

The Banana Tree Project

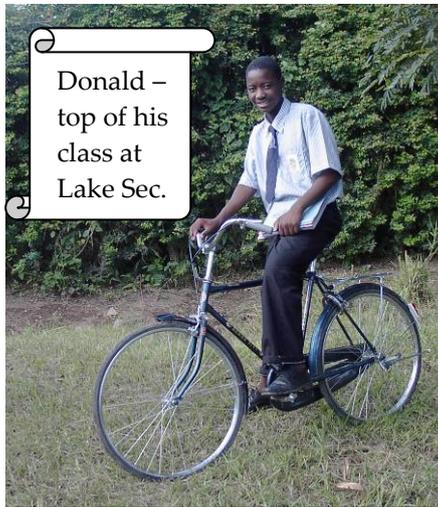
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Quarterly Newsletter: January 2008

New School Year

The Tanzanian new school year started on 7th January, so the last few weeks have been busy with checking reports and grades, confirming school fees and deciding which children do which course. I am very grateful to the volunteers at Fonelisco Orphanage for the work they've done in finding the information to meet my "western standards". I am particularly grateful to Fay McNamara, our "volunteer in Mwanza", for supervising the process and ensuring that my cheques are delivered and that receipts are received.

Donald Mussa finished top of his class of 29 students at the end of Form One (the first year of secondary school)

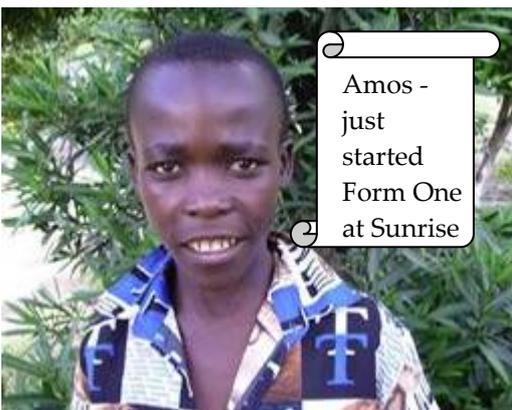


Donald – top of his class at Lake Sec.

in December 2007, getting his highest marks in Chemistry, Computers and Book-Keeping. Paulo Matendo finished 8th in his class with his top marks being Civics and Kiswahili. William Daudi and Daudi Baraka gained respectable grades that earned

them promotion to Form Two. All four boys are now working towards their Form Two qualification at Lake Secondary School. Esther Emmanuel struggled with Form One and, although she has gained the qualification, she has decided to continue with a vocational rather than an academic course. The details are still being decided. Ibrahim Netto has also earned promotion to Form Two at Kirumba Government Secondary School and is progressing very well.

Ten primary school children took, and passed, the

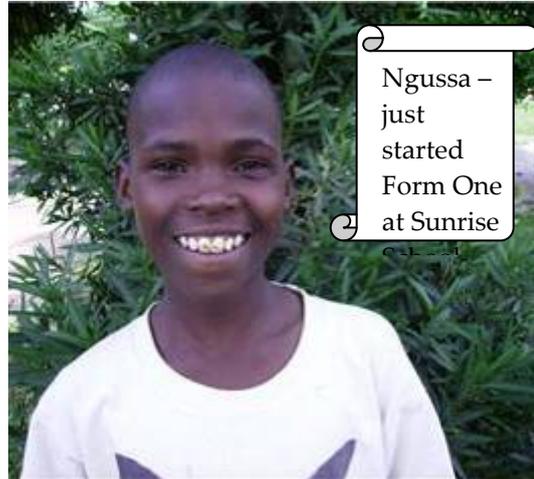


Amos - just started Form One at Sunrise

entrance exam for secondary school having completed their primary school exams. These ten children are now

attending Sunrise Secondary School which is closer to

their orphanage and has gained a very good local reputation. Amina Ramathan and Jamila Juma have now started their second and final year of tailoring. Dotto



Ngussa – just started Form One at Sunrise

Daudi, Yakobo Willson and Matendo Msafiri have started their final year of mechanics, also hoping to qualify in December.

The impact of the Banana Tree Project

It's important to stress that none of these children would be at school or college if it wasn't for donations to the Banana Tree Project. On behalf of the children, I am very grateful to everyone who has donated to the charity. I will be visiting Mwanza in March for a week to meet the children, visit the schools and purchase any primary school resources that are needed (such as books, shoes, uniforms). Despite Tanzania being one of the poorest countries in the world, children are not allowed to attend primary school without a uniform (£2) and a pair of shoes (£3), undermining the President's claim that primary education is free. Hence it's important to ensure that the children have the basic requirements to help them make their way through their education.

Ed Beavington
Project Coordinator

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