Images from the Excursion 2070

Music and murder at the Annual Picnic!!
Review of 2070-
Most of the statements made in the previous newsletter have been achieved.

- The TIP (Teaching Improvement Plan) indicates that a wider range of activities are being used, despite the shortage of classrooms and teaching materials. Teachers are using the local materials and developing an annual plan for their own subject.
- Action research is becoming a frequently used tool within lessons.
- Student behavior is improving both inside and outside classrooms.
- Further extracurricular activities have been developed within the academic framework.
- Progress in both Soccer and Cricket are not satisfactory due to the lack of playground and time.

Message from Puma Gautaum, the Headteacher

The translation of Melamchi is “me la chhima” tear of happiness. The story is ‘Once great Dharma Guru, protector of animals and “Guru Padma Sambhava” cried to see the beauty of nature of this village’. So it became Melamchi shortened from “Me la chhima”. When our founder members the late Dorje Sherpa, late Nakpu Dorjee Sherpa, Kami Lama and myself went to Chautar and visited the DEO for approval. We were asked, for a possible name for our new school. We decided on Melamchi Ghyang. Ghyang means a center of spiritual belief and where the varying ceremonies of the Hyolmo are performed.

Melamchi Ghyang Secondary School has been officially recognized from 1988 AD by the government. Although it has been running from 1985 AD (2045 BS). We began as an English medium school in 1996 AD (2053 BS). We first entered students for the SLC examination in 2006AD (2063 BS). Although our results reflect both the huge commitment made by both teachers and staff, we will continue to aim higher. We are a government public based school.

We are deeply indebted to both the SMC (School management committee) and PTA (Parents Teachers Association) for their magnificent guidance and contribution. Recently there are 17 teachers, two cooking staff, one matron and 250 students. 130 are boarders from different parts of Nepal. We are so pleased and keen to do more for the interested children who climb these hills for a quality education.
Six teachers and 38 students from Grade Nine started our excursion from Chhuchipati bus park at 9:15 a.m. on 23 Magh 2070 B.S. Before, we started we were divided into four groups A, B, C and D, with a group leader and a teacher. After lunch we moved on to the Chitwan National Park. Where we saw many elephants and crocodiles on the shores of the Rapti river. Then we visited the museum at Sauraha; then back to Narayangath and an overnight stay at Sathanchuli Hotel. We woke up at 5:00 a.m and took part in a sharing program. Our group leader and teacher were changed. After breakfast we moved to Lumbini (the birth place of Buddha). We admired all the Stupas and Monasteries of Lumbini. We continued to move via Sunauli, which is on the border of Nepal and India; then back to Butwal and an over night stay at Manish hotel.

On the third day, we followed the sam program. On the road to Pokhara, we paused to watch the Kali Gandagi river then continued our trip to Tansen. We saw the Tansen Darbar and Bhagawati temple, briefly. Then onward to Pokhara. In Pokhara, we visited the Davis Falls and the Gupteshwor Mahadev Cave. We relaxed by boating at Fewa Taal and visited to the Tal Barahi Temple (built in the middle of the Fewa Lake, it is dedicated to the Goddess Ajima – the grand mother). Tired but very cheerful we moved into the New Family Hotel, a lake side hotel. The fourth day began as had the previous one however we shared our thoughts on the bus We moved to Sharangkot which is situated at 1500ms and is a former fort of the Kaski king. We watched a magnificent sunrise. From Sharangkot, we had spectacular views of five mountains. Afterwards we visited the Bidyabasini temple and onwards to the Mahendra cave and the bat cave. Everyone was excited to see the bats with the help of torch light. Onwards to the International Mountain Museum (in the museum, we watched a short document about the Sherpa Culture). Then back to Gorkha and an overnight stay at Namaste hotel.

On the last day of the tour, we visited Gorkha Durbar, we had to walk for half an hour from the hotel. We admired the palaces where the King Prithvi Narayan Shah was born. After breakfast and the normal program, we moved to Kurinthar. Where we had booked tickets to visit Manakhamana Temple. To get there we rode by cable car and we returned back to Kathmandu.

By Dawa Norbu Sherpa
A Diary of our Annual School Picnic

The Day finally came after a year, our memories of last year’s picnic at Bhaiding were excellent. We had our picnic on 24th January 2014, 10th Magh 2070 BS.

This time we wanted to make our picnic more interesting and full of entertainment. So the teachers began to divide the work among ourselves. Pasang Sir was selected to buy the goods which would be needed for the picnic. As far as possible, everything was collected and prepared before the day. The students were told what items to bring with them. On the list of items needed was a generator and amplifier, of course.

