



Dear Sponsors and Friends of HIPS.

About 2 ½ month have passed since I last visited Ghana and the next visit is very soon to come.

Before new impressions have an effect on me, I will shortly tell you, what has happened since you received my information letter Nr: 7.

With the help of our new headmistress Mrs. Gladys Adorkor the quality of education in our kindergarten and school has significantly improved. She is engaged in all major things, is helping the teachers, where necessary, and works on an increasement of the knowledge and qualification of the teaching staff to meet constantly the governmental requirements.

The first highlight of my visit in October and November last year, was the election of new children to the kindergarten.

Parents and children were invited for a personal interview. The vice chief of Weija was present to verify the information, which we got from the people questioned and to make sure, that they fell under the criteria of our this year's registration. We had decided, that this time those children should be enrolled in the kindergarten, where only one member of the family existed.

Out of the enormous amount of interested families, we selected 20 children to start kindergarten in January this year.

Naturally the children were send to a physical check. Except one, all of them qualified. Dr Alla Edusa had in edition to this check visited the school two times in 2005 to undergo an examination of everybody working at HIPS. All of the children have been in good shape. The

funds needed for this including a few visits of some of the children to the hospital stayed in a foreseeable range.

We decided with Dr. Alla, that from November on all of the children were given a daily multivitamin tablet, which they have to take under the supervision of the teachers.

In addition to that 75 sets of toothbrushes were bought and everybody now is using them after lunch.



On November 3 I had rented a bus to take children, kitchen staff, and teachers for a ride to the well known Boti Falls at Koforidua. We started early at 6 o'clock. The lunch for the day had been cooked the day before, and with singing and loud and continuous sounds of the drums, we went on. After 2 hours we had breakfast, before, under the supervision of a very knowledgeable guide, who could explain very vivid plants and animals to the children, we walked to the falls.



Since there had been quite some rain the weeks before the falls were very impressive. The children enjoyed the day very much, so that is was unusual quiet on the way back. They all were tired but happy.

The next day I had a meeting with the headmaster of the Swiss School in Accra. I explained our project and we agreed on some joined actions of both schools in the near future.

November 10 Th was our big day. The children had practiced on a play for weeks. Everybody was totally excited.

In the presence of the Swiss Ambassador to Ghana Mr. Georg Zubler, the Dutch Ambassador Mr. Arie van der Weil, a representative of the German Embassy Mrs. Jana Orłowski – the German Ambassador unfortunately could not attend because of the major political developments in Germany, he had to be abroad -, a member of the ministry of information Madam Patricia and from the ministry of education – a long friend of HIPS .- Madam Florance, the attendance of the Chief of Weija, the parents of our HIPS children and people from the Press and Television, the new schoolhouse and a special container building for the computer education were inaugurated.



Again, and we are very grateful for this ongoing help, the new schoolhouse, the computer- and sanitary – building was build and equipped by the Dutch Company Ballast Nedam. All of us, children, teachers, staff and the members of HIPS Charity Organisation expressed our deep gratitude to Mr. Jeffrey Pinkney, the regional head of Ballast Nedam in Ghana, for this new extension of our school and a remarkable day in Weija.

Our entire guest enjoyed the day and especially expressed their appreciation of the successful private initiative of the HIPS project. They thanked also all the sponsors in Europe and Ghana, who made this possible.



Since the end of November a young Dutch lady, whose husband works in Ghana, is helping us at the kindergarten and school.

This is a very lucky circumstance, since we were until now not able to build the urgently needed building to house volunteers. We could increase the qualification of our education, if we were able to go on using young volunteers from foreign countries. Unfortunately this is not possible any more since the housing for them does not meet the minimum standards of the volunteers organisation..

So, that's all for this time. I had again 4 very positive weeks in Ghana and could experience that HIPS is developing into a promising future.

On my daily visits to the Kindergarten and school I attended a lot of lessons, recognising, that teacher and children are doing better all the time. It was possible to convince the teachers to extend the school ours by one hour a day and to use this time to help the children in doing their homework. A work which understandably can not be done by most of the children's parents.

This support of the teachers will surely develop into a demonstrable increasement of the qualification of our children.

We will also do more in the integration of the local representatives of Weija to discuss with them the development of the project and ask for more of their personal engagement in the every days work.

Children, teacher, staff and the HIPS Organisation thank all of you very much for your help in sponsoring our project.

I will be back with news after my next visit in March this year.

Yours

Brigitte Honsel

**If you want to preserve knowledge and outlast it over the time
put it trustful in the hands of the children**

Traditional African wording