



Opportunity Education

"Educating Children Around the World"
www.OpportunityEducation.org

Sister School Newsletter

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"The only man I envy is the man who has not yet been to Africa—for he has so much to look forward to."—Richard Mullin

This quote sums up the 13 days I spent teaching in and experiencing the Rukwa region of Tanzania. The experience I had, both as an educator and member of Opportunity Education's team, will not be forgotten.

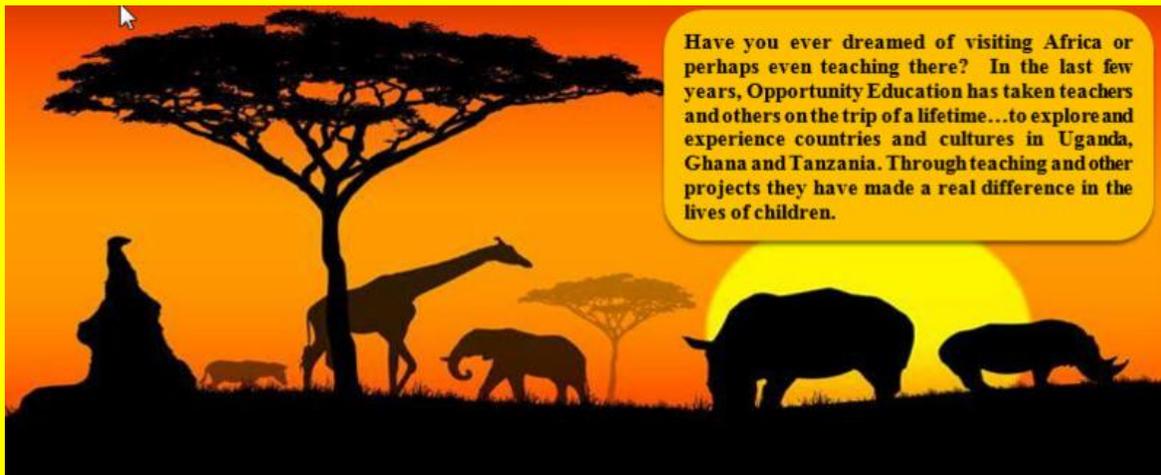
Tanzania is a beautiful country, and we were lucky enough to see a part of it that many do not get to see - Kalambo Falls, Lake Tanganyika and Katavi National Park. The people in each of the remote villages we traveled through to get to these locations were some of the happiest and most welcoming people I have ever



experienced. Their grace and kindness to our rag-tag group of teachers, speech pathologists, and dental team was exceptional - as was the food they regularly prepared for us! When not sightseeing, we spent 5 days working in 4 OE Schools.

This was a priceless experience as an educator. The students' joy at seeing us is unexplained - they will want to have an American teacher come to their room or play with them at recess. The teachers are wonders to observe, their ability to do so much with so little is an inspiration to all educators. The schools we visited were much like the villages in their welcoming spirit and generosity - I don't think I have ever eaten so much in a day! I was proud to see OE materials being used in the classrooms and how eager the teachers were to learn how to better use the OE materials. IT is a true testament to the power of OE's mission and work in the developing world. The OE teaching trip was an unforgettable experience that I hope every teacher will be able to experience in the future!

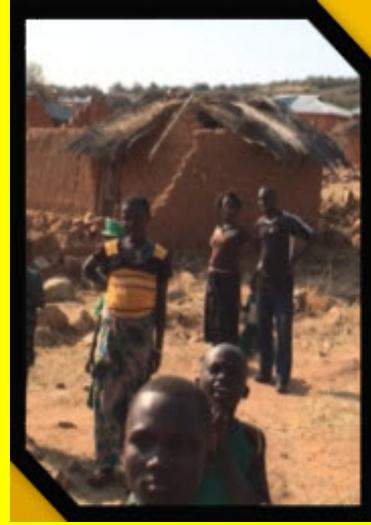
Becky Walters – Sister School Coordinator



Sister School Trip July 2016 Recap

14 hardy travelers made the 3 day: 4 planes, and 20 hours in the air; 5 hour drive; 9 hours of layovers to the final destination to work in 4 schools in Sumbawanga, Tanzania. The group represented Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Iowa and Nebraska.

Sumbawanga is a poverty area visited by few.



Two teachers were embedded in each of the four schools to deep train on OE Teacher's Guides, curriculum, lessons and teach in the classroom. Becky Walters, OE Sister School Coordinator, is a teacher. Becky had fellow teachers well prepared on OE curriculum as well as OE lessons for classroom instruction. Cathy Intemann, employed by the New Mexico Department of Education, presented a professional development seminar for teachers of the Sumbawanga area. On Friday, it was a sad farewell by Tanzania and US teachers as they bonded extremely close over the week. Tears were had by all. Texas principal Julia House was invited to return to teach for an extended period and is considering once she retires in a year.



