

THE NEWSLETTER

26 FEBRUARY 2007

SPRING, TERM 2

NATIONAL YOUTH'S DAY

A Celebration of Our Future

In 1972 Cameroon became a United Republic. Francophones and Anglophones came together to form one Cameroon. French language and culture predominate in 8 of the 10 provinces while in the remaining 2 English language and culture predominate.

The 20th of May 1972 is known as the reunification date, this has become a National Day. In 1973 the President of the Republic

made a declaration that the 11th of February would become a National Day to celebrate the youth in Cameroon. "The festivities actually start one week prior to the March past on the 11th," French Teacher Paul Ndoka stated.

"Each school is responsible for its own programme for the week and athletic competitions begin on the 8th and conclude with the championship matches after the March past,"

Ndoka continued.

The evening of the 10th hosts an annual speech from the President of the Republic at 8 pm. At this time he addresses the youth and directs focus to the motto designated for the

year. This year's motto "Youth Citizenship and the Fight
Story continued on pg 7



February Events:

1st Installation of the Library

2nd New Student Arrives

7th Nursery Field Trip to the Sea

11th YOUTH'S DAY

12th Public Holiday (NO SCHOOL)

15th Implementation of IDCS Family Education and Empowerment Project

16th Newly appointed Bishop of Buea visits BSD

19th Container from Canada arrives

25th BSD Co-ed Football Finals

FOR THE DEAF

Mr. Aloysius N'JOK BIBUM

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO SEE THE BUEA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (BSD) NEWSPAPER RE-LAUNCHED. MUCH OF THE CREDIT GOES TO Ms. LENA DUNNING, OUR INTERN FROM GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC. LENA HAS BEEN EDITING, PHOTOGRAPHING AND SUCCESSFULLY APPEALING FOR THE FUNDS TO HAVE THE NEWSLETTERS PRINTED. LENA, THANKS FOR THE PUBLICITY THE NEWSLETTER IS GENERATING.

BSD WAS CREATED IN 2003. ITS MISSION IS TO GIVE EVERY DEAF CHILD THE OPPORTUNITY OF AN EDUCATION AND TO INVOLVE THE PARENTS IN THE PROCESS.

IN CAMEROON, WE DO NOT HAVE A NATIONAL DEAF EDUCATION PROGRAMME. MANY DEAF CHILDREN ARE NOT IN SCHOOL. MOST PARENTS STRUGGLE TO PAY OUR MODEST SCHOOL FEES. WE STRIVE TO KEEP OUR PUPILS IN SCHOOL AND TO GIVE THEM AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE. IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGES SUCH AS THESE, WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

THROUGH THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES. WE HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE BUEA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

STARTING TOGETHER, STAYING TOGETHER

THE ENTIRE WEEK PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY FESTIVITIES STUDENTS AND STAFF PRACTICED LINE FORMATION, STARTING TOGETHER, STAYING TOGETHER AND PAYING ATTENTION.

OUR SUCCESS ON SUNDAY IS ATTRIBUTED TO MORNING REHEARSALS, STUDENT TEAMWORK AND POSITIVE ATTITUDES. PREPARATION ALSO INCLUDED HAIR CUTS, WASHING AND IRONING UNIFORMS (WHICH IS A WEEKLY TASK REGARDLESS OF THE MARCH) AND POLISHING SHOES IF NEEDED. NOT TO MENTION MEASUREMENTS FOR ALTERATIONS IN UNIFORMS AND ONE NEW UNIFORM FOR THE NEW STUDENT JOHNSON. ONE EXHAUSTED IRON AND 2 CONTAINERS OF SHOE POLISH LATER, STUDENTS WERE LOOKING THEIR BEST AND READY TO SHOWCASE THEIR TALENT



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An Honored Visit



Late in the morning on Friday the 16th Bishop Immanuel Bushu and Reverend Father Andrew Nkea Secretary of Education came to visit BSD. Head of Instruction, Margaret Bibum was called from her office to greet the visitors not knowing who the visiting persons were. "I feel so honored," Bibum exclaimed, "this is the first time the Bishop of Buea has ever visited our school, I feel so privileged!" Bishop Bushu became the 4th Bishop of Buea on the 30th of January 2007. He had previously served as Bishop of Yagoua in the Far North province for 14 years. He is following after the well-received Bishop Pius AWA who formally served as the Bishop of Buea for 34 years.



