

Schule macht Schule Newsletter April 2016

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

A great deal has happened since the last letter in December and we would like to share the important events (both happy and sad) with you.

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1) A look at the way things stand



The winter school ended in the middle of March and the children and management team were reunited with their families. At the beginning of April the new school year began with lessons in the mountains.

The supply situation has improved now that the border blockade with India is largely over, though it is nevertheless still difficult to get hold of enough gas for cooking. Mohan, who is currently buying supplies for the summer, reports:

The scenario with the cooking gas is very precarious, even after the blockade has been over. No one knows the reason for the unavailability of gas in the market. You have to submit your name with cash to the shop owner or the depot, and probably you get the gas after a month, if you manage to be at the shop when the truck with gas arrives. But you never know when this will be!

Most of the trade with cooking gas happens in the night time and there is no other option for us also.

I could arrange that tomorrow early morning at 5 am when the gas truck arrives, they will drop the needed cylinders at the truck owner's storeroom, from where we shall load them to the truck with our food rations before any one witness the action.

The test phase of the co-operation with the public school (as reported in the previous newsletter) has been extended by a year, since there was barely any "standard operation" in the difficult last twelve months.

In January Dr. Ina Viebahn from the company BIOGENA, which has been a generous support of our project since October 2014, visited our winter school during her research trip to India and Nepal. An extract from her report:

Portraits of the children: Hannah Gehmacher (Matura graduate 8m 2015, in Jharkot from October 2015 to January 2016)



Dolma Gurung (Class 5a's sponsored child)



Dolma Tsering (The Seidenauer family's sponsored child)



Bhuchung Gurung (Lisa Klaffinger's sponsored child)



Kelsang Gurung (The Glögl family's sponsored child)



Trip from Pokhara to Kristi – including mandarins fresh from the tree

I was completely fascinated by the children at this school: so calm, so autonomous, so friendly – both with each other and with the adults. And even many things seem improvised and simple here: I've just come from the mountains. And up there the world is completely frozen: freezing cold, no water, no heating. Lessons wouldn't be an option.

I think that the children are very happy to be here in Pokhara. [...] It's not just school, it's sun, warmth, recovery and distraction too. And the management team make such an affectionate impression. I'm really blown away by this project – and so happy that Biogena is helping to support it.

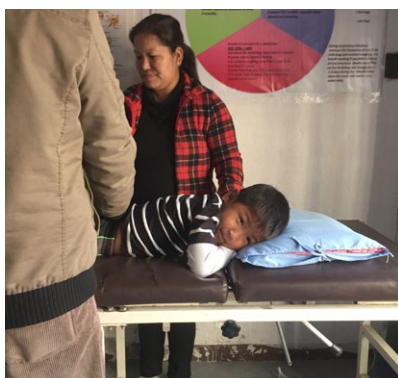
– we're delighted too!

The gradual changeover of our volunteers in Jharkot is happening right now: Benita Kogler (Matura graduate 8e 2015), who joined the project in January and did great work, will be leaving in a few weeks.

Carina Hochrainer, a primary school and kindergarten teacher from Wörgl in Tyrol, is now working alongside her and will be putting her expertise in working with young children into practice.

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2) Ngodup: a little boy in great need



At physiotherapy – Ngodup's mother learns what she can do for him at home

Ngodup is the six-year-old son of our project leader in Nepal, Mohan. A year ago the cause of his motor disorders was found: Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). It is an incurable genetic condition in which muscle tissue is not regenerated. The condition spreads from the legs until the failure of heart and respiratory musculature leads to death in young adulthood.

Mohan has allowed us to share a short video, showing Ngodup on the playground: [>> Ngodup](#)

Da DMD stark beforscht wird, ist es denkbar, dass ein Durchbruch in der Medizin für Ngodup rechtzeitig kommen wird. Seine Eltern versuchen durch Physiotherapie, angepasste Medikation und Pflege dem kleinen Buben so viel Lebenszeit und -freude wie möglich zu geben. Sie setzen

viel Hoffnung auf eine neue, mit Ayurveda-Elementen gekoppelte Therapie, die am Kirtipur-Hospital nahe Kathmandu durchgeführt wird und die eine deutlich verzögernde Wirkung auf das Fortschreiten der Krankheit haben soll. Sie wird vom nepalesischen Gesundheitsministerium anerkannt und gefördert. Mohan berichtet vom "Health camp for DMD" im Hilltake Resort in Bhaktapur (Jänner 2016):



Ngodup draws himself and his family: Mum, Dad, sister and cousin

Through several hours of discussion with the ayurvedic doctors and their organizers, I was able to gather valuable information about the outcome of their research and treatment. They claimed betterment to an unexpected level over dozens of DMD children. I was more convinced when I personally witnessed two 10 years old DMD boys getting treated and saw their physical condition.

Ngodup has now been registered for such treatment. Despite the support of the Ministry of Health, the therapy will cost at least 7000 Euros (more than 4 years' wages for Mohan), not including the cost of travelling and accommodation for a caregiver in Kathmandu.

Ngodup's aunt is in a position to help with the cost and Mohan and his wife will be putting all their savings towards the treatment, but that will not be enough. We're asking for your help for this little family!



