

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



www.tvschools.org.uk

Number One

February 2014

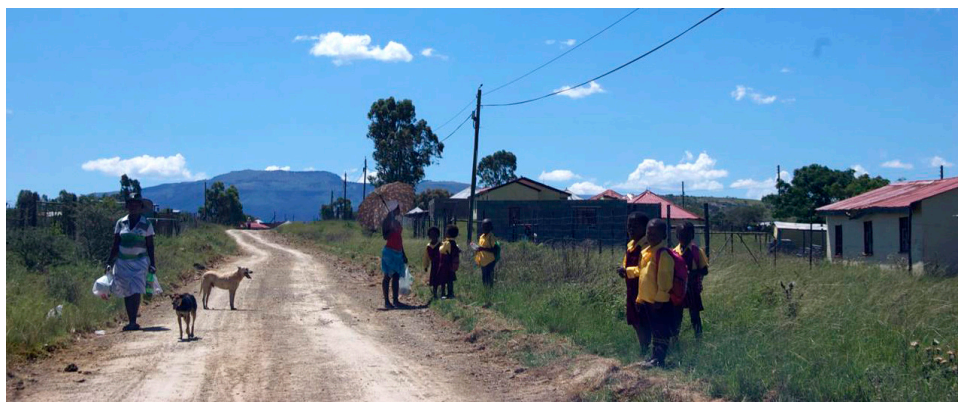
office@tvschools.org.uk

Registered Charity 1103909

INTRODUCTION

Hello all. Vicky Riley here, the January 2013 appointed TVS Co-ordinator! After an amazing 12 months - extended from an originally planned 9 months - I am back once again in 2014. My aim is to assist with the delivery to young people and community members some support and access to additional education, resources and facilities in this very rural, very poor area. I also plan to write a 'from the ground' newsletter each month throughout the year to give you all a little more insight in to the way things work out here. I aim to provide a combination of pictures and stories, which will differ from month to month. February is mostly a 'catch-up' of where we ended last year, and what we have achieved so far this year!

It has been a busy start to the year, following a 3-week break in the UK catching up with my own family and friends in early January. On my return to South Africa, Sue Richards, Vuvu Tomi and myself immediately focused on the task of getting a new, expanded IT timetable running. I have spent the past 3 weeks working towards restarting the English Courses. We initially plan to continue with the 8 schools we worked with last year, and hope to start up an additional 4 news ones later in the year, if finance and time permit. This has been a little challenging so far, with two whole school weeks this month disrupted by Teachers Union strikes. However, we hope to begin on March 10th, a week later than originally planned, but an update on that next month. For now, here is this month's news.....



IT COURSE

As well as Vuvu, our full time IT trainer, this year we have employed two local young ladies, Nontombi and Bongiwe, each doing one day a week in different schools. They both took Adult IT classes with Vuvu a couple of years ago and spent 3 months last year training with Vuvu in how to teach IT. With their additional support it has given 2 new schools access to IT classes for their learners once a week, including a couple of high schools. It has also freed up Vuvu to start running an adult class in Jikani, a recently opened Community Centre in Hogsback village every Wednesday afternoon. For more information on Jikani you can visit www.jikani.com.

THE OPEL KADETT



In February TVS also said goodbye to an 'old friend'. The 'trusty' Opel Kadett was finally sold to a local guy, Richard, who works as a truck driver at the Schenk sawmill in the Valley. As useful as it sometimes was, it was becoming too unreliable, and the sight of getting it towed up and down the Hogsback Road was becoming a little too frequent!

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'BIG' ZANDILE

In February 2013 a young Fort Hare music student, Zandile Kila, began teaching music lessons in one of our Primary Schools, Festile Soga. It quickly became apparent that she was very good with the learners and very comfortable as a regular member of the teaching staff. Half way through the year her department at Fort Hare was moved to East London, some 120km's away, but she still continued to travel to the valley once a week to teach the learners recorders, singing, dancing and eventually some percussion. Sadly, in October Zandile was diagnosed with the drug resistant strain of TB. After a very very tough time for 3 months in confinement - including an allergic reaction to the TB medication and also contracting hepatitis, last week I finally met with a fit, well and back to full health young Zandile in East London. It seems she is returning to her studies in March and would love to resume her music lessons in Festile Soga Primary too! So, I will let you know of her progress in due course.....



'LITTLE' ZANDILE

Zandile Malima is a 12 yr old girl from Hopefield Primary School who has been attending English Classes for the past 2 years, along with her twin sister Zianda. Zandile was born with a 'Facial Cleft', and in October 2013 Margaret Kiloh suggested we try to help her in some way, realising that her 'different appearance' was making her already tough life even harder and knocking her confidence, especially as she gets older. After several meetings and enquiries, on Feb 3rd this year I took Zandile, Zianda and their parents to a Private Hospital in East London for a consultation with a highly recommended Plastic Surgeon, Dr Kepler. After a long, successful consultation, Dr Kepler made a commitment to try his best to conduct the 2-operation procedure, with the help of his colleague in Port Elizabeth, as part of the Smile Foundation week later this year in which they both participate. We are still waiting to hear what the outcome will be, as approval is required from a number of people, but we all have our fingers and toes crossed here. Zandile's parents were both very grateful (and a little emotional!) for the interest shown in trying to help improve their daughter's life. If for any reason Dr Kepler is unable to do the procedure during the Smile Foundation week, we will have to try and fundraise for the operation privately as the hopes of the whole family have now been raised... I will keep you posted on any developments!

If there is anything specific you would like to hear about or see images of, please do not hesitate to contact us at TVS on the email address at the top of the page. Your suggestions and guidance are always welcome! So, until March.....

