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Quarterly Newsletter: April 2014

Mwanza

I have spent the last 10 days travelling around Mwanza discussing report cards with sponsored students and exam results with teachers. The schools have included Lake Secondary in central Mwanza (ranked 2nd out of 216 schools in the Mwanza Region for Form IV results), Ole Njoolay Secondary in the poverty stricken hills overlooking Mwanza and a school near Kayenze in the rural hinterland, a two hour drive along dusty, disintegrated “roads”. I am grateful to the schools for showing special interest in the BTP children and I congratulate the children on working so hard to impress their sponsors. Difficult sponsorship decisions have to be made and I had to inform several children that, having achieved Form IV, no further support is available.

National Exam Results



Students in Forms II and IV sit national exams at the end of the academic year. The results are published in February. I am delighted to report that Yuseph Jumanne (left) achieved a Division II in his Form IV exams, placing him towards the top of his year group and qualifying him to continue into Form V studying A-Levels in History, English and Geography. He has now embarked on a pre-Form V course to give him a head start for when the courses start in July. Yuseph Bartholomayo achieved a B grade in his Form II results at Bismarck Secondary School (ranked 3rd out

of 216 schools). This is a real turn around for a boy who had struggled in previous years and he cited the revision books provided last year as having been really useful.

Local Exam Results

Tanzanian schools follow a regular programme of testing using exams designed by teachers within the schools but also regional papers. In recent tests, Sadicki Petro achieved a top Division II for Form IV and his eyes are now firmly set on a Division I in November. Marco Mathias gained a Division III for Form VI despite being ill. A trip to the doctor, funded by the BTP, revealed that

further treatment and perhaps surgery is required after his external exams in May. Similarly, Ngusa’s results suffered and hospital tests revealed several problems, including malaria, all of which have now been treated allowing him to focus once more on his studies.

Appointments

Stephen Mautula (right) has been appointed a School Prefect with responsibility for “student academics and the school environment”. He was one of only four prefects appointed. Similarly, Sadicki Petro is an Academic Prefect at his school with responsibility for mentoring students with academic problems and helping the exams process to run smoothly. In the past, Donald Mussa, Yuseph Jumanne and Steven Chacha have also been awarded prefectships.



Other news

With the price of food increasing significantly in recent months, the BTP has increased its school meal contribution by 20%. The price of fish has increased 25% and beans are up 10%. This has implications for BTP funding, making donations ever more important.

Thank you

With some local government schools charging only £40 for a year of school, the potential of all donations to make a massive difference to a child’s life is clear. The cost of the best schools is about £500 and where possible we transfer children to the best schools available. This is only possible with regular and generous donations. Over the last few months I am particularly grateful to the Rotary Club of Yelverton for their support of Ngusa and to Matt Quinn at PriceWaterhouseCoopers for his fundraising efforts. Ethic Giving have also been generous again while the fundraising of School 21 in London will make a big difference to at least two children’s lives. The majority of funds donated is by individuals making small contributions which all add up to keep hard-working, ambitious children in school. On their behalf – thank you.

Ed Beavington