

BUEA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF NEWSLETTER

24 January 2007

Spring, Term 2

Schedule of Student

6-7 January
Student arrival weekend, unpack, sort your things and greet your friends because school starts on Monday.

8 January
First day of classes

11 February
Youth Day

30 March- 13 April
Easter Break!!
BSD CLOSED

21 April
Edward Miner Gallaudet Award Celebration

June
Last day of Classes

Greetings from Buea

Happy New Year! Buea School for the Deaf has adventurous plans for the third term and through this Newsletter we hope to keep you informed and up to date on School activities and Community affairs.

Founder and Director, Aloysius Bibum, is proud to see many returning, cheerful faces as well as welcoming the new students and staff on board for this rest of the term. We are hard at work hoping to make this year our best! We are working together to create the most conducive learning environment for our



Deaf Children in Cameroon. Having said that, classes have resumed, meetings are taking place and new projects are underway.

We hope you enjoy the newest addition to our family; 'The Newsletter.' Life in Buea is full of adventures and we look forward to updating you monthly on our Cameroonian endeavors. If you have any questions, concerns or comments in relation to the Newsletter please email your thoughts to Lena.dunning@gallaudet.edu or bueaschdeaf@yahoo.com

**Parent & Family
Sign Language
Classes
Are Coming Your
Way
This February!**

Each edition of the Newsletter will spotlight:

Current Events at the School
Student Highlights
A message from the Students
A Staff member's profile
Volunteer/Intern Programs
Deaf Community Affairs
Donor/Sponsor Recognition
Calendar of Projected Events

Nursery Times

Corrine Burgler a volunteer from Holland, has been hard at work designing an education based nursery to meet the needs of our youngest BSD students.

Upon arriving, 11 November, Corrine had planned to work with children individually utilizing her Speech Training background, but quickly noted that Speech Training was not a part of the curriculum observed at the school.

Director Aloy Bibum values the Deaf environment that BSD embodies and encourages all to learn and use Sign Language.

With that in mind, Burgler concluded that her priorities and skills would be best applied to the development of a Nursery Programme. "My initial goal was to teach and after observing for a month I came to recognize the dire need for a proper nursery," she stated. After coming to this conclusion Burgler desired to establish a Nursery programme, which would first, include a proper space for teaching, playing and

learning and second, an age appropriate curriculum.

Burgler has combined her experience in the schools and her Speech Training Degree to develop the Teaching Manuel while utilizing her creative sense to construct a proper learning space. "You see, space here at BSD is very limited and the nursery age children were placed in the dinning area, which is an active space," she noted. "I observed the children being easily distracted with people passing



through and came to the conclusion that we needed a curtain of some sort." Burgler along with the weekend staff hung a curtain to divide the large space and create a sense of privacy, which has made for a warm teaching area that lends itself to easily distracted eyes.

Burgler also noted that the space was bare and did not reflect a child's enthusiasm. Children from a young age need to be visually stimulated, she remarked, and the room did not have any color or visual affects.

Burgler spent the weekend of the 13th and 14th, with the help of some staffers, at the market and

setting up the room for a new start on Monday the 15th. "I am pleased with the physical improvements, but I am eager to start training the Nursery teacher on curriculum next week," Burgler stated.

When asked about her experience with curriculum development she explained, "This was my first time mapping out teaching curriculum for an entire term. It took a lot of time, patience

and creativity."

Her initiative, creativity, experience in Holland and numerous

hours of research on the Internet have enabled her to create curriculum accompanied by a Teaching Manuel for the School to build upon. Head of Instruction, Margaret Bibum exclaims, "Corrine has put a lot of herself into this project and the outcome of her efforts can be seen in the eyes of the children." Bibum looks forward to implementing the curriculum.

BSD is pleased to have Burgler's creative mind and caring heart till 9th of March. Her goals to accomplish before she leaves:

1. Painting a Mural in the Nursery.
2. A trip to the Beach with the Nursery & Class 1
3. A presentation to the

Outstanding Students

A Class worthy of a Spotlight

Class 6, our uppermost and the most experienced class, the leaders of the pack, have been chosen as January's Student Highlight. Teacher Okumo Gloria Essie is proud of her 5 students progress and behavior this year. "My class is ALWAYS well-behaved...eager to learn and respectful," Okumo said.

The students in class 6 this year are noted as enjoying to learn math and the anatomy and physiology of the human body. This fact lends itself quite well to teacher Okumo, a University of Buea graduate, whose education background includes Biology and General Sciences.

"I have always been fascinated with plants and animals, how they develop, function and survive," Okumo said, "Fortunately my class is also interested in these matters." Okumo looks forward to dissecting a frog in the near future for her class to have more of a visual sense of a creatures internal organs.