Albuquerque teacher Cathy Intemann in the classroom.



1,014 students, teachers and village residents' eyes were tested for vision. 152 prescription glasses were distributed. Lori Russell is a Speech Pathologist for the Westside School System. She is Martin Russell's wife and was trained by first Sight Nizar Mandami of University of Nebraska Health System in anticipation of this work trip.



Wyoming dentist Dr. Joshua Wagner brought four of this office staff. They cleaned teeth for 1,250 as well as extracted close to 300 teeth, filled cavities and addressed other teeth health issues.

Dr. Wagner - Dentist
Mary Garcia - Dental
Assistant



Sarah Bowden
Dental Hygienist



One's destination is never a place,
but a new way of seeing things.
- Henry Miller



Have you ever pictured yourself traveling to India, or maybe teaching there? Opportunity Education is planning **our next Sister School Teaching Trip to India in the fall of 2017!** We would be thrilled to have you join us on this purposeful and amazing adventure. Start dreaming right now! More details will be coming soon.



Start Writing - Right Now

Share any math concept or skill your students are learning. (shapes, patterns, geometry, numbers and counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, measurement, story problem, etc.)

Some student made math communications might include:

Class Books
Folder Games

Card Games

Diagrams or Drawings

Flash Cards

Posters

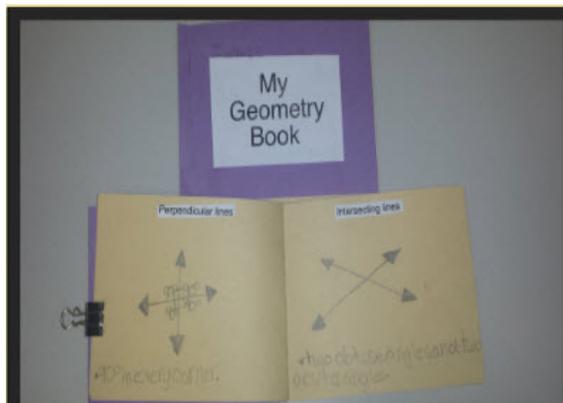
Geometric Figures

Tangram Puzzles

Matching and Sorting Games

Clocks

Here is a great idea shared by Spring Lake Magnet School in Omaha, Nebraska. They sent it to their Sister School. Just think of the excitement when their pen pals received this book to help them practice their geometry skills! It has probably been read over and over again.



Send your projects to your pen pals, with letters describing what you are learning. Your projects will be great learning tools for the students in your Sister Schools, and your students will be motivated to do their best work if they know their projects are going to be seen and used by other teachers and students across the world!

Welcome New Schools

Centennial Elementary School

Shelby Rising City School

St. Michael's School

Wausa Public School

This School Needs Pen Pals

Nyakahoja School in Tanzania

Nyakahoja means Holy Family in the local language. The school was established in 1962 and now has 765 children from ages 3 to 13. There are 200 boarders, 20 of whom are orphans. The school has 18 teachers. 10 computers have been donated by various charities and are used mainly in primary 7. Fees of 350,000 shillings (\$350) are charged. The school has purchased 36 acres nearby and plans to develop a secondary school. Please contact Becky Walters at schools@opportunityeducation.org if you would like to become a Sister School with Nyakahoja or know of a school that would be interested.

Professional Development Seminars



Jamaal Mlewa, OE Primary School Program Manager in Tanzania, shared the following report from surveys solicited from teachers attending 2015 Professional Development Seminars. Teachers from schools supported by Opportunity Education are encouraged to attend these seminars, held in all 11 countries and to share their experiences.

One of the vital and rare treasures that OE offers in promoting better education for Tanzanian children is the annual Professional Development Seminars. At the beginning of every seminar, teachers were surveyed regarding teaching experience. The finding from the 2015 survey were:

- Teachers with experience from 2 years and below: 20%
- Teachers with experience from 2- 4 years: 30%
- Above 4 years of teaching experience: 50%

Professional skills learned in college are subject to forgetfulness. Due to lack of opportunities and poverty, most teachers do not get refresher courses or seminars to polish their skills. Because of this, OE Professional Development Seminars (PDS) come to the teachers as a godsend.

In 2015, OE conducted PDS in 29 regions of Tanzania. 1,740 teachers from 348 schools attended PDS. these teachers touched the lives of 78,300 students by improving the efficiency of teaching methods. In Sumbawanga, teachers from non OE schools 'invaded' the seminar and pleaded to be allowed to attend the seminar.

One teacher from Kigoma remarked, "OE has come to redeem us. the fruits of this investment shall be seen when these poor children become responsible people in the society".



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