

Tyume Valley Schools News..... From the Ground!



Number Two

March/April 2014

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Registered Charity 1103909

SUMMARY



Well, Autumn is well on the way in the Eastern Cape. Leaves are falling, days getting shorter and children are more frequently being seen wearing jumpers and hats!

And the past two months have certainly been interesting! We finally re-started the English Language Course on the 10th March, although not without a few complications.....

So far this year the schools have seen regular teacher's strikes and 'go-slow' action (which means finishing school no later than midday) and an abundance of Public holidays and School holidays added to the the mix.

However, we are striding onwards and upwards and have had a rewarding time handing out certificates to both last years English Learners and IT Learners as a reward for all their hard work!



IT CERTIFICATES



At the end of April I travelled round the schools that participated in our IT course with Vuvu last year. We handed out Certificates for all the learners who had passed tests taken last October with 65% or above. Although those who did not receive anything looked disappointed, it has apparently encouraged them to work harder this year so they can get good enough results to receive a Certificate this year!

TRANSPORT

We now have a contract with a local taxi man, Mr Caku Caku to transport our 47 children from 8 different schools who are all participating in the English Language Course. It has not been an easy start with sub-contracting issues and everyone running on what I have now come to know as "Africa Time". Things are slowly settling in to a routine and the children all seem to very much like Mr Caku Caku too!



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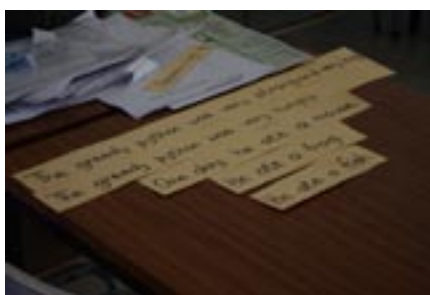
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THE ENGLISH COURSE

We officially restarted the English Course on Monday 10th March. Brian Walter and Viv England, both South African academics in English Language (and both formerly of Fort Hare University, Alice, but now based in Port Elizabeth) have been writing new material for the course for the past few years, along with input from Margaret Kiloh (TVS Chair) in the UK. They visit the valley approximately once a term to help 'guide' the teachers through the material and advise them on alternative teaching techniques.



The course this year is partly about 'Creative Writing' - not focusing entirely on grammar or spelling but the content of writing and encouragement of 'self-correcting/editing/drafting'.



Despite the erratic school timetables and transport arrangements, attendance by both teachers and learners has been high and although the content is very new to all, they are embracing the challenge so far!

ON A PERSONAL NOTE.....

This corner of the Eastern Cape is very remote..both the valley in which TVS work and the top of the mountain (Hogsback) where I live. I knew I needed some companionship, security and exercise in order to remain here for some time. Early March I committed to adopting a rescue puppy (5 weeks old) from Fort Beaufort, whom I have named Reilly, and now at 3 months is proving to be a typical puppy handful! However, she is invaluable company and as healthy, cheeky and lively as a puppy can be... I think she, the valley and I are going to be just fine!....

