



"Educating Children Around the World"

**June 2015**

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## WHERE IS THE PRO TEAM "THE SUMBAWANGA SUNRAYS?"

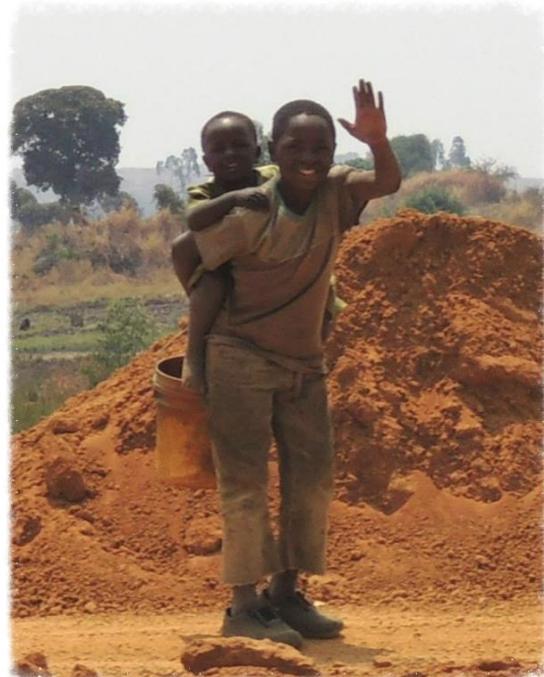
The obvious answer is Sumbawanga.

In the fictional Harry Potter universe, Sumbawanga is the hometown of the professional Quidditch team, the Sumbawanga Sunrays. All wizardry aside, Sumbawanga is a real place, with wonderful people who are eager to open their community to the OEF Education Experience Trip, July 2016!

Opportunity Education Foundation is excited to invite you to experience real-life Africa on the Education Experience Trip 2016 to Sumbawanga, Tanzania!

Here is your chance to connect and communicate on a personal level, offering hope and friendship in an under-served area that is making great strides to overcome challenges.

OEF serves 5 schools in Sumbawanga, which is the main city in the Rukwa region. Historically this has been a hard area for Tanzania to employ and retain teachers. Many of the government/public schools do not have teachers because they refuse appointments to teach here. Why? The area is remote, under-resourced and poverty is high. This region feels far from everywhere.



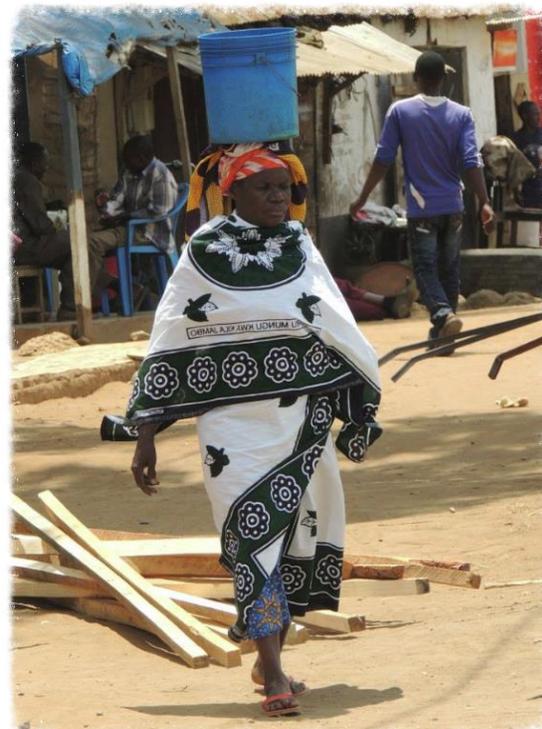
According to the OEF Primary Program Manager, Jamaal Mlewa, "Teachers here have VERY little opportunity for personal development. In fact, I believe the only professional development most teachers receive in this area are OEF seminars. Teachers are hungry for what we offer and we give them hope and encouragement. This is an area where OEF can make a deep impact!



Furthermore, "Children in this region face more educational challenges than most students in Tanzania. The OEF English language schools bring great hope for the region because they offer the best platform for students to succeed at the secondary school level. Community leaders have told us that need to educate students who can grow up to become teachers so that they will return and help. They are keenly aware that many in Tanzania do not want to be here."

Competence in reading and comprehending a story in English and Kiswahili (the national language) remain low. According to an Uwezo 2012 report (Uwezo is a ten year citizen-centered initiative, focusing on large-scale change in East Africa), by grade 7, half of all students leaving primary school in this area have not acquired basic reading skills. These skills are vital as English is the medium of instruction in Tanzanian secondary schools.

