

Mawuvio's Outreach July 2013



Students Enter Essay Competition



Pictured: MOP students in classes three and four and director Renee Farwell

Students in class three and four at Mawuvio's Outreach Programme spent the last weeks in June writing essays that they submitted to the Goi Peace Foundation's International Writing Competition. The Japanese based foundation called for youth up to age 25 to submit no more than 700 word essays based around the following theme:

"The Power of Culture to Create a Better Future"

In order to build a peaceful world, we need to acknowledge and respect each other's cultures. What aspects of the culture in your country or region do you take pride in? How can youth make the most of them to create a better future?

With the help of their teachers, eight MOP students wrote essays that were submitted to the foundation. This is the first time students wrote essays with a theme that fell outside of the Ghana Education



pictured: students working on writing essays that describe aspects of their culture.

curriculum. Students focused on proper grammar, essay form and being thorough in describing their cultural practices.

Class three teacher Austin Tettey, volunteer Florian Bernhart and director Renee Farwell also submitted their own essays in the contest.

We will try to publish at least one essay in the newsletter so readers may can learn about Ghanaian culture as written by students.

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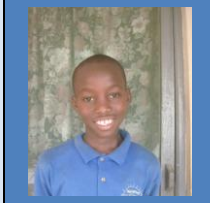
Student Spotlight

Happy Birthday!

Mawuvio's Outreach July Birthdays:

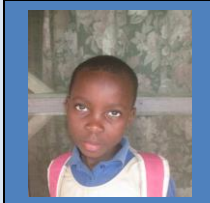
July 7

Mubarak Bello
12 years



July 9

Afi Alice
9 years



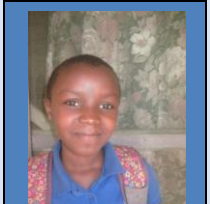
July 27

Michael Logoh
11 years

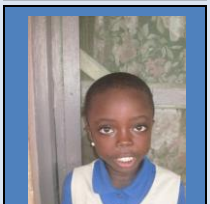


July 28

Akos Oko
9 years



Florence Boakye
6 years



ISEP Coordinator Visits Mawuvio's Outreach

The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) made a return visit to Mawuvio's Outreach Programme in June. The new coordinator of Africa and Asia Programs Jeanne D'Arc visited MOP in mid- June. D'Arc replaced the former coordinator Jennifer Precht who visited MOP in 2010. D'Arc observed the school and spoke with director Eric Kwame Agoe and the teachers about the benefits of having ISEP students who are studying abroad at the University of Ghana volunteer at MOP. MOP has not had any ISEP volunteers at MOP for approximately one year due to scheduling conflicts that have arisen with ISEP students and their studies at the University.



pictured: (left) Jeanne D'Arc talks with Class 3 Teacher Austin Tettey in front of his class.

Building Progress at Ayikuma

All inside works at the 6 classroom, 2 dormitory future home for Mawuvio's Outreach Programme have been finished. Builders spent the month of June smoothing out all the walls and tiling the girls bathroom. Toilet and shower head fixtures were placed in the boys bathroom as well. Builders also constructed a one block wall on the roof that will allow rain water to drain off the building properly.

This month, plans are being made to drill a well that will provide the school with running water. Board president Lawrence Dzegdey will lead the workers in drilling the well. Donor Tom Hansen of Clinton, Iowa has wanted to see the well project through for some time now and directors are planning that by the end of this month the school will have a well. Aside from drilling the well, toilet and shower fixtures will also be placed in the girls bathroom and doors are being bought and constructed to equip the building.



pictured: (left) builders mixing cement to plaster the inside walls of the girls dormitory. (right) the girls bathroom finished tiling work.



The School Fund Visits Mawuvio's Outreach

UPCOMING EVENTS:

After School Programming:
Tuesday:
beading programme

Wednesday:
trip to local library

Thursday:
homework and additional
classroom help

**Saturday morning football
training for MOP students
5:00am – 7:30 am**

Ongoing bead sales on
etsy.com and local
representatives

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Last month Mawuvio's Outreach Programme received a visit from Roxana Shirkhoda, on behalf of The School Fund. For three years, The School Fund has been raising money on behalf of MOP to support the school lunch programme, teachers salaries and school supplies. The excerpt below is writing by Shirkhoda describing her reaction and impressions of MOP...

"Another inspiring man I met was Kwame. Kwame is 27 years old and has been an orphan since he was 12. He spent 10 years of his life living in a market, working to make money to pay for his school fees so he could get an education and a better life for himself. Knowing how important education was in his life, Kwame turned the backyard of his home into a school for orphaned children in his village of Kissemah. His mission -- to get all orphaned children to come to school and earn and education for themselves and not for anyone else. Not for the parents who left them. Ask them, "Why do you come to school?" And hear, "I come to school for me." I was able to spend time getting to know the both the teachers and students - and was amazed by the school set-up.

Small groups of 10-12 children sit together in sections of the outdoor courtyard and learn from a teacher using a white board. Some of the classes include 2 grades, the front bench of 5 students is grade 1 and the back row is grade 2. One teacher teaches both classes at a time and the crazy part is that while the teacher is teaching grade 1, the grade 2 kids are doing their homework quietly. Some classes sit back to back. I'm entirely in awe of these students. I'm in awe of Kwame. His passion for educating the next generation of children in his community is relentless."

A few notes in terms of challenges Kwame faces:

- All books are donated, need more books that have Ghanaian curriculum
- Teachers are often volunteers who stay for short periods of time
- Most students are orphans, so family support is hard to find
- Need sponsors to help students get to secondary school after leaving Mawuvio's
- Young girls get distracted and pulled away from school by men in the community
- Community at large does not value education, need to change this perception

Kwame is building a new school that will hold over 150 students. I'm really excited to stay in touch with him and see how the school grows and educates the students of his community in Kissemah."

Student Spotlight



Name: Joyline Atati
Age: 12
Class: KG 2
Best Game: Ampe
Best Food: Rice

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



Name: Dennis Bankesiea
Age: 8
Class: Primary 1
Best Game: Football
Best Food: Ackble

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