



Time has flown by this year and it's hard to believe we're in September already! We're delighted to be bringing you the latest news from wonderful Malimba School which has continued to flourish in 2014 thanks to the generous support of its incredible donors.

Book Bonanza!

To begin, we wanted to bring you news of Malimba's budding school library. The library was opened in 2012 thanks to generous donations from Make Me Smile. The library is now a central part of school life: not only it is very valuable as a library, it is also home to Malimba's pre-school, it hosts holiday revision sessions for the Grade 7 pupils, and is used by the community for adult study sessions when school is out. It is such an important, flexible space and Malimba's teachers are over the moon to have it available.

Of course a library just isn't a library without books. Until recently, books had been in very short supply and the teachers were struggling to find new reading material. Happily, the problem was spotted by Mary Pritchard, a friend of Gid and Adrian Carr. Moving to Zambia from Australia with her partner Siseho, Mary noticed a great need for books in schools so she started a book drive amongst her friends in Australia. She and Siseho knew that Gid and Adrian are involved in education projects in the Luangwa Valley so asked them to suggest a recipient for the collected books - naturally they chose Malimba! Mary organised the shipping of the books from Australia and Markus Weltin of Valley Lodgeistics kindly covered the last leg of the journey by transporting the load from Lusaka to Mfuwe for free.

In July over 600 books arrived at Malimba, much to the joy and excitement of the children! Mary is now in the process of collecting more books for the library, general ones this time, that the community will also be able to use. Many thanks to Mary, Siseho, Gid, Adrian and Markus for making this wonderful donation possible.



Mary graduates with merit!

More good news from Malimba School comes from trainee teacher Mary Nkhoma. Mary has been sponsored through her teacher training course through the generosity of Make Me Smile and we're delighted to relate that she is a trainee no longer – she passed her final exams in November 2013 with a merit! Mary is travelling to nearby Chipata this month for her graduation ceremony which she is of course very excited about! Mary has been teaching full time at Malimba since January and tells us that she loves working with the kids and watching them learn. She always wanted to be a teacher and is delighted to be doing what she loves.



John's Malimba story

We also wanted to bring you the story of John Mbewe.

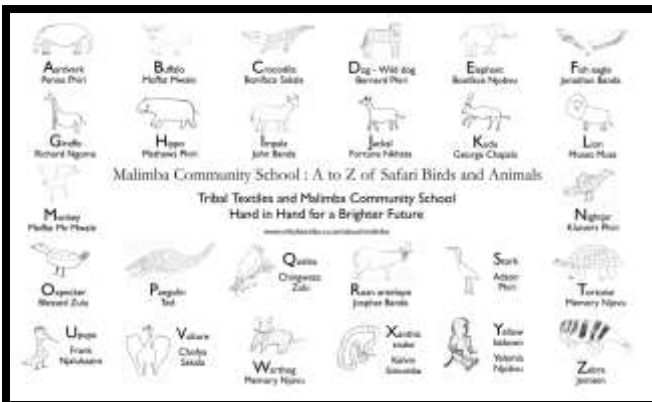
John is 24 and is an inspirational figure at Malimba. He was in the very first Grade 1 class at Malimba when the school opened back in 2000. He went on to complete Grade 12 at neighbouring Matula School in 2012. John has now come full circle and has returned to Malimba as a volunteer teaching assistant!

John tells us that he loved school thanks to the inspirational volunteer teachers who gave their time to educate him. Their dedication motivated John to become a teacher himself and he is now hoping to study for his teaching qualifications. In the meantime he is really happy to be back at Malimba again, teaching his favourite subjects English, Maths and Social Studies.

Over the years John has seen many changes at Malimba. When he first started school, there was no classroom; the pupils sat on bricks for lessons. There were no toilets, resources, books, sport or interschool activities. Fourteen years later and all these things have arrived at Malimba – and more. John tells us that he is most

impressed by the co-operation he sees at the school - not only are there toilets built by the community now, there are also hand washing facilities provided by USAID. Each pupil's household also donates one kwacha towards soap and toilet paper per term.

Liah Tembo, Malimba's deputy headmistress says that John is an inspiration for the children and she would love him to undertake formal teacher training so he can go on to educate the next generation of John Mbewes at Malimba!



Fun Fundraising

Fundraising news now. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, all profits from the sale of Tribal Textiles' Amazing Bags have been donated to Malimba this year. So far this has raised over \$2,000.

Tribal Textiles also has a new display dedicated to Malimba School and fundraising products; these include Make Me Smile's fantastic baseball caps and cuddly safari toys.

We have also been busy designing a fundraising tea towel, with the help of Malimba's very talented pupils of course! The tea towel shows an A-Z of safari animals, all drawn at school last month. It is being printed in the UK and will hopefully be on sale at Tribal Textiles in October. If you would love a fun, quirky and above all ethically conscious Christmas present or two, please just drop us a line at sales@tribaltextiles.co.zm.



Mrs Tembo looks to the future

Malimba has had a successful year academically. 53 pupils wrote the Grade 7 examinations in 2013 and Malimba had an excellent pass rate of 83%.

Mrs Tembo is really pleased with the progress of the pupils and how the school is developing. Her biggest concern is with the future of the teachers. Because there aren't the accommodation and sanitation facilities for the qualified teachers, they risk being deployed to other government schools. This means a continuous turnover as volunteer teachers then have to be found again. She tells us that if there was sufficient housing and sanitation for teaching staff, the qualified teachers could hopefully stay at Malimba long term.

Also on Mrs Tembo's wish list is an additional classroom block so that the library could be used exclusively as a library instead of housing the pre-school too.

And finally she dreams of electricity for the school so the children could be encouraged to stay and study longer in the evenings.

Thank you from Malimba!

Malimba has always been a small school making a big difference in the community. However in 2014 a momentous milestone was reached - Malimba now educates over 400 pupils! The school is not so small anymore, and the benefit it has for local families, giving children the vital first step of education, is huge.

With an average of 57 pupils to a class, your support is more important than ever and on behalf of all the children and staff at Malimba we want to thank all Malimba's wonderful donors for making the school possible.



If you'd like to make a donation it couldn't be simpler: for UK based contributions, please visit <http://www.makemesmile.org/donations/> or if you are based in the US, please visit <http://www.generosityinaction.org/MalimbaSchoolFund.htm> to make a donation online.

Please contact Tribal Textiles www.tribaltextiles.co.zm or Make Me Smile www.makemesmile.org to find out more.