"I am still in shock," Bibum continued ten minutes after the Bishop left, "I know that God is with us." Upon arriving Bibum gave the Bishop and the Reverend Father a tour of the campus and introduced him to each class. Staff and students greeted him in admiration thanking him for coming and hoping for another visit in the future.

IDCS Project

BSD has been awarded a one-year grant by the International Deaf Children's Society (IDCS) based in London, U.K. The Family Education & Empowerment Project will enable the families of Deaf children at BSD to learn Sign Language as well as learn how they can be more involved in their child's education.

Please contact Mrs. Margaret Bibum for more information about this project.

THE
 OFFICE



"Many thanks to all Sponsors and Donors for continuous support and contributions, we are succeeding at meeting our objectives. Through your generosity and compassion our efforts are improving the future for these children."

-Aloysius N'jok Bibum

APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION
 WILL BE OBSERVED IN THE
 MARCH EDITION.

A Warm Welcome

On any given school day one enters the school campus through the main gate, continues through a common area and arrives at the large, wooden front door. Upon entering the structure one may find themselves in the middle of a history lesson or homework review. Don't be alarmed or feel as though you are interrupting. Space is limited and this foyer is class 4.

These 16 smiling faces are all too often nose deep in their practice books, quickly transferring the lesson on the board into their personal book, and are not bothered by your passing. In fact, "I look forward to each morning

and the warm welcome that I receive from class 4," Intern Lena Dunning exclaims, "They are on their feet and greeting me before I even remove my sunglasses." Formal greetings are a BSD custom that class 4 has

"...they are motivated individuals but also work very well in small groups."

perfected.

Despite these minor interruptions they are a serious group of students. Teacher Oneghe Arrey remarks, "they are motivated individuals but also work very well in small groups." Arrey has found that peer reinforcement through small groups has been beneficial for all students. "I make sure to provide time

everyday for them to work in their assigned groups of four. Peer support empowers those who are strong in a subject to teach and those who might be weak in one area are provided with

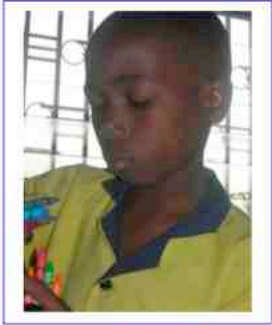
peer assistance,"

Arrey noted. When asked if the class had favorite subject Arrey could not identify one but emphasized the fact that they really do take interest in all subjects.

Later stating, "they do take a special interest in reading. Although they have not entered the new Library I know they look forward to checking out books." BSD's largest class will be taking full advantage of shelves stocked full of variety and age appropriate literature. The Library is scheduled to be open by the 22nd of February to all classes and staff.



Back row- Mukete Minet Ogia, Hansley Mampie, Oneghe Arrey, Orlando Ngoh, Bokwe Sally
 Middle row- Zabe Rene Yongha, Ewi Miranda, Bah Tah Emmanuel, Timo Jenevieve Nkeng, Akamanda Godlove Tenjoh, Mba Yvonne Aseh, Soh Micah
 Front row- Tangwa Boris Apah, Annagim Derick Anamoh, Ampo Juvet, Ndum Cyril, Sander Mukoko



Harris Mbah
Age 11
Class 3

(MVP) Most Valuable Player



Born and raised in Kumba Harris Mbah is known for his motivation in the classroom and mettle on the football field. "Harris is a bright boy, a driven student and very inclusive when working with others," Margaret Bibum stated. "I have yet to see him on the football field but I look forward to catching a Saturday match to see all the children," Bibum continued.

Not only is Mbah the youngest on the field he is also the smallest. When asked about playing against the older, taller players Mbah quickly replied, "I am not afraid," he smiled, "I like the challenge." Co-ed teams are set for the month of February and competition is hot. "I



look forward to the games all day," Mbah said. Which explains the fact that he is always the first player on the field juggling and practicing his skills.

Saturday Schedule
6 am wake up
Laundry wash & dry clothes;
Breakfast;
clean dorm/chores
'play a little bit' time.

12-1pm Lunch and rest time.
3 pm wake up for sports.
5:45 bathe.
7 pm dinner.
9 pm sleep.

