

# THE MESERANI PROJECT

Bringing children from Teesside and Africa together.

Inspired by the pupils, staff and parents of Acklam Grange School, Middlesbrough, England.

Registered charity number: 113567

[www.meseraniproject.co.uk](http://www.meseraniproject.co.uk)

## Newsletter - September 2012

Welcome to the first of what we hope will be many newsletters updating you all with the progress of The Meserani Project.

Our most recent visit to Meserani involved a three-week stay in the area in August this year. For two of those weeks we were joined by four supporters of the project, Lisa Connor, Elaine Lee, Jamie Lee and David Simpson.

Lootha  
Silamoi



Whilst we were at Meserani, we learnt that Lootha Silamoi had been rushed to hospital, seriously ill. He was diagnosed with malaria, which must have been extremely worrying for him bearing in mind that one his sisters had died from malaria earlier in the year. Lootha had also been very ill for three weeks following his circumcision in January. However, the good news was that he was making excellent progress, and was released from hospital two days before we

returned home.

Parit Lesilale had also contracted malaria earlier in the year, as had his mother. Parit had recovered, but unfortunately his mother passed away.

Parit  
Lesilale



We met all 86 pupils at least once, apart from Lalahe Melayeki, who had chosen to delay his ritual Maasai circumcision at Christmas until his school holidays in August. His decision was made on the basis that his circumcision at Christmas would have interfered with his studies at the start of the academic year, a decision that certainly paid off for him when we heard from his teachers that he had actually gained the best examination results in his year group at Moita School in the summer examinations.

Lalahe  
Melayeki



There were some other notable examination results from the pupils being sponsored, with many coming in the top twenty of their year group in their summer examinations, as detailed in the table below:

<b>Pupil</b>	<b>Year group</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Pupils in year group</b>
Lalahe Melayeki	One	Moita	1 <sup>st</sup> .	144
Paulo Labikie	Three	Einoti	2 <sup>nd</sup> .	236
Maria Ngimasirwa	Three	Einoti	3 <sup>rd</sup> .	236
Lucas Dalash	Three	Moita	3 <sup>rd</sup> .	130
Nasra Shaban	One	Kipok	3 <sup>rd</sup> .	158
Pendael Emanuel	One	Kipok	5 <sup>th</sup> .	158
Samwel Olais	One	Moita	5 <sup>th</sup> .	144
Minyali Saingorie	Two	Moita	7 <sup>th</sup> .	143
Saningo Loisulie	Two	Moita	8 <sup>th</sup> .	143
Lootha Silamoi	Two	Moita	10 <sup>th</sup> .	143
Baba Lotumieki	Three	Einoti	10 <sup>th</sup> .	236
Marian Isa	One	Kipok	10 <sup>th</sup> .	158
Fatuma Omari	Two	Kipok	12 <sup>th</sup> .	106
Elizabeth Silangei	One	Kipok	15 <sup>th</sup> .	158
Agness Samwel	Two	Kipok	16 <sup>th</sup> .	106
Korduni Kipara	Two	Moita	18 <sup>th</sup> .	143
Neema Mengoru	One	Kipok	20 <sup>th</sup> .	158

The nine pupils who are due to complete their secondary education in December spent four weeks of their summer holiday in school undertaking extra studies, in preparation for their forthcoming final examinations, upon which so much depends. In their final examinations, they are almost guaranteed to be allocated a place at High School to study A' Levels if they gain a Division One or Division Two pass. If they gain a Division Three pass they may achieve a place at High School, but will certainly be allocated a place at College (to study vocational subjects), along with those pupils who gain



a Division Four pass. We met with the academic registrar at Einoti School, to find out if any of the nine pupils were expected to achieve any of these 'Division' passes, and we were pleasantly surprised:

Pupil	Expected Pass	Potential
Lembris Loisulie	One or Two	High School & University
Jackson Sanare	Two or Three	High School & University
Meporoo Sumu	Three or Four	High School or College
Bwanashamba Pusindawa	Four	College
Naurey Levaani	Four	College
John Sanare	Four	College
Leah Lucas	Four	College
Paulina Laizer	Four	College
Ally Ntale		Employment



Nganahe  
Parmwat

All 86 pupils were given a bag of maize for their families – the current drought situation is such that maize and other food is in short supply. All pupils were also given a wind-up lantern each so that they could study at home. All the girls were given supplies of sanitary protection for the next six months.



Sabaya  
Sanare

We are delighted to announce that solar power has now been installed at Kipok Girls Secondary Boarding School, with due thanks to David Simpson for his sterling efforts in raising the necessary £3,500



for this to happen. All dormitories, classrooms and teachers' homes have now got lighting for the first time ever, and the school office and teachers' homes have



also got a power supply. David was able to view the results of his hard work himself, and

the head teacher and deputy head teacher at Kipok School spent some time with us explaining the huge benefits that solar power has brought to their school. The regional newspaper, the Arusha Times, ran a full page spread on the story, with pictures of David and the staff at the school. We put up several plaques on the school buildings to commemorate the work that had been done.



Commemorative plaques were also put on the two new classrooms that have now been built at Meserani Chini Primary



School, (completed in spring this year), and we handed over almost 700 text books to their head teacher, thus ensuring that there were texts books for every subject, and for every year group – unheard of for a government school in this part of

Tanzania! Thanks to the following for raising money for these books: James Small, Abigail Pentney, Abbie English, Dot Weldon, Sue & Steve Hunt, and anyone who bought a DVD at the Africa Trip 2011 video night!



Whilst in Nairobi we visited St Secilia School, in the Kibera Slum, to hand over sacks of maize and vegetables for the pupils' mid-day meal. We also took part in several lessons at the school.



What next? We are back in December, and have a number of challenges that need addressing:

- The nine pupils who will have completed their secondary education at Einoti School will need help with their applications to High School or College, and we need to make sure that we can secure funding for them through this next stage in their education.
- The other 77 pupils will be starting their next academic year in mid-January, so will need kitting out with new uniform, books, paper and pens.
- We will be meeting for the first time the next set of pupils to be sponsored – these pupils will be starting their secondary education at one of the three secondary schools that we work alongside, and we have to provide them with absolutely everything – from mattresses to every item of clothing, as well as providing them with all their requirements for learning at their new school. We already have twelve initial expressions of interests in sponsoring one of these pupils, but this will not be enough – if you can persuade anyone at all that you know to take on the challenge of sponsoring a pupil through their four years of secondary education, please let us know – it is still only £160 a year to give a young person an education and a life-changing opportunity that they would otherwise only dream of.
- We are looking into providing solar power and water tanks for the



teachers' homes at Meserani Chini Primary School, as well as upgrading the actual buildings. This school is in an extremely remote situation, and we need to attract teachers to

work at the school by providing them with decent homes. At the moment their homes are in a desperate condition.



Two of our sponsors are still busy knitting the infamous Meserani Slippers, but are running out of wool. If you have any spare balls of wool sat in a drawer that you could donate to us, please let us know. We are also still collecting old or unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags and belts – these can be new or second hand, and are used to raise funds for the project. Please contact us if you have any such items that you would like to get rid of.

Our annual Jewellery and Handicrafts Sale has been booked for Friday 9 November – please keep this date free in your diaries if you wish to come along.

Please remember that The Meserani Project does not take expenses out of any money that is raised or donated. All people that work for the project do so entirely at their own expense, and every penny goes directly to the young people whose lives we are changing.

Thank you as always for your continued support – the project would not survive without you, and you are making a real difference to someone's life.

Diane & Peter Swan



Diane & Marian's mother



Peter & Einoti pupils



Kipok & Moita pupils