

Meanwhile

Schule macht Schule Newsletter March 2022

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

Who could have imagined this current situation – this nightmare?

In a few weeks, Wolf and I will be heading to Nepal for the first time in almost three years. We'll be seeing with our own eyes what's going on in the project, checking on how the children are doing and meeting the new ones ... We're asking ourselves how sensible, how justified it is to do so, given what's happening on our own doorstep, so to speak?



Spring in Kaligandaki valley, below are the fields of Kagbeni, turning green, at the entrance to Jharkot valley

A journey home

The winter school closed in mid-March. The provisional winter school quarters have been cleared out, the children are back with their parents for a six-week holiday. It's easy to put into words, but another thing entirely to put into action: things seldom go to plan in Nepal. On 16th March our boarding school mother Tsedol sent these photos without comment:



Ah, those are some of our project children. And the room could be in Jampaling, the Tibetan refugee settlement where Tsedol lives. The man in the background: is that her father? ... When we asked, Tsedol replied:

Actually the parents of our children from Phelak, Kagbeni and Dagarzong had reserved one jeep in common to bring the kids home. As they did the year before. From these villages there are 11 students altogether. And yesterday, when everybody else had gone and the winter school was to be left I phoned the driver and he said he was in the garage repairing his jeep and he would come to pick them up between 10 and 11 am. So I brought them all to my family's house at the Tibetan settlement for breakfast and for some rest too. We had got up at 3 am that morning!



A delay of a few hours would have been fine, but there was more:

Later on the driver phoned again and said that the jeep wouldn't be ready in time. It would be much too late to start that day because the road is too dangerous to drive in the dark. So he'd come for the children the next morning.

I had to tell him there isn't enough space here at our house for so many children to sleep properly. So he said he will come in the evening to take them with him to Pokhara and they all will stay in the guesthouse. And he will call me when he leaves from Pokhara.

So we had a late lunch outside because it's too hot inside. I will send you the picture when the jeep arrives to pick them up.

When the jeep arrived, me and my cousins and Anjam loaded the children's luggage and project staff's too. I also had bought project supplies to send with them as they reserved the jeep. So we can save transport cost. These supplies I will take from Kagbeni to Jharkot when I pass there after the holidays.



... and so the children are finally safely back home and are enjoying the holidays.

Our friends in Nepal know what is happening in Europe at the moment and are horrified. The adults have experienced war in their own country: during the Nepal civil war, which ended in 2006, more than 16,000 people lost their lives.

So it does indeed make sense to keep supporting the project children, young and old. To keep tending the little apple tree that's been planted, even if tomorrow is more uncertain than ever.

Godparent update

In the last newsletter we introduced the young children who joined us in 2021. One of them, Tsering Bhutik, is now the godchild of Class 2u – we're delighted!

We're in very urgent need of godparents for Lhakpa Dolma, Dawa Lhazom, Tsering Gonpo and Dawa Tenzin. Particularly since four new children will be joining the project in May. Godparents can be individuals, families, groups of friends, or school class or student groups.



Class 2u and their godchild Tsering Bhutik

– thank you 2u!





These four children would love to have a godparent: Lhakpa Dolma, Tsering Gonpo, Dawa Lhazomund Dawa Tenzin

If you would like to know more about becoming a godparent, find out more on our website or send us an email.



3. Please help: Volunteers wanted!

One consequence of the pandemic, which we really didn't expect to experience to such a great degree, has been the dramatic drop in the number of applications from potential volunteers for the project. After our appeal in the last newsletter, Ines and Philipp have signed up for July and August – that's a great start. But we're still urgently looking for more. The children learn an unbelievable amount from the volunteers. And everyone who has ever been

there returns with a feeling of deep enrichment.

It would be ideal if Philipp and Ines could get their successors settled in the school. To that end: perhaps you know someone who would be a possibility? If so, please put them in touch with us via email. Or you can help us simply by sharing this urgent appeal for volunteers with a wider audience. Thank you!



Young teacher Ines and Philipp, currently a civil servant at Lebenshilfe. All the best for your summer months in Jharkot!

Bye for now!

So we'll be setting off after Easter and when we return in June, we'll have a great deal to report.

We warmly thank all the supporters of Schule macht Schule, old and new; our ever-growing group of young people in training need your contributions. Whatever you can give, whether as a one-off donation, or regular payment: it makes a difference.

Kind regards

Wolf Pichlmüller

Christina Klaffinger

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