Lhakpa Chenzum (Class 5i's sponsored child)



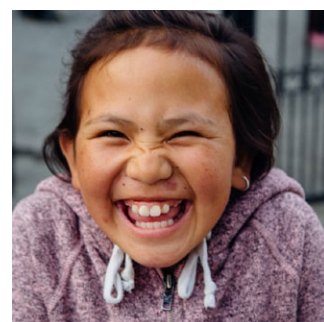
Lhakpa Tsering (Class 5u's sponsored child)



Tsering Mentok (Class 4a's sponsored child)



Lhakpa Wangmo (The Molshamer family's sponsored child)



Pasang Choedon (The Minimayr family's sponsored child)

You can make a contribution via the *Schule macht Schule* donation account (see end of newsletter) – add „Ngodup“ as the reference. Every little helps!

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3) Lhakpa Chenzum and Bhuchung: a goodbye

Lhakpa Chenzum and Bhuchung were the youngest children when we went to Jharkot for the first time in 2008/09. Kindergarteners, who seemed much too small for life away from their families. Now we're at the point where they'll be starting job training in the summer. They'll follow the path for professional qualifications in tourism and handcraft respectively, aided by Basanta Subedi, a child psychologist and friend of our project, as well as Alexander Schmidt, who has run the Children's Village in Bhakunde, Pokhara for years and guided countless Nepalese adolescents down promising paths.

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4) Spring clean for a good cause

Summer is approaching and it's time for the annual spring clean. You often stumble across treasures along the way that have been hiding in the basement, garage or attic and are no longer needed. They could have value to someone else though.

We're giving you the opportunity to "liberate" these items and do a good deed! It's this simple:

1. Download the sales order from our website [here](#)>>
2. Send the completed form and photos to flohmarkt@schule-macht-schule.at
3. We'll advertise the article on the willhaben.at platform and put interested parties in touch with you.
4. You donate the profit to *Schule macht Schule* (transfer to the donation account, or cash)

We'll take care of drafting and managing the advertisement on willhaben.at as well as initiating the communication between interested buyers and sellers. All you need to do is send the form and the photos, and deal with the final sale.

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5) Online shopping with meaning

Next time you're ordering something online, perhaps at Amazon, or you're booking a Lufthansa flight, you can trigger a donation to be made *Schule macht Schule* by those companies– without any additional cost to you!

Schule macht Schule has recently signed up as a partner on shop2help.com, an online portal that works with some of the biggest internet shops and enables customers to give part of the amount due to a charitable cause.

Visit our portal www.shop2help.net/schulemachtschule and choose the site of your desired online shop from the list (currently approx. 30). You'll be taken to the shop's homepage and can then proceed as normal. As soon as your order is placed, a proportion of the total is credited to our account.

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6) A show for Jharkot: Musisches Gymnasium's Big Band

On 2nd October there will be a benefit concert in aid of the Jharkot project at the Ziegelstadel in Hallein. The Musisches Gymnasium's Big Band will be performing alongside a top class vocal ensemble – the negotiations are still ongoing!

We say a big thank you to the Ritzberger family (who also have a sponsored child in Jharkot) for the idea and organisation and to Wolfgang Bermadinger and the whole Big Band for their musical input!

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Tsering Darkey (Class 4e's sponsored child)



Palsang Lhamo (last year's Class 8m's sponsored child)



Tsering Yangdon (Class 6a's sponsored child)



Pema Tsering



Tsering Lhamo (Class 4i's sponsored child)

7) Looking forward to a reunion

In July and August we (Wolf Pichlmüller and Christina Klaffinger) will be making one of our regular project visits and may be joined Beatrix Kovacs, the architect for the new building. As always there are a lot of organisational and educational issues on the agenda, meetings with the village committee and representative of the Nepalese organisation are planned, the transfer of a piece of ground for the new building has to be taken care of ... But most of all, we are looking forward to meeting up with the children and seeing how they have grown and developed in the last year and a half.

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8) New to the team: Daniela

Daniela Schmiedhuber, the volunteer in Jharkot at the time of the earthquake, is now a valuable member of our team in Austria: *Schule macht Schule* has her to thank for the willhaben flea market (item 4) and the opportunity to donate via shop2help (item 5).

Daniela has also made a new start on the *Schule macht Schule* Facebook page: Facebook users are now receiving regular updates on what's new or happening right now in the project.

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9) Wanted

Some of the children are still without a **personal sponsor** and would be delighted to have a sponsor family or class. You can find out more about how to become a sponsor on our website under "How can I help?" or [here >>](#)

Certified accountant wanted: in order that our donors can make their contributions tax effective we need an auditor who can carry out the necessary checks and provide the appropriate certificate for a favourable price (or free?).

Please and thank you

On behalf of the children and everyone involved in the project, we thank you warmly for your interest and support – which we hope will continue!

Christina Klaffinger

Wolf Pichlmüller



www.schule-macht-schule.at

www.facebook.com/schulemachtschule

Donation account at Volksbank:

Schule macht Schule | IBAN: A T09 4501 0000 0811 1486 | BIC: VBOEATWW



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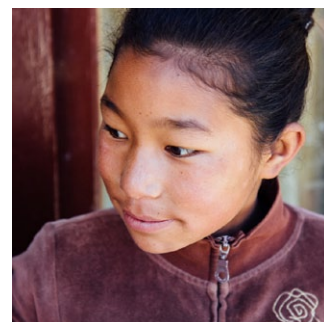
Tashi Dolma (The Horvat family's sponsored child)



Pema Wangchuk (Class 8's sponsored child)



Tenzin Tsewang



Pemba Lhamo (Class 6e's sponsored child)



Wangyal (Angya) – the Ritzberger family's sponsored child



Tsering Wangmo