

Mawuvio's Outreach March 2013



Volunteers In Action: Florian Bernhart



Pictured: Florian Bernhart (middle wearing yellow) stands with MOP staff and volunteers

Mawuvio's Outreach Programme receives, on average, thirty to forty volunteers to Kissema Village each year. Volunteers come from all walks of life and spend anywhere from one day to over six months working at the school. Initially, MOP relied solely on volunteer teachers to run the school meaning that, on some days the school was well staffed and on others, thirty children were taught by one person. Mawuvio's Outreach values all volunteers who have passed through the school over the last four years, however it is what volunteers do upon returning to their home countries that maintains the connection between the volunteer and the students and staff at MOP. One such volunteer came to Mawuvio's Outreach Programme through Boa Woyoko, an Austrian based volunteer organization that partners with MOP. Bernhart volunteered at MOP from mid-July to late September where he worked with Nursery and KG1 students assisting their teacher Lawrenda Dzadey. Bernhart's dedication and care about the programme and the children was evident to MOP directors during his stay and upon his returning to Austria in September.



Florian Bernhart assists KG student Yvette Ankra during August 2012 vacation classes

Bernhart has been working hard in Austria raising funds for the completion of the MOP school building at Ayikuma. He has gotten friends and family to donate to MOP and has recently begun selling jewelry as well. Bernhart has planned to approach Austrian organizations to solicit sustainable funding for Mawuvio's Outreach Programme, noting that, sustainable funding is the organization's biggest need to ensure future success.

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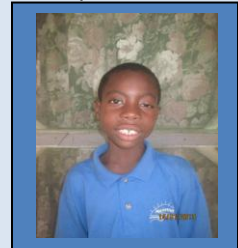
Happy Birthday!

Mawuvio's Outreach March Birthdays:

March 7

Prince Dogbey

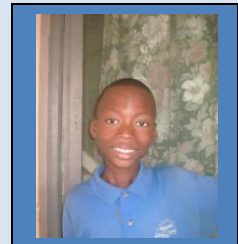
13 years



March 24

Victor Dokuvi

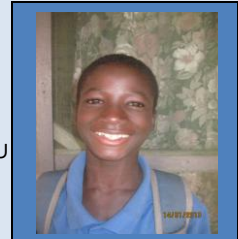
9 years



March 26

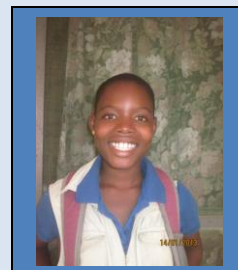
Forgive Gborwosu

10 years



Gifty Dokuvi

13 years



Birthday Celebrations

Beginning in 2012, Mawuvio's Outreach students started learning about their birthdays. Children in Ghana are given a day name, a masculine or feminine name meaning the day of the week on which they were born. Thus, all MOP students know what day of the week they were born on but do not their actual birthday.

Birthdates are supposed to be given upon enrollment to Mawuvio's Outreach however approximately one fourth of MOP students are enrolled without a birthdate because their guardians do not know and have no way of knowing it. These children are given approximate ages and are not taught their



Pictured: (from left) Charles Frimpong and Prosper Mensah celebrate their birthdays

birthdates. MOP students who do have their birthdates on record are unaware of the date because it is uncommon to celebrate ones birthday in Ghana. To provide a mild celebration as well as teach students their birthdate, directors have begun singing "Happy Birthday" to students on their birthday as well as giving them a "Happy Birthday" badge to wear throughout the day. Students with unknown birthdates are still given a badge and sung to once a year.

Since directors began celebrating student birthday's they have seen MOP students begin to anticipate their birthday and remember it as being their special day.

Building Progress at Ayikuma

The building progress at the future six classroom, two dormitory home for Mawuvio's Outreach Programme has been paused for the time being due to lack of funding. As of January 2013, the entire building has been completed. The remaining work to be done is the finishing of the inside and furnishing the building. Two builders are onsite ensuring that the building site is secure. Plans to continue finishing the inside have yet to be made due to insufficient funds.

Pictured left: MOP building site February 2010

Pictured right: MOP building site January 2013



MOP Students Prepare for 2nd Term Examinations

UPCOMING EVENTS:

9 School Excursion to Kotoka International Airport

11 Revision Week

19 2nd Term Exams Begin

27 Inter – term Break Begins

Ongoing bead sales on etsy.com and local representatives

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pictured: MOP students wait for the attendance register at the end of the school day

Students at Mawuvio's Outreach are preparing for their second term exams. MOP staff scheduled examinations early this year so students could go on their inter-term break before the Easter vacation. Directors and staff are

are expecting the best examination results to date. Since inception, Mawuvio's Outreach has never been fully staffed; having a one paid teacher per class, until now. At the start of this term, MOP directors hired Austin Tettey as Class three teacher insuring that each class, Nursery thru Class Four, had its own teacher.

MOP students already face many struggles when it comes to their learning environment, and directors want to do as much as they possibly can to make their learning as comfortable and as possible. Prior to hiring Tettey, it was not uncommon to see at least one class teacher-less. KG 1 Teacher Lawrenda Dzadey and Primary 4 teacher Francis Asiamah often floated between two, sometimes three different classes teaching.

While MOP still does not have a sustainable source of funding, directors felt it necessary to hire enough staff to meet the needs of their students. MOP now has five full-time teachers whose first priority is to ensure that their class of students is learning and the teachers are facilitating that learning. "MOP is the best school because we love our teachers and our teachers also love us and want us to become great," Primary 4 student Benjamin Gborwosu.

Student Spotlight



Name: Florence Boakye
Age: 5
Class: KG 1
Best Game: Ampe
Best Food: Rice & Stew

What do you want to be when you grow up?
Nurse



Name: Shadrach Ato
Age: 9
Class: Primary 1
Best Game: Football
Best Food: Fufu & Light Soup

What do you want to be when you grow up?
Soldier