With an air of excitement, we gathered at the school and headed towards the picnic spot at Nading; this spot is half an hours walk from school due north. All the students seemed happy and well dressed although today was not an official school day. When we arrived at 9:15 we found a small problem, a water shortage. So all the teachers, students and some of the guardians fetched and carried water, the water was 100 ms away downhill!!! We quickly had enough water. Then we managed to start up the sound system for the picnic, so that we could sing, dance and have fun there. We also took 3 guitars with us. With all these instruments we were well equipped for the picnic. Our kitchen staff (Tashi), teachers and some of the guardians prepared a hot drink. Slowly we warmed up and the students slowly began to play and sing. Overall everyone was busy doing his or her job. Even the teachers managed to play some music then the generator stopped working. After a little time we managed to start the generator and more music was played. Slowly the day warmed up. Some of the teachers and most of the students showed off their dancing skills but I stayed with some of the students playing my guitar and singing. Tashi continued to feed us all day long and after a furious game of netball we were hungry.

Thanks to cook Tashi, the teachers and guardians for making picnic interesting, fun and successful despite a slight water problem. At the end of day we was time to pack away. A quick cup of tea and we were on our way. So, we all began to carry down the cooking utensils, generator and amplifier to their respective places either in the school or the gomba. Tired but happy after an excellent day we made our way home.

Then some snacks, tea and food at the end of the day.

Reporting; Dawa Lama
Science Exhibition 2070.
The student’s viewpoint.

The concept that "Curiosity leads discovery" was behind the second annual Science exhibition on 3rd January 2014. The lack of essential materials was a spur to the students’ creativity and 23 stalls were exhibited. Each one was staffed by students; they had designed and built the displays themselves. They should be congratulated.

This was a very positive experience for the students because they were using their skills to explore a range of scientific principles.

With the use of locally available materials the students were able to make these displays:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Volcanic eruption</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nitrogen production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Boat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ammonia production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydro electric generation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solar water heater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxygen without heating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric bell</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Ropeway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acid bomb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydraulic crane</td>
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<tr>
<td>An video projector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crystallization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaleidoscope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electrostatic electricity</td>
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<td>A simple cell</td>
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After the exhibition we reviewed our work and found that our understanding had deepened. These programs could change the way a person thinks. It conveys the message of self-discovery to all. It breeds a self-confidence, which will help us throughout our lives.

"THINK HIGH DO SO" by Kiran Neupane Class-9

The teacher’s viewpoint.

It was the second term of my first year of teaching at Melamchi Ghyang and suddenly I was asked to organize a Science Exhibition. Last year’s was a great success and the prospect was daunting. However I decided to pass the responsibility for the experiments to the students. There were many exciting ideas and some discussion. The students were from all the Year groups and I was both pleased and impressed by their imagination and enthusiasm.

The school does not have a large supply of laboratory equipment. So a lot of creativity was called for and the students responded very well.

The list of experiments is in ‘The student’s viewpoint’ and a bright sunny day was the final benefit.

There was fierce competition for the honor of First prize. All the staff did the judging on a score of 1 – 10 for each demonstration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Place</td>
<td>A demonstration of hydroelectricity.</td>
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<td>Second place</td>
<td>Made a video projector, it worked :)</td>
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<td>Third place</td>
<td>A demonstration of electrostatic forces</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A working model of a hydraulic crane (see photo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth place</td>
<td>A demonstration on how a kaleidoscope works.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The process behind Volcanic eruptions.</td>
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Groups of students and staff rotated round the 23 groups, asking questions and listening carefully to the informed answers.
It was a stressful day but it gave me great pleasure and I look forward with enthusiasm to next year’s exhibition.

"Imagination is more important than the knowledge." - Science teacher Sandip Basnet

A first - A Mathematics Exhibition on 26 Paush 2070

Hari Har Dahal organized a very successful Maths exhibition, his students, from Classes 6 to 10, worked very hard and produced 35 stalls for the exhibition. There were 40 groups with between 1 and 7 students in each group. All the materials were generated locally. There were no prizes however every student was a star. Well done.

Rama Mani Chalese and Nima Dorjee Hyolmo presented the exhibition, they explained and demonstrated each exhibit. Parents, children and parents came from the following schools Golmadevi SS Timbu, Nurbuling Lower S S, Kolama Kharka Danda Kiul and Pema Chholing lower S S Nakote.

We were pleased to have the following guests RP Youg Bahadur Thapa of Bhumeshwari Higher S S Kiul Resource center. The next Day CDO (Chief District officer) and the DSP (District Senior Police) officer visited with many more other guests to observe the Exhibition. Many many thanks to both the dedicated and energetic teachers and students.

