



It has been a while and we thought it was high time we filled you in on all the exciting developments at Malimba School for 2012. School life is always busy and Malimba is no different as they manage building projects, teacher training, expansion of classes and sports sessions whilst continuing their critical education. We are delighted to announce that, thanks to Make Me Smile's funding and the local community's commitment and work, the new Library has been completed.



The doors are not yet on but that does not slow down the forward thinking and dynamic Head Master, Mohammed Mphande. Mohammed has organised a pre school for children between 4 and 6 and is using the library space as the classroom whilst they wait to put in shelving for the donated books. This is the first pre school ever to exist in the area and a huge step forward in children's education. They already have 25 students who are being taught by the wonderful Agness Lungu. Agness, wife to a local mechanic called Donald, is not on the Malimba payroll due to lack of funds, but instead she accepts payment in maize which she then sells on to earn her living.



Mohammed is delighted with the Pre-School's success so far saying it's a joy to have the younger children around despite the sharp increase in noise levels! He wants children to start learning at an early age easing their transition into grade one and improving their overall performance at school



Malimba School continues to prioritise education and to perform well as a school in exam results. Taking advantage of 'The Book Bus' project, designed to visit schools and help children learn to read, Malimba School's grade 6 students came second in the local literacy competition.

Mock exams are taking place at the moment. The School looks to maintain their high pass rate through weekly tests ensuring the children are learning and identifying and solving any problems in education early.

Malimba School also appreciates the importance of giving girls an education; in a culture where boys are invested in more heavily, girls can be overlooked and yet they tend to excel in school. Out of 351 students at Malimba 194 are girls and they are all performing well.

Right now there are eight teachers at the school plus Mary Nkoma who continues her teacher training and sits her final exams this year.

The Head Master also focuses on improving his own qualifications and we would like to congratulate him on his recent Diploma in Teaching at the Copper Belt University which will be awarded on August 31<sup>st</sup>.



An all round education is important and Malimba have always prided themselves on being competitive in sport. In the inter school sports day, held once a year between eight different schools in the Mfuwe area, the Malimba boys football team won! The girls netball team also came runners up.

We can't help but think their stunning sports kit, donated by Make me Smile, gives them an extra boost. Younger school members wear spare kit when supporting matches and despite constantly tripping over the oversized shirts which fall below their feet, they gaze proudly on at older students hoping one day to play themselves.

After the sports day a couple of the Malimba students (four girls and three boys) were even selected to compete in the inter zone sports day which takes place next month.

Perhaps inspired by the London Olympics, Malimba is now hoping to set up a volleyball team, a sport already played in surrounding schools.





Of course all their aspirations require funding and we are very grateful for all the donations made. We would be delighted to receive more funding for books, teacher training and possibly, in our wildest dreams, for a building and teacher's salary to create an official pre-school. Thank you for following Malimba School's progress and we look forward to updating you again soon.