

Dear supporters and friends of the Medical Center School in Jharkot,
dear students, parents and teachers of the Muisches Gymnasium!



Christmas will be here in a few weeks and so our next visit to Jharkot draws closer too – more on that later. There's a lot happening in the project – both in Salzburg and Jharkot: we hope you enjoy reading all about it in this newsletter!

Photo: The young children during lessons in the prayer room.

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1. The school bag project – a success, thanks to you!



In the last newsletter we told you about the "new school bag" project and asked for your help:

One of the things that occurred to the volunteers was how difficult it is for the children to keep their belongings in order. One reason: most of them only have a plastic bag in which to transport their school textbooks and exercise books.

Elisabeth Minimayr has had the idea of asking textile students to design a prototype for school bags. A particularly good design could then be produced in an appropriate quantity from good material in Nepal. Thus not only would the children receive support in keeping tidy, but a sewing workshop in Pokhara would also receive a decently-paid order.

This idea could be put into action for 10 Euros of material and labour costs per bag.

Photo: Students from 5u developing the pattern.

And it's working!

Class 5u's textiles group are currently making the prototypes and thanks to your donations, during our Christmas visit we will be able to place the order for the manufacture of the school bags at a small sewing workshop in Pokhara. This order

won't be limited to just the 21 children currently at the boarding school, but will include 10 further bags for newcomers in 2015 and 2016 too! Thank you!

2. New partner for new opportunities

The Salzburg firm BIOGENA NATURPRODUKTE GmbH & Co KG has been offering active support for the project since October. This gives us the opportunity to tackle the big issues: for example, undertaking the long overdue renovations to the school building, making significant improvements in the furnishing of the teaching areas, the quality of education and, in the long term, being able to enrol a larger number of children. The various opportunities and perspectives will be discussed with the project directors in Nepal during our Christmas visit.



BIOGENA is not just helping in making these urgently necessary improvements a reality. Students from the Muisches Gymnasium are also being offered logistical and financial help on a case by case basis for their fundraising campaigns in aid of the school in Nepal.

Enormous thanks to the management and staff at BIOGENA!

3. Massage at the height of Großglockner



Our young AmchiNgawangChoklang does not practice just traditional Tibetan medicine, but is also an expert in traditional Tibetan Ku-nye massage. At his suggestion, a massage table was constructed in September (nothing high tech, simply a solid wooden bed, built at the right height) and a suitable mattress, as well as the requisite linens were also provided. Information on the massage service has been distributed in the surrounding villages. There is also increasing interest from trekking tourists and thus the project is now making its own contribution towards the costs of the project.

Photo: AmchiNgawangprepares the massage table at the surgery.

4. SchulemachtSchule on Facebook – and how you can help promote the project, even if you're not active on Facebook



We've had a Facebook page for a while, run by Magdalena Grömer (graduated in 2008) and Christina Klaffinger. Until recently the page had been languishing a little. But NOW we've really got going – and are asking for your support:

Facebook users:

It would be super if you could have a look at our site and, (if you like it of course) click "Like" and – particularly important – share the posts with your friends.

Non-Facebook users:

Perhaps you don't use Facebook yourself, but know – or even think you know - people who do? Then please pass on this information with a few words about the project. Perhaps one or two of your friends will stick as we keep rolling our snowball ...

With your help we will be able to reach more people on Facebook with information about the project. This could be very important for individual sub-projects and events, as well as in the search for volunteers for Jharkot.

You'll find us here: <https://www.facebook.com/schulemachtschule>. We post about once a week to the page. Comments, likes and shares in particular are all very welcome!

5. Sponsorship

Four new sponsors have joined us since the September newsletter: two children are being sponsored by classes, one by parents (whose children are also sponsors) and one by a teacher at the Musikisches Gymnasium. These children will now be provided for, for as long as they are at the project school. The only children to be without sponsors now are the 5 newcomers from April.

6. Travel plans

We (C. Klaffinger and W. Pichlmüller) will be setting off to Nepal again on 18th December. This time we will be accompanied by our young colleague Nadia El Ayachi.

As always, on the one hand this trip is about staying in touch with people and getting to know the children better, discussing the difficulties and progress within the project, and on the other hand there is the financial aspect: checking bills and expenses, making sure the modest salaries are aligned with the cost of living in Nepal...

(Just a note: travel costs are not covered by the donation account, but rather from our own pocket.)

We'll be sharing a report of this trip in the first newsletter of the new year.

Please and thank you

As always, a big thank you on behalf of the children and all those involved with the project for your interest and help – which we hope will continue!

Christina Klaffinger and Wolf Pichlmüller

Donation account at Volksbank:

SchulemachtSchule

Volksbank Salzburg

IBAN: AT09 4501 0000 0811 1486

BIC: VBOEATWW

www.schule-macht-schule.at/index-e.html