



# PestalozziWorld

educating children for a better life

## DEHRADUN VILLAGE NEWS



This summer all the children returned from spending their six-week summer vacation at home with their family and friends. This is a well deserved

break as they only get to see their family once a year. Most staff have a break during this time as well, so the first few days of July were all hugs, excitement and stories to tell.

Twenty-six new children who were selected this year also arrived at the new Foundation House, donated by generous supporters. Though they are sad to leave their children behind, the parents recognise that this is a unique educational opportunity, and are reassured once they talk to the house-mothers and staff, meet the older children, and see where their children will live.

## THANK YOU

PestalozziWorld scholars and alumni are growing in number, which means that more and more children are being given a chance at a better life. Without you, our donors, this work could not continue.

## PESTALOZZI FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



The Asian Reunion was held in Samut Songkhram, Thailand, showcasing Thai culture in all its richness and beauty. The fact that PestalozziWorld graduates have been gathering together for 20 years to support others is a real achievement and a happy embodiment of the Circle of Success. Organisers chose a "Head Heart Hands" theme and created three gifts: Handmade hats made from natural palm leaves (head); fabric bags to show social responsibility by reducing pollution generated by plastic bags (heart), and jasmine wrist garlands presented to each participant (hands). More on page 3 and on our website.

## WE'RE GOING DIGITAL

We'd like to e-mail the next edition of our newsletter to you, for your convenience and to save precious pennies. Please let us know what your email address is; our contact details are on the back page. We will continue to print a limited number of newsletters for those who prefer this format. Thank you.

## PESTALOZZI'S LIFE AND VALUES

This edition's insert was produced by the PestalozziWorld children. Joanna Nair has been training both teachers and students about the educational values that Pestalozzi embraced, which form the foundation for his method of teaching. By making the students aware of the three spheres of development (head, heart, hands), Joanna helps prepare scholars to develop their intellectual, social and practical skills, as Pestalozzi intended.

## In Memoriam

PestalozziWorld lost a valued friend and supporter of long standing in April with the sad death of Penton Lewis. Instead of flowers, his widow Sally very kindly requested that donations be made to PestalozziWorld and over £1,500 was generously given by his family and friends in his memory. This will be used to help equip a library at the secondary school we are establishing on the same site as the African Children's Village in Zambia.

# Zambia Selection 2010

As was written in our last annual report by Simon Wakely, selection is fundamental to how we operate. So, not to be outdone by my husband, I too embarked on my first ever selection trip to Zambia and indeed to Africa. I have been working with Simon in the London office as the administrator for PestalozziWorld since 2008, having spent many years working in education both in and out of the classroom. It has been a great delight to read the village reports and to receive regular photographs from our various centres, sharing the excitement over the growth of the Children's Village in Lusaka. Joining the selection team meant I was able to fulfil a great desire to see it first hand.

It was early in the morning when I stepped onto the tarmac at Lusaka airport, my senses tuned to different smells and sights. As I pushed through the waiting crowd at the barrier a voice beside me quietly asked if I was Diane Wakely. I was then treated to the biggest smile and a huge Zambian hug of welcome from Samuel who had come to collect me. He escorted me to the Hilux (which was to be our trusty vehicle on our long trip), stowed my two suitcases (no-one travels out to the Village without taking donated items with them!) and set off.

My first call was to Kasisi where I was given an overwhelmingly warm reception from the children and staff, who greeted me with songs, a beautiful speech of welcome and a posy of flowers. I was greatly impressed by the pride which both children and staff take in their 'home'. From tidy dormitories to well-tended garden plots, all was shown with the greatest delight.

Going on to the new Village site at Ibex Hill, the first sight of the roof of the N'saka seen from the road took my breath away. I had watched the progress of the buildings through the many photographs we were sent and it was such a joy to see it for real. Michele Watkins, our project manager, was at the gate to



*The author (centre) talks to Michele Watkins.*



*A typical classroom.*



*A group of short-listed children at the Maheba refugee camp.*

meet me. Again my impression was of a large family living and working together supporting and nurturing each other. All the students were polite and constantly smiling, even when tackling their chores! I was able to join the children for lunch before being whisked away to help with the preparations for the forthcoming trip. Fortunately I had some experience of planning trips from my time working in a school so I was able to make myself useful by printing the papers we needed. It's funny how printers always decide to be temperamental when you need them most, whichever country you are in!

Our trip to select our next group of children was to the Northwest Province, to the refugee camp at Maheba and the local schools at Solwezi. It was a nine hour drive from Lusaka. We left early to pick up batches of bread rolls from the bakers to give to the children together with a protein drink. This was a great opportunity to see some of the countryside. I had no idea what to expect. We talked of visiting 'villages' but unlike the villages we are accustomed to, these sometimes only consist of one or two huts along the dusty main road. Others were bigger and looked more substantial with thick straw roofs. Fruit and vegetables were set up on roadside stalls or children held up baskets to us as we drove past. Mile after mile we drove, stopping for fuel and changes of driver, passing men with bicycles piled high with charcoal, women carrying water containers on their heads, often with a baby strapped to their backs and children walking hand in hand to school.

As I looked at the dusty road flanked by these small villages I had much to reflect on. Was it really possible to find bright children amongst this apparent poverty, and what becomes of those we cannot help? Is this task too big? Are we really making a difference? The answers came rapidly as we began the testing.

