

Nsobe Community School Newsletter Term 1, 2022

Dear Nsobe Community School friends and Teacher Aid Supporters

Nsobe Community School (NCS) continues, with Teacher Aid's support, to grow and develop. We wish our focus this year to be on consolidating and building on what we have achieved so far, strengthening management and governance, and feeding into, supporting and upgrading our teachers so that they in turn can inspire and uplift our students.



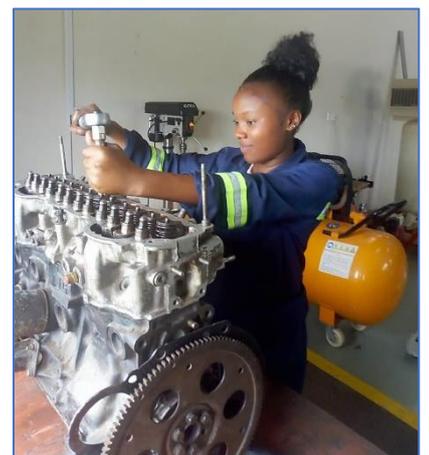
The first term, although delayed by National Covid-19 school closure by 2 weeks, was full of learning and activity. It is always lovely to welcome the new Early Childhood class learners to the school, and to see our primary children proudly graduate to secondary school. It is great to finally be a completed school with natural grade progression, and for our current Grade 12's (class of 2022) and those to follow, to take the helm at the top of the school, instead of growing a grade a year with the graduating class of 2021 always leading. The baton has been passed on. To pass on the leadership, motivate, instil responsibility, and rekindle a sense of purpose and belief in their potential, we held a Grade 12 campout at Nsobe Lodge. Led by Pastor and Ngoie Lunda and our teachers, our student's mindsets were challenged, as they were inspired by team building activities, dynamic lecture sessions, yummy food and bootcamp fun.

We have received our first school leaver's (class of 2021) National Grade 12 exam results. Nationwide Zambia's Grade 12s scored a 68% pass rate, our Copperbelt Province scored a 70% pass rate and Nsobe CS achieved a 95% pass rate. (out of 18 students sitting the exams, only 1 did not pass – this student has not come up through our school). 61% of



Nsobe students achieved a division 1 certificate which will allow them to access government bursaries for universities and colleges. Our ICT results were brilliant, with grateful thanks to Teacher Aid and Mike Papadacos for equipping our Computer lab with laptops and solar power. The majority of the ICT class scored distinctions and high merits with our students scoring highly in maths and English too. Exceptional for a remote rural school serving a vulnerable community.

We were concerned about our school leavers (especially our girls) waiting out 2022 in the villages while they waited for their Grade 12 results and the process to access Government Bursary support for 2023 tertiary enrolment. All of our students are now enrolled in a gap year programme studying a skill of their choice in agriculture, computers, auto mechanics, or food production. Many thanks to Lifesong and Bwando farms for further educating and equipping our students.



At Primary level 28 Nsobe Students sat the National Grade 7 exams with 100% pass rate. NCS produced the top girl and boy in our Zone, with the overwhelming majority of students achieving Division 1 and Division 2 points, all scoring highly above the District average.



Co-curricular activity in the first term is dominated by athletics. Primary Sport's day was such a happy fixture full of enthusiastic interhouse participation and energy; giving children a chance to compete in both fun and traditional races. Secondary interhouse athletics was a more serious competition, with students battling it out, pushing their limits, and giving many a chance to shine outside of the classroom. Inter-schools athletics was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.



In March we held a Dignity Campaign facilitated with inspirational energy and life changing teaching by Linda from Beyond Ourselves. Day one was a training session challenging and equipping for our female teaching staff, deeply meaningful to them as they learnt about and dealt with many issues on both a personal and community level. Day two was an interactive session in a safe space for our upper primary girls, with Dignity's vision to see young girls find their identity, belonging and purpose in God, and to learn about puberty, and how to protect themselves and care for their bodies during their menstrual cycles. Many of our girls are not cherished in their homes, and the programme set out to build their confidence and self-value and help them believe in and fulfil their potentials. It was precious to see them blow up balloons and write on the balloons all the damaging things that had been said or done to them, and then to have great fun amid shrieks of laughter popping and stomping on the balloons, breaking the negative and taking control of what they believe of themselves.

A massive highlight of this term was the Bike empowerment Programme. A huge thank you to Natasha Bomba and Hope Ignited for all the donated bikes from Canada that will help our far reaching students get to school and access quality education. It is wonderful to see our community mobile! Hope Ignited also sent us a wonderful trainer, Lucky Mbako from BEN's Bikes Namibia to train community members in proper bike mechanics and maintenance, developing community skills and income streams. The container the bikes were shipped in has been converted into a bike shop and maintenance centre, with a bike ambulance and community rentals...helping to sustain the community of Nsoke and giving access to education, health, market and to provide local employment and vocational training for our youth.



Our new Government has declared free education for all. This is a wonderful step which we applaud, but the statutory removal of school fees and parental contributions as brought many challenges too. NCS strongly believes that our parents need to partner with us in educating their children, and value the education they are receiving. The minimal school fees we used to charge were a mere token as a commitment from the parent body, however this was a great help in funding the daily running costs of the school. In absence of school fees all schools are supposed to receive Government grants, however to date we have only received 1 (only £722) out of the 3 promised grants which has meant we are grossly underfunded. **We are appealing to our supporters to stand in the gap for us and either make a once off donation or increase their monthly submission to help us keep running smoothly.** Teacher Aid is the backbone of NCS and without their funding the education of our community's children would not be possible.



Thank you for your support which helps us educate 530 NCS vulnerable remote rural children, pay teachers' salaries, fund the upkeep of the Safe Houses (second Safe House for vulnerable girls to be built this term), provides a daily feeding scheme and offers tertiary options for our school leavers. Please spread the word and encourage friends to support Nsoke Community School through Teacher Aid.

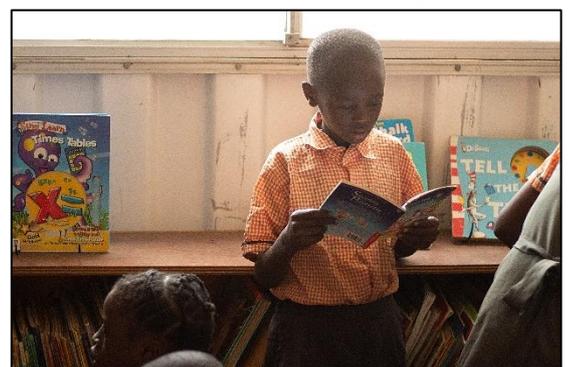
With gratitude and best wishes

Fiona

On behalf of the students and staff of NCS
Fionatomlinson74@gmail.com

Please contact Teacher Aid if you wish to donate and help to make a difference:

Maggie Beecher
magbeecher@gmail.com
 Tel: 07974809048



Nsoke Community School's Vision:

Developing the Nation's human resources through education, personal empowerment and opportunity, for the glory of God.

www.teacheraid.org.uk