Exhibitions included:
Abacus, algebra teaching wooden models, alphabet and number blocks, astrolabe, chess playing, circle pieces, clinometers, cone and cylinders, sphere, hemisphere, conic section, cuinzenior road, cylinder cut pieces, flip charts, formula charts, geoboard, hypsometer, maths dance, maths jokes, maths poems, maths song, model clock, net of solids made by bamboos, number cards, origami figures, paper models, shape charts, Sudoku, tangrams, transformation models eg. rotation reflection enlargement, transparent glass solids, trundle wheel, wooden meter, half meter and foot scales, wooden prisms, wooden protractors, wooden pyramids, wooden triangles quadrilaterals and pentagon hexagon.

An image from the road to Pokhara.

Cable car, on the last day.
Priorities For 2071

**Raising the level**-
We plan to upgrade the Science facilities so that we can offer school levels 11 and 12 in science. We are trying to convince some of our donors to support the salaries of 2 qualified teachers salary. This year we will continue to ask. If someone is interested, we will go for the approval process. This topic has been discussed by Keta Keti Belgium.

**Hostel**-
Although, we use the large hall below the boys’ hostel for examinations and meals; the students still sit on the cement floor! We are seeking enough furniture for all the students to sit in comfort. An Application has given to “Mondo Challenge Foundation” UK. We keep our fingers crossed.

**Furniture**-
Nursery, Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 are sitting on mats. We are exploring the possibility of locating suitable furniture to them. Interest in this area has been expressed by Aidan Wardlow UK.

**Cinema**-
During the year 2070, we could not complete the dining hall. We have a plan for furnishing the hall with a Television/ Projector. This is being discussed by Keta Keti Belgium.

**Cultural class**-
After a long gap of 5 years, this year we recruited an energetic and dynamic social study teacher, he also has expert knowledge of music. He has started music classes after the school hour. His quality input to the morning assemblies is quickly noticed; there are plans for leisure classes which will involve music. These lessons will carry a very small fee, please let your class teacher know if you are interested.

**Compound Wall**-
We need to replace the wooden fence with a wire one to ensure the security of both the hostel students and the premises. An application has been sent to the Melamchi Drinking Water Project, if this does not succeed then we will approach our much appreciated charity CAN UK.

**Computer class**-
We have started computer class to develop basic knowledge. We plan to follow the government syllabus from Grade 6 with the associated 100 marks. Kama Sherpa The computer teacher trained by Corin Hardcastle and a recruit from Keta Keti Belgium has shown excellent progress in IT. He will be the Head of IT during the academic session 2071.

**Administration**-
We have redistributed responsibilities for the daily monitoring and supervision of students to all the teachers. Representative teachers of houses and classes are responsible to the teaching activities and its achievement. He/she would be the Head of the Year. Selected Captains and vice Captains operate the extracurricular activities of the school. To manage the hostel was given the responsibilities to Tika Ram Limbu (English Teacher) in 2070, will be responsible for the same post for 2071. In the absence of head master, the vice head will take on that role.
DEO, RP and RC of Nepal government for regular guidance and salary for 9 teachers.
Eveline Muller (Germany) for her support during 2000 and 2001 by donating two teachers’ salaries and in 2000 she donated 2000 Euro towards the hostel building.
CAN UK and Doug Scott for their magnificent financial support towards the buildings, teacher salaries and science materials; they have been donating regularly since 2002. Thank you.
Hilde Kuypers and her charity Keta Keti Belgium for regular financial support for five teachers salaries, laptops and solar lamps. Your contribution has been continuous from 2002. Thank you.
Gwenda Kulinks and her Charity Nepalese Children’s Trust UK for financial support towards the library buildings and our regeneration program within the community. Last and not least for the financial support of Dr KB Sherpa during his study at Manchester University UK.
Buddhist Foundation for the salary of a Tibetan language teacher.
Anthony Lunch, Jimmy Lama and their Charity Mondo Challenge Foundation and HELP (Helambu Livelihood Project) for help with both furniture and five lap tops.
Mamiane Heardge UK and her Charity RAN (Ruler Assistance Nepal) for many Library books and sending a volunteer.
Corin Hardcastle and the charity Yolmo Connect for his precious time and knowledge of IT; given for 6 months the previous year and 3 months this year.
Melamchi Drinking Water committee for financial support in supplying the boys hostel.
To all the members of the PTA, the SMC, founder members, parents, trekkers, cooking staff, matron and helper.
Mr Shim (founder of PUM), Sangey Sherpa (member of PUM) and PUM organization of South Korea for a two day art workshop further developing our staff.
Special thanks to Harihar Dahal Maths teacher and Sandip Basnet Science teacher and all participant students for your wonderful exhibition.
All the dedicated teachers for your cooperation, time donated and enthusiasm for the betterment of the school.
Child Club and Eco club for your successful year, your work has helped us to achieve some new goals.

Sandip Basnet

Finally

A little snow.

Photos donated by Puma Gautam, Sandip Basnet, Renjen Hyolmo and Corin Hardcastle.