# Asian Reunion

Our first testing took place at the Maheba refugee camp about an hour's drive from Solwezi, where we were staying. The school buildings were dilapidated and dusty, the children barefoot in an assortment of clothing. Everyone was eager to help us unload the Hi-lux and set up the room for testing with one teacher assigned to help us.

The children were inquisitive, confident, humorous and a delight to meet. They adapted well to the busy day of testing and waited patiently for the results and despite attending schools which lack just about every amenity and resource you could think of, performed very well. Our visits to the short-listed children's homes gave an insight of life in the villages. Poor yet dignified, the parents welcomed us to their homes.

Our second set of tests were with children from local schools around Solwezi. These school buildings fared little better than those we had previously seen at Maheba but the welcome was just as warm. Sadly we found that one head teacher had not bothered to put any of his students forward for selection, yet another walked his students five kilometers along the main road in order for them to participate.

Did I answer my questions? **Yes**, it is possible to find bright children who have dreams of a better future but to identify them we need the continued cooperation of the Head teachers and the local Ministry of Education. We selected 25 children on this trip who will start at Kasisi in January 2011. **No**, though this task *appears* too big, every step taken is valuable and improves lives. Finally, **yes**, we have already proved that a good education is making a huge difference in both the children and their families' lives. Through the Pestalozzi principles of Head, Heart and Hand, those we cannot help directly with an education can benefit from the skills that Pestalozzi students take back to their communities.

The rapturous welcome we received from everyone on our return and the joy shown when they were told we had short-listed a new group of children was humbling. Financially, we live in uncertain times but without our help these children's future is all too certain – a circle not of success but of poverty and un-fulfilment. After my visit, I was never more sure of this.

*Diane Wakely*



The Thai Pestalozzi Foundation celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year at the recent Asian Reunion. "Ampawa was chosen to represent the part of Thailand that is tranquil and close to nature and life goes on as it has been for hundreds of years," says Chaiyan Tippayosot, vice-chairman of the TPF and an alumnus of the first group of Pestalozzi scholars. "The reunion reminds us that though we are far apart, we are under the same umbrella. We have grown up together."

PestalozziWorld scholar Ilada Taewpo (*above left*), studying at the College of Art near Bangkok, performed the "Manorah," a dance from southern Thailand. It is the legend of seven half bird/half human sisters, who removed their wings to swim. The youngest was stolen away and presented to the King by a hunter. Jealousy consumed the King's many wives, who contrived to have the beautiful bird/girl put to death. Her last wish was to perform for the King, and so she dons her wings – and flies to freedom.



Nusaba Narkruangsi, also a College of Art student, produced and performed in the group "Long Drum Dance" (*left*), about courting after the harvest season.



*Trustee Udom Vichayabha, chairman of the TPF, alumna Jantrawan Chongnonce, and trustee Svante Pahlson-Moller.*

## ***Impressions from a Trustee***

This was an exceptionally well organised reunion! Congratulations to the Thai Pestalozzi Foundation.

We were housed at the most beautiful place at the border of a wide river and surrounded by lush forest. In this tranquil setting we enjoyed listening to the very well prepared presentations from the various Foundations, Indian, Tibetan, Nepalese, Thai and Vietnamese.

The most memorable events for me was meeting and seeing the alumna and listen to their life stories. The success stories were many and the accomplishments were most impressive! Listening to them made it all so meaningful to support Pestalozzi World in all its forms.

I thank the Thai Foundation for all their work and hospitality.

*Svante Pahlson-Moller*



*Phuntsok Tashi sports a palm hat.*



# PestalozziWorld

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## Irish Fund-raising

### Help us educate another child.

**Students helping students:** on **Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, Students from the Gaelcolaiste Carlow, a local secondary school, are hosting a coffee morning on behalf of PestalozziWorld. Join us, and bring a friend, for **coffee, cakes baked by the students**, and lovely, locally sourced Christmas raffle prizes at Askea Parish Centre, Carlow, from 10am-noon.

**Green up your giving:** Log on to [pestalozziworld.greenyourgoods.ie](http://pestalozziworld.greenyourgoods.ie) and get rid of your electronic gadgets, for a good cause. Simply match your gadget to the list shown, post to the address given, and you've helped fund a child's education!

**Get fit for good!** It's not too early to think about it: Registration for the **Dublin Women's mini-marathon** is from January to April 2011 Please join our team for the June 2011 Bank Holiday run. Contact [Pam@PestalozziWorld.com](mailto:Pam@PestalozziWorld.com).

**Simply donate:** it's easy, either on-line, by cheque or directly to our bank (please ask us for details). Thank you.

## GIFT GUIDE

### Under \$50

Sponsor a child's stationery \$10

Sponsor a child's text books \$25



### From \$50 to \$150

Sponsor a child's uniform \$80

Sponsor a child's boarding \$150



### \$200 and over

Sponsor a child's education \$250

Sponsor a house computer \$500

Sponsor a child for a year \$1,000



### Larger donations and endowments

Sponsor & Name a Village House \$100,000

*For simplicity we list costs in US\$. Equivalent £ or € amounts may be substituted.*



For on-line donations or standing orders please go to [www.pestalozziworld.com](http://www.pestalozziworld.com) and click on the donation button. Donations may be made in £ \$ or €. Gift Aid can be added if applicable. To make a direct donation, please contact us for bank details.

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