



2015 is proving to be a good year so far for Malimba School. They received the Grade 7 school results from 2014 and they have improved significantly from the 87% pass rate achieved in 2013 to 92% last year. Now their aim now is to achieve 100% pass rate in the upcoming 2015 examinations.

These impressive examination results stretch outside of the classroom too. In June Malimba took part in an inter school quiz competition. Four students were chosen to compete against eight other schools in



the subjects of Science, Maths, English and General Knowledge. This proved a great success as Malimba School scored 15 points overall putting them in 1st place. The students were so impressive that two of them, Benjamin Phiri and Margret Mvula, were chosen to compete at district level. Teamed with the other selected students from the district their team came in second position at a district level competition.

Well done to these two clever students!

As well as a year of academic achievement the students have also been taking part in a number of sports activities. In June sports teams from the school travelled to take part in an inter school competition where the students took part in football, netball, softball and volleyball. Against the 8 other schools that participated Malimba came 2nd overall, a great result.

This year has also seen the introduction of a new feeding programme at Malimba School. Previously a meal of porridge at school was funded by the government, but due to political changes this funding was cut. Luckily, through two visiting tourists, the school managed to get aid from the High Five Club in the UK who offered to provide funding for each child to have a meal of rice at school. Although the capital comes from abroad this initiative has been turned into a community organized program. The idea is that each day two



volunteers from one of the local villages come to the school to cook the rice for the pupils break time. The volunteers' village is also responsible for collecting wood to make the fire to cook the food. A rota of responsibility was agreed by the community in an AGM, so the responsibility was spread equally. The meal is eaten at break in the Jojo Dining hall, built with funding from Make me Smile who also support the funding of teacher training and volunteer salaries.

The headmaster of the school, Mr Mohammed, tells us that he believes this program has been fundamental in this year's success at the school. As many of these children come from very poor households they may not have the chance of a nutritious breakfast before school. So this meal is vital in giving the children the energy they need while studying. Mr Mohammed says the meal they receive at school has significantly improved the children's concentration and performance. Another benefit has been that Grade 7 students are now able to stay after school to study and do homework, whereas before they used to knock off to go home for lunch and then have to come back in the afternoon if they wanted to study at school. This gives them essential time to focus on work they have been given and prepare for upcoming exams.



Although overall this first half of 2015 has been a success for Malimba there are always struggles for a community school in rural Zambia. Currently the problem is finding a pre-school teacher for the pre-school opened in 2012. Although there are now 36 children who attend the pre-school there is no teacher to teach them. So Mohammed and other teachers have to cover the teaching of this class. This is not an ideal situation, Mohammed would like to split them into different groups so they can learn according to their ability. He hopes that with funding he can find a good pre-school teacher.

Even if there are difficulties, for the most part, Malimba is growing as a school. The continuous improvement of Grade 7 exam marks and the academic and physical achievements outside of school are a proof of this. We thank everyone who supports us and it is our aim to continue to improve and strengthen the school.