This is Mbah's 3rd year with BSD and prior

to this schooling he attended the School for the Deaf in Kumba. He noted English as his favorite subject promptly adding, "...and I like to read!" Mbah is the youngest of 4 boys and the only

Deaf person in his family. He made it very clear that his mother is very supportive, despite their distance.

Mbah receives financial support through a full sponsorship from Maurice Tomdio, a Cameroonian currently living in the United States of America. Tomdio was the first Cameroonian to graduate from Gallaudet University and values the education that BSD is providing. And anyone who observes Mbah in his classroom or on the football field will witness him taking full advantage of the opportunity bestowed upon him.

If you would like to take part in sponsoring a child either in full or partial scholarship please contact Director Aloysius N' jok Bibum at bueaschdeaf@yahoo.com or 730-34-49 (SMS)

150,000 cfa = full year sponsorship
75,000 cfa = partial sponsorship

Adventures at the Sea

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Four adults, four children ages 3-5, 2 books and lunch boarded the Land Rover and headed to the Sea. Since the installation of the New Programme and relocation to a better-fit classroom, the Nursery students have been learning about the Sea. "The programme is designed so that each week has an educational theme," Corrine Burgler volunteer teacher from Holland stated.

Prior to visiting the Sea the students learnt all about the powerful water. Each day the children were exposed to various components of the



Sea. The children decorated their own paper fish and attached them to the Sea display on the classroom wall. Literature about

the Sea and its creatures were read and enjoyed each day. A classroom display with various types of sand, seashells and pictures of fish schools completed the theme for the week. "The trip to the Sea was a success, the children were able to see and touch everything they had been learning about in the classroom," Burgler stated, "then the following day when we asked them about their experience they recalled the prior day events with big and beaming eyes."



ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, READ

library

Consecutive days of hard work have paid off and the shelves are stacked with books to be read. Prior to checking out any books students in class 5 and 6 were



instructed to change into their weekend clothing to clean and arrange the contents of the room. The shelves were dusted, the floor was swept, trash was removed and books were unpacked. "We

started last year with 6 or 8 books and currently have over 600 books logged in our system," Margaret Bibum said. The use of single shelves no longer provides adequate space for all of our books.

"Our goal is to encourage children to READ, READ, READ," Bibum remarked. Despite the enormous expansion, Bibum emphasized the important need for future contributions. "There are no Public Libraries in Buea and with 63 students now they will be going through this collection in no time!" Bibum smiled.



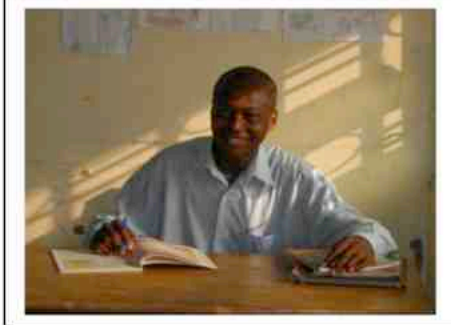
BOOKS DESIRED; REFERENCE, SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY.

A warm thank you is extended to all who have donated to our growing Library:

- British Council in Cameroon
- New Mexico School for the Deaf book drive
- Gallaudet University
- American School in Yaoundé
- Individual Donors

STAFF PROFILE

ONEGHE ARREY



FROM
MUTENGENE

Classroom
Teacher

ARREY HAS BEEN TEACHING AT BSD FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS. "MY FIRST TWO YEARS I WAS A TEACHERING ASSISTANT IN CLASS 1." HE ALSO NOTED THAT THIS EXPERENCE THROUGHLY PREPARED HIM FOR MANAGING HIS OWN CLASSROOM. "MY THIRD YEAR I TAUGHT CLASS 2, THEN LAST YEAR I BEGAN TEACHING CLASS 4 OUR LARGEST CLASS." FUTURE GOALS- ARREY RECENTLY APPLIED TO NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF (NTID) IN THE UNITED STATES AND PLANS TO STUDY COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING TECHNOLOGY. " I PLAN ON RETURNING TO CAMEROON AFTER GRADUATION TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF OR A COMPUTER TRAINING PROGAM."

Cover Story 'National Youth's Day' continued

Against Major Social Ills." The programme was broadcasted on National Radio and television.

At the conclusion of the speech food and beverages are enjoyed while Cultural dances are preformed. The March past takes place in the morning and all school age children are included government, private, missionary as well as technical institutes and it concludes with the University of Buea students.

