

ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams (UK)



ABCDreams (UK)

John de Ronde, Operations Manager

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

We've been very busy in this quarter, leading up to Christmas. I have engaged Standard 6 pupils at Lyamungo Sinde Primary School in an art project in reply to pictures sent by Roxwell Primary School last year. More on this in a bit, however.



I reported in our last issue that one of the students from L.S. village, Amadeus Mallya, whom I have been

supporting in secondary school suffered a serious head injury while unguardedly crossing a road near his school.

He was admitted to the intensive care unit 26th September at our local hospital where he spent 3 weeks in a coma. We continued to



remain hopeful that he would eventually recover and helped to nurse and feed him at the hospital. Unfortunately his injuries in the end proved too serious and he passed away on Monday, 25th November. We trust he will rest in peace after his long struggle.

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THE ART PROJECTS

Standard 6 pupils have now started a series of "Big Five"

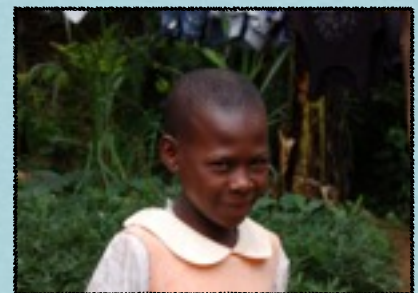
paintings (see "lion Cubs" above) for the children of Roxwell Primary. The project is not yet fully complete as I write this and hope to introduce the paintings to the pupils of Roxwell Primary in the Spring of next year. The paintings are an attempt at getting the children to think in 3D so the subject is raised up from the background in bas relief. They look



HANMINA LEMA AND KELVIN: Kelvin was 6 months old when he was orphaned. Hanmina is his grandmother



HEAVENLIGHT A. LEMA: Yes, that's his real name! He was 11 when this picture was taken and is in STD 6 now. He is NOT a she as I thought earlier. Sorry, Heavenlight!



ERICA FRED: Erica was also 11 years old when this was taken. She is also in Standard 6 at the moment and hopeful of an academic future.

ABCDreams (UK) Objectives: 2014 Q1

wonderful and the children had never done anything like this before. The object of this project was to create 3D pictures of the 'Big Five' safari animals in the Serengeti.

As well as my art classes I have been meeting with the headteachers of the 2 other schools in Lyamungo Sinde. The Mwowe School, situated nearer to the Mosque and built on a plot provided by the mosque has more Muslim pupils but as with Lyamungo Sinde Primary, it does not discriminate. Both Muslims and Christians are encouraged to attend.

The 3rd school, Lyamungo Ari (standing for Agricultural Research Institute) is located on a government plot near to the coffee growers research station, TACRI (Tanzania Coffee Research Institute). As coffee is one of the agricultural mainstays of the community, TACRI is also one of the main employers.

Whereas Mwowe Primary is nearly the equivalent in size to Lyamungo Sinde, the Ari school only has 100 pupils. Altogether then, there are approximately 530 pupils at primary level in the village. My enquiries of the headteachers determined that of those 530 there are about 70 who are in the categories of real need. Collectively we determined that

the children in most need fell into 3 categories:

1. strictly orphans - missing both parents
2. missing their mothers and therefore potentially vulnerable
3. missing either one or the other parent and vulnerable but living with grandparent.

We felt it was important to establish these criteria as the level of general need in the village might well overwhelm the resources of a small charity such as ours.

From these deliberations I will be creating a list of pupils that we can help, up to the 70 identified. We have agreed that the list will be verified by the village committee so that we remain completely transparent. This was one of the conditions I insisted on at the start. The good thing about Lyamungo Sinde is that the village committee is very strong and very committed to helping the community as much as possible.

Meanwhile, back in the UK now for Christmas, I'm hoping to consolidate the twinning between L.S. Primary and Roxwell and to see about a possible dialogue between the 2 sets of pupils.

Until next time.....

1. Pictures from L.S. Primary to Roxwell School

2. Letters and penpals project to Roxwell School

3. Complete Std 6 project

4. Collate Std 6 work and prepare presentation

5. Pay school fees for orphans and OVC's

6. Set up email dialogue between schools

7. Exchange 'penpal' art works

8. Set up exhibition stall at Morden Fun Day for fund-raising

OUR NEWSLETTER

This is my 4th ABCDreams Newsletter. I intend to update quarterly so keep a look-out, please!

My time in Tanzania has this quarter been very busy and very fruitful. Building the project will continue to take time. I'm looking forward to meeting the challenges...

John de Ronde

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NEWSLETTER



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