



END OF SCHOOL YEAR – SUMMER PICTURE SPECIAL

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A Strong Finish to the Second Full Year of Kyabobo Girls School

At Kyabobo Girls School, our work is progressing extremely well. We took delivery of the latest shipment from the UK earlier this term and now the design & technology rooms and two science laboratories are ready to go. Soon we hope to see the final upgrade to our ICT facilities, thanks to a donation from one of our long-standing trustees. Everyone is very impressed, they have not seen facilities like ours, even in the training colleges.

The excitement this term has been on the annual Cultural Festival. We took part in several categories, coming second in poetry recital, third in traditional dance and winning the drama section for our district.



The theme for the festival was 'Peace, Unity & Hard Work Lead to Development'. Our drama focused on tribal differences that stop land being acquired for development projects, where an argument between chiefs is finally resolved but not until all the villages have fallen out with each other. The judges said that our team's vocabulary & pronunciation were very good and you can read the girls' comments on page 3 of this newsletter.

Before the term ends, our Form Two girls will have been on a school trip to Accra, being their first time outside Nkwanta for most pupils. They will visit Parliament, Accra University Ghana Broadcasting, the airport and a shopping Mall, not to mention trips to Coca Cola and the beach. On their way back to Nkwanta they will stop off to walk to Ghana's highest waterfall, Wli falls. They are very excited and we thank Voltic Water for their sponsorship of this important trip.

We are looking forward to next term and our biggest challenge since opening, when the first cohort of girls sit the National Exams. All eyes will be on us to see if KGS girls really can perform well – and we are confident that many will do themselves credit and pass with flying colours.

- Gill Norris, Founder of the Ghana Education Project

SPRING SHIPMENT: UK > NKWANTA



On 18th April this year, our happy band of volunteers loaded a 40ft shipping container of donated and bought school equipment ready for a 4,500 mile journey by land and sea to Ghana. Nearly two months later, it finally arrived at Kyabobo Girls School, where the contents were unloaded directly into our brand new Science & Technology building.

We would like to thank all our donors, supporters & packing teams and especially Brian Gibson at Ibox Commodities and the entire team at Olam International in Ghana, who all play an invaluable role in making this possible.



ANNUAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

KGS Girls Report from Nkwanta

Recently the students from our Kyabobo Girls School took part in the District Cultural Festival for Schools. They won the drama section, despite the play being interrupted with a deluge of rain, and will now go on to take part in the Regional finals in August in Sogakope.

Here are some of their comments from the day...

" Culture is a valuable gift that every group must keep and cherish very well. It is defined as the way of life of a particular people and how they live and do their things."

" On the 9th of July 2015 a great cultural festival took place. Different events took place. There were poetry recitals, sight singing, drum language, drama, dance and traditional dressing up. It was loving and nice but the weather was disgusting."

" I cherished and loved how the program went on. I wish another event like this would be held again."



GEP Supports 'Volta Reads' Pilot for Primary Schools

Ghanaian children are very keen to learn and to do well but they have to do this in a language that they do not speak in the house and many of their parents are illiterate so cannot help them. Which is why GEP is helping with the pilot phase of a regional project to support the learning of reading, especially in English. There are currently five schools in a pilot scheme in Nkwanta and 16 other schools across the region.



As a starting point, the reading level of the children at different ages is assessed. Those in the lower primary should be able to recognise letter sounds and two or three letter combinations. Those in the upper primary are expected to be able to read simple texts and to answer straight forward questions about what they have read. It has been found that less than 20% are able to attain the expected standard. This means that the majority of children enter Junior High school unable to read and the next three years can be a total mystery to them.

The teachers in our pilot schools are given training, some resources and some simple techniques to improve the level of their pupils reading. It is an exciting programme, but an up-hill struggle with limited funds and time. However, if the pilot proves successful - and some major sponsors are found - there are plans to eventually target over 1,500 primary schools in the Volta region.

REMEMBER!

You can fund a girl's education at Kyabobo Girls School for just £10 per month

Sign up now at:

www.gep300.org.uk



OTHER NEWS

TWGGS Ghana Girls Meet East Grinstead Soroptimists

Two members of TWGGS Ghana Team 2014, Laura and Hannah recently gave a talk to the East Grinstead Soroptimists (one of GEP's regular supporters) about their trip to Ghana, the challenges of fundraising and the Kyabobo School.

The girls were great ambassadors for GEP and TWGGS - their Soroptimist audience found them interesting, technically adept and good public speakers," said SIGBI Councillor Hilary Rowberry. "Their talk brought their Ghana visit and the GEP project to life. They deserve many congratulations."



DONATE WHILE YOU SHOP ONLINE

easyfundraising
.org.uk

GEP has received more than £250 simply from our supporters shopping online, as part of over £5m raised by good cause shopping website easyfundraising.org.uk.

GEP earns the donations when people register to support us and shop online through the site. It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:

- 1) Register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2) When you're asked to choose your cause, select Ghana Education Project
- 3) Get shopping - it couldn't be easier!

There are over 2,700 online retailers participating, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco, who all donate a small percentage of what's been spent with them to say thanks.



KGS PTA say 'Thank You' to the Teachers

The girls at Kyabobo Girls School are supported by a large and enthusiastic group of parents, who help to create a fantastic learning environment both inside and outside the school gates.

Unlike many schools in Ghana, KGS parents do not pay annual subs – but they regularly thank the teachers by bringing them gifts of yam, gari, corn and fruit.

COMING SOON!

TWGGS Music Quiz 9th October 2015

Get ready for this year's version of our popular Rock & Pop music quiz.

Having lost for the first time ever in 2014, the TWGGS Teachers will be hoping to reclaim their crown in October.

Please help to stop them!

For info & tickets, email:
robinson4julie@gmail.com