

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

For the 2008-2009 school year, BSD's enrollment increased to 102 students. Because the school has been successful in enrolling children at a young age, deaf children are now introduced to language and formal education at the preschool level. This spring, BSD was able to divide the nursery class into two sections because of the addition of Tisha Riley, an education major from Gallaudet University. At the same time, James Harrison, a Gallaudet MSW intern conducted research about deaf education and took on an advocacy role promoting attention to deaf education in the broader community. He was also able to participate in making sign language training accessible to parents through the development of CD's for that purpose.



In March, 2009, Teresa Arcari, president of FoBSD, visited BSD through the generosity of Dr. Mathias Fobi, who considered it an essential step to enable Ms. Arcari to understand BSD's challenges and to see the progress made. Time spent there was immensely helpful, allowing her to get to know both children and teachers and to learn of their hopes for the future. She observed older students participating in secondary education classes and learned of the need for equipment to demonstrate scientific concepts. She also observed students in newly formed woodworking classes and others planting crops for the school to use in feeding the children.

In terms of fundraising, it is encouraging that the number of student sponsorships has increased in the past few months, but additional sponsorships remain a priority. While remembering fondly that BSD students hosted a local car wash as a past event, current fundraising activities include approaching the headquarters of international businesses to ask for more substantial assistance. Another encouraging step forward was the arrival of a Peace Corps volunteer in August.

Administration, teachers and students are visibly grateful for assistance at every level. Please sample past newsletters to get a full appreciation of what BSD has accomplished in a short time.