Okumo prides herself on the application of hands on learning in her class. This year she has taken her class outside its structured walls to learn about the environment and all of its inhabitants.

While class 6 is motivated to learn the daily lessons of Okumo, they are also preparing for the national exam, First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) administered at the conclusion of their primary education. Okumo is confident that her students will do well in most subjects. She acknowledges

"My class is ALWAYS well behaved...eager to learn and respectful."

the experience and dedication that Head of Instruction, Margaret Bibum provides when teaching English. "My students do a great job explaining things in Sign Language, but I worry about



Mbeh Doris, Sanjoh Stanison, Elvis Njuageoh, Okumo Gloria Ewenye Zipporah, Manga Mah

vocabulary on the test." As a teacher, Okumo continued, I want them to do well. They have been my students since September and I want to see them all succeed. Okumo went on to explain, "I teach because I love children. I come from a big family and I have always worked well with young people."

When asked about teaching at a Deaf School she remarked, "I have a special feeling for the Deaf. They have a right to earn an education and they need people like myself and the other teachers who have interest in teaching."

Class SIX Christmas break HIGHLIGHTS:

Zipporah- I visited my favorite grandmother in Tiko, I went to church with grandmother and helped her cook the food for 25 December, Christmas dinner.

Sanjoh- Started his Christmas day early at 6am, he joined his family for church till 8:00. When he returned home he went to chop wood for the fire his mother would use to cook.

Manga- One Sunday I went to visit my girlfriend in Yoke, with my family I stayed on night in Yoke. When I came home I worked in the farm with my mother planting vegetables.

Doris- Christmas day for me started at 6 am to clean and work in the house. My day was full of shopping for a Christmas dress, cooking and resting. At 9:30 in the evening I went with a friend to watch a dance.

Elvis- Christmas for me started in the early morning too, I work up to chop wood for my mother to cook with, I then went off to church for the afternoon. When I came home my family came

STAFF PROFILE



-Who: Celestina Teke

-Where from: I was born and raised in Cameroon, but my family is originally from Nigeria

-What are her responsibilities: I am the House Mother and since our Cook is out sick I have taken over the responsibilities of cooking.

-How long has she been working at BSD: I have been working at BSD since its establishment in 2003.

16 January, Celeste went food shopping this week at a nearby



market where she picked up a variety of essentials for the three meals a day she prepares at BSD

Ground-nuts can be found on every street and in most food markets.



After being purchased she walks them to the grinding mill around the corner...



waits for the grounds and returns for the rest of her groceries.



This ground ingredient will be eaten with Cassava, Fruit and Vegetables.

The School House

Buea School for the Deaf is located just off Kahwa-Sumbele Road, Bomaka and for those of you who will be visiting for the first time and are not familiar with the side roads of Cameroon we have signs to assist you along your travel (and if all else fails, just ask a local). Cameroonians are known for being helpful at NO cost.

Having said that, all of the neighbors know where the school for the Deaf is located and may wish to show you rather than explain the simple directions.



School starts at 8:00 am sharp and classes conclude at 3:00. After class hours the children can surely be found in the field located directly in front of the school enjoying a kick around with the football.

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January 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Students Arrive
7	8 Classes Begin	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Football playing at BSD is a weekend MUST! Weekday sport activity provides time for the young students to practice and prepare for the games on Saturday.

Founder/Director N'Jok Bibum Aloysius would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce his Staff, Teachers and Volunteers:



Left to Right

- Mrs. Gertrude Vibu, Teacher & House Parent
- Mr. Beltus Eyonga, House Parent
- Mr. Hilarie Asongefack, Driver
- Mr. N'Jok Bibum Aloyius, Founder/Director
- Mr. Teke Elias Njie, Community Outreach Coordinator
- Mr. Ernest Tsala Messinga, Sign Language Specialist & House Parent
- Mrs. Celestina Teke, House Parent\Cook



Left to Right

- Mr. Beltus Eyonga, House Parent
- Mrs. Gertrude Vibu, Teacher & House Parent
- Mr. Oneghe Arrey; Teacher
- Mrs. Margaret Lloyd Bibum, Co-founder/Head of Instruction
- Ms. Lena Dunning, Intern
- Miss. Gloria Essie Okumo, Teacher
- Mrs. Elizabeth Teneng, Teacher
- Mrs. Misodi Nku, Teacher
- Mr. Ernest Tsala Messinga, Sign Language Specialist & House Parent
- Miss Nancy Njinju, Teacher

Not photographed: Mrs. Vivian Tambo, Cook, Miss Sophie Agbor-Ndip Baiye, Teacher & Ms. Corrine Burger, Volunteer.