This sets up insurmountable obstacles to succeed in high school where advanced math and science are taught in English. In the Sumbawanga/Rukwa area, only 18.8% of children aged 9-13 passed the literacy test in English and 28.8% passed literacy in Kiswahili. (Uwezo 2012 report)



Another reason the Rukwa region is less desirable is due to superstitions. The name of the town "Sumbawanga" literally translates as "throw away your witchcraft," thought to be a warning from local spiritual "healers" to outsiders who may bring in superstitions and foreign spiritual practices.

Despite the perceived negatives, it is a vibrant community that believes in its future and is very welcoming to people willing to help!

The OEF Education Experience Trip is open to educators, high school/college students, professionals or anyone willing to share their English skills & experience. The trip includes spending time Monday through Friday teaching, learning and sharing in OEF schools followed by a safari to Kalambo Falls, Lake Tanganyika and the incredible Katavi National Park.

Kalambo Falls: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalambo\\_Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalambo_Falls)

Katavi National Park: <http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/katavi.html> or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katavi\\_National\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katavi_National_Park)

The 13 day trip is currently being scheduled for July 2016. An estimate of the total trip cost will be provided in next month's newsletter.

We have been fortunate to share our schools in Uganda, Ghana and Moshi, Tanzania with exceptional people on previous trips and we encourage you to watch the videos on our website to learn more. <http://www.opportunityeducation.org/watch/video/27>

Interested in making a difference? Please email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) to note your interest. We have a trip participant limit and will honor those most qualified on a first come, first served basis. Stayed tuned for more information in next month's newsletter!

## LOOKING FOR SOME MONEY?

Looking for some money?

Whether you are looking to join us in Tanzania or improve classroom resources – check out the following link.

Get a roundup of educational grants, contests, awards, free toolkits, and classroom guides aimed at helping students, classrooms, schools, and communities.

Check this page weekly to get the latest updates!

[http://www.edutopia.org/grants-and-resources?utm\\_content=article&utm\\_campaign=grants-and-resources&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=socialflow&utm\\_term=link](http://www.edutopia.org/grants-and-resources?utm_content=article&utm_campaign=grants-and-resources&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialflow&utm_term=link)



## WHAT'S NEWS IN OEF SCHOOLS

### In Tanzania News

Jamaal Mlewa, Primary School Program Manager, is in the Lake Victoria region on a 21 day school visit and professional development seminar circuit. He is meeting with approximately 32 schools and targeting about 96 teachers.



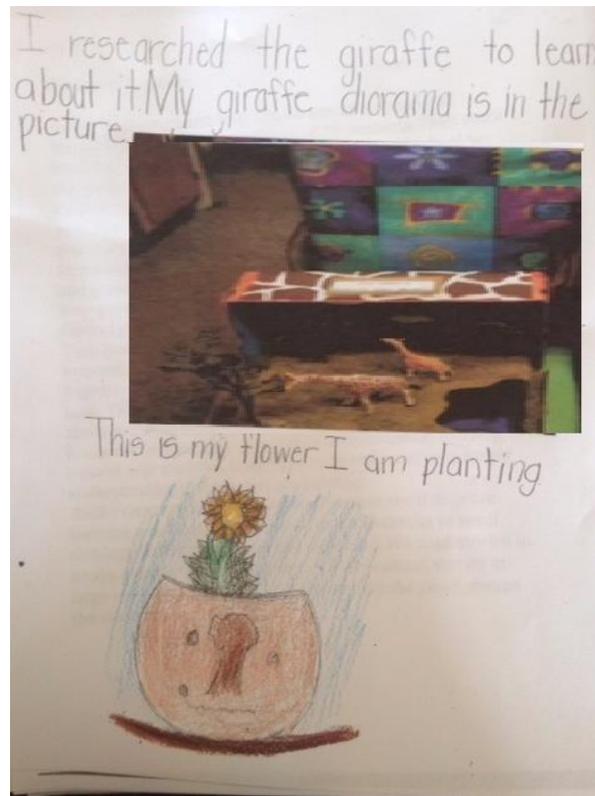
He has been on the road presenting a series of professional development seminars in the five regions that form the Lake Victoria zone and has already reached over 270 teachers from 92 schools. The stated Tanzania government ratio is one teacher per 45 students; the reality, however, is that each teacher serves far more than that. Through his outstanding efforts, over 12,400 primary school children will benefit from these school visits and professional development for their teachers. Well done Jamaal!

### Sister School News!

Maxey Elementary in Lincoln, Nebraska sent a packages of letters to its pen pal schools in Tanzania (Nuru Primary and Upendo Primary School)

The students researched animals in Tanzania and created dioramas to share their findings with fellow students. They also enjoyed making homemade paper and sent a sample to their pen pals.

Thanks Mrs. Gray and Maxey second grade for making Maxey Elementary an awesome pen pal school!



### WELCOME NEW SCHOOLS!

We always welcome new schools to our free, international pen pal program which is a fun and easy way to meet Language Arts, Social Studies and History/Civics standards. Share [this link](#) to invite others to join.