Manga Mah Clodine, Head Girl, class 6 further noted, "We have to be involved," she declared, "It is the day that we can show our entire community that Deaf People Can."

Manga looks forward to Youth's Day every February.



PRODUCTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER
WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MR. & MRS.
PAUL MONTUORI

-Many thanks

NEW ARRIVALS

Johnson Bariledum Nubor arrived the morning of the 1st and by the time his Father had signed all the paper work and checked in all of his belongings

Johnson was deep into the draw exercise in class 1. "I am always amazed how quickly the students find their niche," Margaret Bibum stated. Johnson is the 3rd child in his family of 5 and the only Deaf in his family. Mr. Bariledum, his father informed BSD that Johnson became Deaf at about 2 months from being ill, and had never been in school. He has adjusted to his new environment and after a week's time he has picked up a number of Signs and sporting the Gold and Blue uniform.



Student Recruitment

Outreach Services are Working Overtime

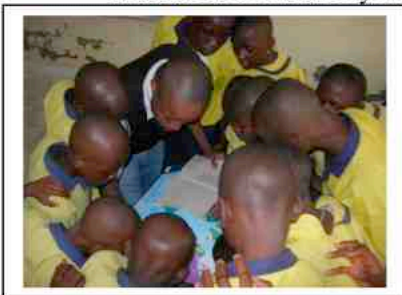
Muea, Buea Town and Sasse were just a few of the places visited by Outreach Coordinator Teke Elias Njie and Social Work Intern Lena Dunning. In a four-week period 6 towns/villages and 7 homes welcomed the recruiters from BSD. "Village visits and word of mouth are the two modes of recruitment for our school," Teke remarked. Visits are not formally scheduled and travel plans vary depending on the destination. "The travel time from one town to the next may be longer than an actually visit 'Bush taxis' carry 6-7 passengers not including the driver and motorcycles are the only means of public transport. Despite travel time and conditions our weekend hours are validated when a child walks in with his parent for his first day of school," Dunning stated. Recruitment efforts will continue throughout the second term. BSD is continually catching word of Deaf children not enrolled in school, thus, calling for Saturday and Sunday travel. These weekend travels are scheduled around parents and guardians tending to the farm. "Our main objective is to speak to the head of the house and weekend mornings and early afternoon are the best times to catch them," Teke remarked. Weekend travel it is!



- Paul Ndoka, JR
- French Teacher
- Studied Bilingual Letters at the University of Yaoundé 1
- Originally from Douala, Littorial Province

"I am here to work with the Deaf because of a certain level of compassion not out of pity or sorrow," Ndoka remarked, "My hope is to do something that will improve their status." Ndoka has not wasted any time since arriving at the school "He is a Self-starter which is exactly the kind of Teacher we need," Margaret Bibum stated. Ndoka teach French to classes 3-6 and stands in for classroom teachers when needed. Even when school is not in session one can surely find Ndoka with the students for afternoon

sports, on the field in the morning practicing for the march or playing Saturday Football. "Paul is a natural with the students they have taken to him well and he appears to have found his place with the



staff," co-worker Ernest Messinga Tsala said.

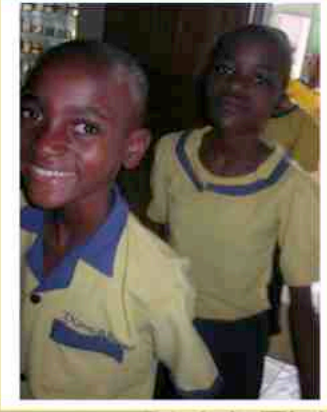


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the best in school



fun pictures



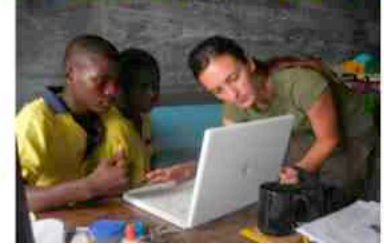
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Full credit for the production of this page is given to Sanjoh Stanison and Elvis Njuageoh. The first weekend in February intern Dunning gave a lesson on taking photos which included everything from angles and lighting to camera settings and flash. This lesson encouraged further teachings within the following week. Concluding with their first computer use, Dunning instructed students how to download, retrieve, arrange and save their photos. Students continued their computer skills and creativity by adjusting photo color, modifying their display and concluding with the selection and organization of **word art**



ELVIS



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