lives of our children and offer them a quality education with opportunity.

With love and appreciation

Fiona

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PE Kit donated for the whole school by Teacher Aid supporters

Soapbox led by Keith Smith who brought ukulele's and reusable sanitary hygiene Days for Girls packs enabling our girl students to keep learning every day of the month

Welsh Roath Park Primary teachers, Laura and Chloe came to connect classrooms across the continents and grow global citizenship and cultural understanding.

Christine helped enormously making science accessible, real and hands on, setting up our science curriculum and lab development while Simon brought music to life teaching ukulele's.

Funding

We are still under-funded, as we grow we need more teachers and more resources
We deeply appreciate any help you are able to offer. Please spread the word.

How you can help us?

- Sponsor a Teacher's Monthly Salary – or part thereof (Our teacher's earn roughly US $ 250 a month)
- Child Sponsorship –Give a child a gift of Education and Hope
- Once off donations to assist with stationary, text books, running costs or infrastructure

Wish list Projects for 2019

- Grade 11 classrooms
- Toilets and Ablution block for the secondary school
- School Canteen – all meals are currently prepared over an open fire
- Science and Home Economics labs
- Teacher Accommodation needs to be built - without habitable accommodation we cannot attract quality teachers
- School Electrification or Solar sponsorship
- School Bus
- School Administration offices