

Dear all,

The year 2012 has been a busy year for Kids to School. There have been many new developments and therefore we thought it of importance to inform, those collaborating with us in Africa with a Newsletter. The newsletter also reflects a number of decisions taken during the board meeting of Nov 23rd, 2012.

Composition of the Board of foundation Kids to School:

The composition of the board has changed. After Caren's passing away Ans Groener has become the president of the board. Lucas Janssen is still secretary, but has announced his departure (for private reasons). Currently we are looking for a proper successor. Liesbeth van Egten has recently become the treasurer of the board (as successor of Ans). Ruud Keulen is not a member of the board, but will remain committed to various administrative and financial issues.

Introduction of a Local Advisory Council:

The board has approved the creation of a Local Advisory Council (LAC), consisting of three to five members. Objective of the LAC is first of all to support the Board in the Netherlands with knowledge, experience, and recommendations regarding educational and societal circumstances in the countries Kids to School is active, and that have impact on the performance of the students. Sometimes questions will be asked by the board, sometimes the council members will bring spontaneously information to the attention of the board. Secondly the council members will take care of closer monitor of the well-being and school performance of our students.

The creation of a LAC has been discussed in 2012 with a number of our collaborators in Kenya. Our intention is to form a LAC as soon as possible. We suggest Andrew Nijenga Kimani, Bernadetta Masento Tipape, and Onyango Nicholas Otieno as members of the first LAC. Further information on the objectives and tasks of the LAC will follow soon.

Field visits to Kenia:

Ans visited the Kids to School sites extensively in February. She managed to go to both Raruowa and Loitokitok. And of course Nairobi itself. It was a pleasure to meet everybody and to get so much more on the spot information regarding the schools and the challenges.

Liesbeth and Ruud visited Nairobi beginning of September. On September 1st the annual meeting of students took place. Unfortunately in absence of Sr Mila, whose mother passed away the day before. A sad moment indeed. Fortunately Sr Belen was present to replace her. The meeting itself was very pleasant and informative. There was time to reflect about the year that passed since the previous meeting, but also time for planning and dreaming! Nicolaus and Benadette (former students) were present to support the meeting. Andrew Kimani and David Lemaron had a chance to be introduced to the activities of the foundation in Kenya.

Masaai Girl Education Fund (MGEF)

Last summer foundation Kids to School got in touch with another NGO that is supporting kids (and particularly girls in Maasai land). We were impressed by their activities and by the good combination of size and professionalism. Their name is Maasai Girls Education Fund (founded in 1999). See their website for more information: www.maasaigirlseducation.org .

Foundation Kids to School has decided to sponsor two of their girls (Abigael and Emily). Both are post secondary school. They attend schools in Thika and Nairobi. We will introduce them later to you.

In addition MGEF will also closely cooperate with Kids to School in the school selection process and the student follow up for our three Loitoktok girls. That will be a win win situation. MGEF has presence on the spot and is able to offer additional support, e.g. mentor workshops and student introduction days. And Kids to School will continue funding these three students, but without more presence on the spot. Moreover MGEF will take care of actual payments to the schools. We really consider this cooperation as a big step forward in the improvement of our student support.

Donors

We are happy to announce that two new private donors have been found who will support the foundation on a multiyear base. This will enable us to fulfill our commitment to support all current secondary school students during continued studies.

Warm regards,

Ans Groener, President of Kids to School