



SPRING UPDATE FROM NKWANTA



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A Positive Start to 2015 by Gill Norris, Founder of the Ghana Education Project

We are nearing the end of the second term of our second year and the Kyabobo Girls School is already exceeding our expectations. All of the school buildings are now completed, including the fabulous new Science Block (above) although we still need a lot of furniture and equipment before we can fully use these facilities.

We have 161 girls in two year groups. They have a very wide ability range but are gaining in confidence very quickly. This is something rarely seen in other local schools, where girls generally sit quietly on the sidelines. Many of the girls in Form 2 are involved in the Nkwanta Award, while others have a regular spot on the local radio station. All these activities help to increase the girls' self-esteem and introduce them to new experiences.

GEP is also involved in a large multi-agency initiative to help primary schools in the Volta region to teach reading. Girls from our school have written stories that have then been adapted for primary education. The project hopes to gradually introduce these into all the schools in the region to develop regular reading habits, as so many bright children are failing because they still cannot read proficiently.

The TWGGS visit at the end of last year was very successful. The team met many challenges due to a national teachers' strike, but they adapted brilliantly and managed to maintain a great programme during their stay. This culminated in a fantastic shared cultural Durbar (festival) of dance, drama, gymnastics and singing.

The long-running Nkwanta Award continues to flourish with sponsorship from Voltic Water and the main road to Nkwanta is slowly improving, even if it is deteriorating in other places. Travelling any distance is still a bit of a trial, so I try to stay in Nkwanta as much as possible.

For the future, we need to press ahead with plans for the start of our Senior High School in 2016. There is much to learn about this next level of the Ghanaian education system and we will need to plan well to make Kyabobo Girls School as unique and successful as it is already proving at Junior High School level.



OUR AMAZING TEACHERS

Letter from Evans

English and French Teacher

As a professional graduate teacher, I teach French and English languages. I am punctual at school, I always try to encourage the young learners to higher levels. I mostly vary my teaching strategies in order to adequately meet the learners' requests, which enhances the learners' performances.

Good usage of quality teaching and learning materials eases the learning process. I am always mindful of what Ghana Education Project is doing for the world in terms of promoting good standards for girl child education. I salute Gill Norris for keeping the light burning.



Left to right (from back):

Sabina (National Service), Enoch (Maths), Bob (Manager), Emmanuel (English), Evans (English & French), Chris (Science), Fred (ICT), Ben (Headteacher), Naomi (Twi local language), Karim (Social Studies). Not pictured: Bless (BDT)

Letter from Chris

Science Teacher

After completing Senior High School in 2007, I had the opportunity of working as a pupil teacher in Universal Scholars' Academy, a private school in my village at Ada. On that field, though the remuneration was very little, the passion and commitment I worked with grew by the day. I began to think of going to a College of Education to become a professional teacher. I became more certain of what I wanted to do when my proprietor, Mr Daniel Bico Alimo, observed a lesson I taught and told me "you teach well!"

But then there was a challenge. My parents wanted me to become an engineer or manager; I wanted to be a teacher. I enrolled in Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in 2008 and four years later, I left with a degree in Natural Resources Management.

I was posted to Nkwanta to do National Service with the Forestry Commission. In the course of my posting, I could not help it any longer dressing up to go to the office while I saw young children going to school – so I asked if my posting could be changed and was sent to Adom Model School.

By the time my National Service ended, my head-teacher had spoken to Madam Gillian Norris about me and she agreed to employ me in the newly built Kyabobo Girls School. My joy was now full; I finally have the privilege to do what I love to do best. I currently teach maths and science and I am grateful to God that my passion and desire to teach is still growing stronger. And to all our girls, I'm so proud of you.

WHERE WE LIVE...

Our second block of teachers' accommodation was funded by a generous one-off donation.



OUR BRILLIANT GIRLS – IN THEIR OWN WORDS



ON EVERYDAY LIFE...

" Every day, when I wake up, I pray to God for giving me another day. Then I wash my face and brush my teeth. After brushing my teeth, I sweep the compound. I take my bath and breakfast, then I walk to school. "

- from *Dorothy Gbediame*

" Everyday life is shine. In the class teachers teach us very well. The most thing that makes me happy is that we have good friends. "

- from *Lucinda Asamyo*

ON KYABOBO GIRLS SCHOOL...

" At school teachers always advise us to learn, to be neat and to be respectful. I also feel very comfortable at school. I like my class very much. We live happily at class, we are always busy and when it is fun time, we all make fun. I like my class teacher very much because if he teaches us, I understand very much. "

- from *Patience Asamani*

" Kyabobo Girls' School is one of the most perfect and truthly schools I know and love. All the teachers teach very, very well. They do not lash the students so we show much respect to them. When we want to answer questions or ask questions, we are not afraid."

- from *Ruth Awasan*

ON THE FUTURE...

" Teaching would be my future career when I grow up. Teaching is the occupation of my father and I would like to follow his footsteps. I want to be a teacher to get the chance to improve my knowledge so as to help my people, who live especially in the rural areas. In every country, teachers no doubt play leading roles in nation building. "

- from *Brekisu Seidu*

" In my future I want to become a doctor. I want to save people from sickness. I will help my people in Ghana. In my future, I will be a good citizen in my life. I will be so glad if I will be a doctor in my future. "

- from *Delight Kpolar*

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



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations for our next shipment to Ghana on 18th April 2015

On Saturday 18th April, we will be packing our sixth shipping container for transport by sea to Tema in Ghana and then on to Nkwanta - full of furniture and school equipment, donated by local schools and topped up with bought items that are difficult to source in Ghana.

As always, we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of local schools such as The Discovery School, Skinners Kent Academy, Herne bay High School, Temple Grove Academy, Woodlands Junior School and Bickley Primary School (plus others) - and our shipping costs are again being covered by long-time GEP supporter Ibex Commodities of Tunbridge Wells.

We are still looking for additional items of equipment (see list opposite), so please let us know if you have any spare items you would like to donate, by emailing: robinson4julie@gmail.com

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT (STILL REQUIRED)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| > Blenders | > Mixing bowls |
| > Whisks | > Wooden spoons |
| > Knives | > Baking sheets |
| > Frying pans | > Rubber gloves |
| > Colanders | > Place mats |
| > Strainers | > Ladles |
| > Palette knife | ALWAYS USEFUL: |
| > Chopping boards | > Calculators |
| > Rolling pins | > Maths sets |
| > Scales | > Art materials |
| > Food slicers | > Coloured paper |
| > Cutlery | > Felt tips |
| > Cling film | > BIC Biro's |
| > Trays | > Pencils |
| > Baskets | > Rubbers |
| > Tin openers | > Sharpeners |
| > Pyrex bowls | |

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.

TWGGS Team Update

The TWGGS Ghana 2014 team has done us proud yet again, with their total fundraising now standing at almost £48,000!

Fundraisers have included regular Friday cake sales, which raised £580. This involved each of the team making cakes every two or three weeks, which were left on Julie Robinson's front doorstep for parents collecting their children from school to buy. The team started doing this in September 2013 and only stopped recently due to other commitments.

Another popular fundraiser was a regular pick'n'mix stand, masterminded by Laura Barrett and Lizzie Millar, who set up a table full of sweets every Friday after school to sell to children on their way home from school. They did this almost every week, come rain or shine, and raised over £470.

Well done to the team and all their supporters who helped to raise this amazing total for the charity!

