

Quarter Report for the John Casson Foundation

October to December 2018:

Nayamba school

Nayamba School closed on the 8th of December for the Christmas holidays. Provided there is not another cholera outbreak school will open again in the middle of January.

From the middle of February we have accepted a primary teacher intern from Germany for 4 weeks to do a comparative primary school study for her degree. We had the opportunity to meet Sarah personally and with her almost completed university degree as well as previous Africa experience in Uganda we are confident that she will be of great benefit for the students of Nayamba School. The results of this study will be accessible for Nayamba School.

The last quarter of the year have been thankfully rather uneventful in the best sense of the word. The school had a quiz competition against Chishawasha School held at Nayamba on the 1st of November. It was great to see how much knowledge the students had acquired and how the competitive event encouraged each and every one of them to dig deep to lead their respective team to victory.



Despite Nayamba teams best efforts Chishawasha won although not by much. Another event is now planned to have the opportunity to place the floating trophy in Nayamba hands.



Other than that, the first grade 9 completed their time at Nayamba School and will be now going either to further secondary schools in the area or further away depending on their means or apply for an apprenticeship with the Nayamba Trade Center. We are aiming to have the first interns starting on the 1st of march on a more informal basis till the center structure is build and completed later in the year.

After the team from “the development people” had been here and accessed teacher and leaders – Digilio was “assigned” a support team structure of different professionals to help grow into his rather big responsibility more and more. I often forget how big the task is for a young man who despite all his talents and efforts needs role models and advisers to learn from.

With the support of Robbie Swanepoel, the headmaster of Martin House School who meets Digilio at least twice a month to discuss and advice on matters of school management etc Digilio was able to grow more and more into his complex role. In addition to that he has ‘supervision’ sessions with Nathalie Wagner who is a leadership training professional once a months.

Both professionals have donated their time and expertise which is wonderful. We often wonder how many headmasters anywhere in the world get that kind of support 😊

A challenge in the past months was the increasingly negative undertone of the corresponding exam school where our grade 7 and grade 9 perform their bi annual exams. It seems that our students are performing much better than the residential students and subsequently our students are not any longer very welcome. We had meetings with the head of the exam centre and he assured us that he is very happy to work together but Not all of his teachers seem to think like him.

We are aware that it will be much easier in future to have our own exam centre at Nayamba School. That way we are independent from transport issues to and from the place where the exams are held as well.

We are in the moment getting all our 'ducks in a row' and hope to be able to apply to become an exam centre for next year.

All in all 2018 has been a good year for Nayamba school – we've managed to maintain our student numbers and the academic results are promising.

We are deeply grateful for your support and help – without it none of this would be possible.

To all of you we send our love and gratitude – may 2019 be full of health and happiness for all of us.

Anja Kleemann-Wright
Zambia, December 2018