

Bosomtwe International School Partnership Update - November 2016

Team Ghana Trip

Last month, during the October Break, a group of 25 students from Grade 9 travelled with Middle School teachers Shea and Dan Allen, and Jay Haken, Lower School teacher Ibi Oubda (who is the founder of Bosomtwe International School) and Lower School IT Technician Clement Cheah to reconnect with the community of Behenase in Ghana. The group was extremely busy, working with the Bosomtwe International School (BIS) students, supporting their learning (in particular reading) as well as sharing cooperative games, music and sports. As always there was some manual work to be done with students helping to paint classrooms, working in the garden, sowing grass seed and helping with the establishment of the BIS Learning Center. This Learning Center is a fantastic addition, with the completion of a purpose built library space combining access to books with IT facilities. Thank you to Ben Lindgren (Class of 2016) for instigating the library project and to Clement Cheah for his commitment and expertise, making IT services possible at the school. All of these experiences were shared each day through Jay Haken's [Travel Blog](#) and the trip was captured through Dan Allen's [Ghana: Ten Days in Ten Minutes](#) movie. Thank you to the chaperones, especially Ibi, for making these trips, and the invaluable experience for our students, possible.

Facility Improvements

The Learning Center along with other facility improvements - increased classroom capacity to cater for students in Junior High School, further landscaping, a basketball court and additional PE facilities - have led to BIS being awarded "A" Grade status from the Ghanaian Education Authority. In 2005, the school received its first rating and held "D" status. Through continuous improvements made over the years, BIS has now been recognised as providing the highest level of school facilities in Ghana.

Teaching & Learning

The improved facilities and resources will help to attract both teachers and students to the school. However, recruiting and retaining high quality teachers at BIS remains a big challenge for Ibi, given the rural location of the school. Most recently Mr. Abed has been appointed as the lead teacher at the school, the position being funded by the annual Middle School Ghana Dinner. Mr. Abed will be working with Ibi and some of the longer term teachers, such as Mr. Augustine, who will also share some of the administrative responsibilities at the school. The returning ZIS chaperones observed that in fulfilling the BIS mission of "Respect, Knowledge and Independence", there is evidence of progress in all three pillars and, in particular, that the level of respect afforded at BIS is a real credit to Ibi and the teachers.

Match and More

For the 2015/16 academic year 40 pledges were achieved from members of the ZIS community for the tuition '[Match and More](#)' model resulting in CHF 4,800. A number of BIS students have been identified as requiring financial support and this money has been primarily used to subsidize the tuition fees for these families as well as supporting the operational costs of the school. We are now looking for pledges for the 2016/17 academic year and hope to achieve the equivalent of 80 pledges. Click [here](#) for further information.

In addition to the 'Match and More' model, the ZIS community makes a significant financial contribution to the development of the facilities and infrastructure at BIS. Money raised through the Lower School Talent Show, Middle School Dinner, Upper School ExtravaGHANZA and all school Ghana Cup, as well as individual donations, is used to develop the campus. Further details of these events will follow later in the year. Thank you for your continued support of this [important partnership](#).