



New students may wear another school's uniform



Children eating school lunch



School's open house for the community

January 2016 Children of Bukati (COB) Newsletter

Dear Donor, thank you so much for your support of the students at the Bwaliro Primary School (PS), and the high school and university as well. Thank you also for your donations that are building the community development projects. The school project is thriving and growing, thanks to your generosity. The academic performance at the Bwaliro School continues to be high and the enrollment is up from last year. There are now 447 boys and 533 girls enrolled in the school. This total of 980 students is up from the 854 who were enrolled before the project began. In December 2015, 74 students graduated from grade 8. This is remarkable considering when we began the project at the Bwaliro PS there were only 12 students enrolled in grade 8. Achieving a primary school education will distinguish this generation from those in the previous generation. The local farmers who participated in our research had an average of 3 years of primary school education.

The green house continues to be productive. Last season, it was planted in kale and cabbage. Kale is the most commonly consumed green vegetable in the region. Unfortunately, the kale was infected with a fungus that reduced the harvest. This season the greenhouse will be planted with a local vegetable that is more resistant to the fungus. The school permaculture committee continues to learn how best to use the greenhouse for productive crops through trial and error. The results of their work are then taken into the community where individual smallholder farmers duplicate the successful projects. The students bring the information home and it is taught during the school's open house.

The pig project is very successful. Currently there are 5 sows (female mother pigs) and one boar. One of the pigs was recently sold to pay for the feed for the remaining pigs. Typically, the school has been selling weaned pigs from the sows. Pigs are in high demand in the community. Smallholder farmers buy piglets as a way to bank their money. They will feed the pig until the family has an emergency – such as hospital or medical bills, school fees, or the family has run out of food between harvests. Then the pig is sold to a local butcherman to get the funds to pay for the family need.

The banana plants and pawpaw trees continue to thrive and produce fruit for the school. In January (this month), the school children and staff began clearing and preparing the fields at the school for crops. They will plant rice and corn when the rains start.



Community member learning
new skill



Sow at Bwaliro



High school students with report
cards



Main office of
High School

Over the years we have sponsored 26 students to attend high school. Of these, 8 are still enrolled and 16 have graduated. We have also sponsored 6 students to go to university. Two of these students completed their programs and are employed. There are still 4 students in various stages of their programs. Although the original intension of the Children of Bukati project was to support only primary school children through the lunch program and the school and community projects, over the years, individuals have asked to sponsor high school students. The children chosen are those with the top marks in grade 8 who are orphaned. Now, it really is remarkable to see some of these children succeed in university. At one point in their lives, they had left school because they were orphaned. Because of the Children of Bukati project they returned to primary school, were sponsored for high school and now a few continue to be sponsored for university. It give us great hope for the future of these communities where most children will complete primary school and some will finish high school and a select few will graduate from university. Thank you for your ongoing support of these children and their community. Sincerely Cate Dewey (www.childrenofbukati.com)

If you would prefer to receive newsletters via email, please contact us at info@childrenofbukati.com. Please be assured that we will not share your email or home address with anyone. We do not wish to burden you with unwanted mail. If you wish to be removed from our records, contact us at info@childrenofbukati.com or Children of Bukati, c/o Marg Baker, 6156 Eramosa 3rd Line, RR 4, Fergus, ON, Canada, N1M 2W5.

If you have donated through Canada Helps, you will have already received a tax receipt by email. Otherwise, your receipt is included with this newsletter. Donations are accepted by cheque made out to Stone United Church with COB on the memo line. Please mail the donation to Marg Baker (see address in paragraph above). Credit card donations are accepted through Canada Helps, on-line via the website. Thank you for your ongoing support of these children and their community.

Sincerely Cate Dewey
(www.childrenofbukati.com)