OEF would love to have more international schools. If you have educator friends, anywhere in the English-speaking world, forward their details to us and we will connect their school to one of our outstanding schools in Africa or Asia.

Email today and start writing tomorrow! [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)

## THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

Aloysius English Medium Primary School is located in Geita, a growing town of 40,000 people in northwestern Tanzania. It is in the center of a gold mining area.

Established in 1997 by the Catholic Diocese of Geita, today the school supports 333 day students in pre-school through grade 7. Due to the demand from students living in the region, the school has started construction on a dormitory for boarders. The annual tuition is about \$320 with additional income from church donors.

The school was proud to establish a small computer lab with 5 computers. In addition to teaching subjects in English, one of the teachers offers French instruction.



This school is eager to write pen pals and practice their English skills. OEF is proud to have Aloysius Primary and their bright students as part of our educational program!

Joining our pen pal program is easy and writing letters is an excellent opportunity to learn more than textbooks or even the internet can offer. Just email us and we will put a Welcome Folder in the mail to you today!

Email: [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) and you can start writing today!

If you already have a pen pal, refer a friend to our [OEF Pen Pal](#) link.

## FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

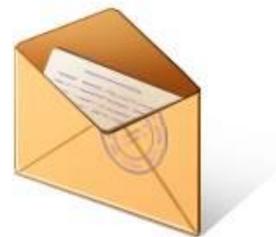
Congrats to Jackie Delmont of Wisner-Pilger Middle School in Wisner, Nebraska.

On behalf of all of your pen pals at Assumption School, Kijenge in Arusha, Tanzania, thank you for sending letters!

Jackie, send an email to: [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) to claim your prize!

Want to win next month?

Just email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) after you mail your letters and you are entered to win!



## START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

We have the "write" letter lesson plans for maximizing the pen pal program for your students!

While no lesson plan is needed to write to your pen pals, if you want ideas – we have them!

Writing letters is a great activity to keep students productive during homeroom, study hall or downtime.

You can also integrate cross-curricular objectives into lesson plans that we have created to maximize learning through letters.



[Click Here for Letter Ideas and Resources](#)

[Click Here for Letter Lesson Plans](#)

We also have 4 options to stay up to date with our international pen pal program.

OPTION 1: To keep up with our "Friends" – we have a Facebook page just for you! Visit our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OpportunityEducation>

OPTION 2: Unable to get on Facebook? No worries. Visit our Pen Pal Blog. <http://opportunityeducation.wordpress.com/>

OPTION 3: Pinterest. <http://www.pinterest.com/opportunityed/>

OPTION 4: Twitter. <https://twitter.com/OpEdFoundation>

Check out our social media for interesting ideas, stories, and links to help generate enthusiasm and discussion about education plus lesson plans to integrate pen pal letters into your standard requirements.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Write Your Pen Pals!

Even if it's been a while, now is still the best time to write. The name, address and mailing instructions are available on our website. Start by [clicking here](#).

You can also email: [Schools@OpportunityEducation.org](mailto:Schools@OpportunityEducation.org)

## Get Others to Write!

We have 341 schools very eager to have English speaking pen pals.

Share the following link – and make sure you CC [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) – to get a gift certificate.

[Click Here to Refer A Friend and Get a Gift Certificate!](#)

Visit an Opportunity Education School!

Take a life-changing trip to teach, share and learn in an Opportunity Education school in Africa or India.

[Click Here to Learn More.](#)



## TIME FOR AFFORDABLE SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Playtime/Schovertime Inc. has a long history of helping teachers equip their classrooms and locate hard-to-find or discontinued items.

OEF depends on owner Terry Jenson to help us fill orders for a wide variety of supplies we send to our schools overseas.

Recently we had an immediate need for a special order of magnetic boards (pictured), which are hugely popular and beneficial to OEF students.



Terry was able to get them for us quickly and at a great price.

If you are looking for educational products for children from birth to middle school age, their friendly staff of former/current teachers can help you find what you need.

# PLAYTIME / SCHOVERTIME

<http://www.playtimeschoolsupply.com/>  
[info@playtimeschoolsupply.com](mailto:info@playtimeschoolsupply.com)

1-800-288-3224 | 5310 N 99th Street, Omaha NE 68134



**Picture of the Month:  
Pointing to the Future – Back in 2013!**

Looking back at an amazing group of people who traveled to Ghana with us in 2013.

We were pointing to the future in the shadow of Kwame Nkrumah,  
the first President of Ghana.

The future is here!

Join us in for a life changing OEF Education Experience Trip in 2016!

Email: [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) for more info!

For more information please contact:

**TERESA ROLL**

**OUTREACH & SISTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR**

**OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

[www.OpportunityEducation.org](http://www.OpportunityEducation.org)    [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)

402-614-5381

*STAY CONNECTED*

