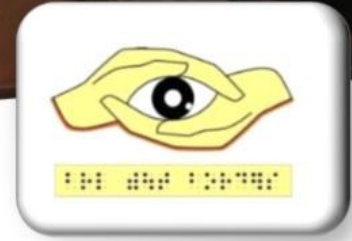


Braille Without Borders

Quarterly newsletter 1 -2017



Spring is about to get started.. So it is time for the 1st quarterly newsletter of 2017. Gyendsen, Nyima, Adrun and Mike have shared an overview of the highlights of the past quarter at the Braille Without Borders projects in Lhasa and Shigatse.

Lhasa

Nyima and Yudun became parents for the second time

On January 22nd Yudun has delivered a baby boy with the name Tenzin Wangdu. Yudun is Nyima's wife and both are former students of BWB preparatory school. Nyima leads the school and Yudun is taking care of both of their children. The BWB team congratulates both with the birth of their baby.

Students winter vacation:

During January and February the students returned home to celebrate the Tibetan new year which is called 'Losar' with their families. The school has officially started again in March and we always look forward to hearing the stories of the students. Every student has its own activities in their hometown. Some of the parents came to Lhasa to bring the students back to school and they told us that they are very happy because their child is much more active in daily life and more confident than before. Dorjie Tsering is a blind student from Gansu province. His parents are divorced and he went to meet his father and his step mother. He shared the following, "My step mother always treated me badly and discriminates me for my blindness, also my stepbrother excluded me from the family." A few days before the New Year, Dorjie saw that his step brother was struggling with his English homework and none of them in his home could solve the problem. When Dorjie discovered that this was something he already learned at BWB, he took the initiative to assist his step-brother. He was very shocked and also impressed with Dorjie. Since then the step-mother and step-brother asked more questions to Dorjie. Dorjie assisted him not only with English, also with Chinese and mathematics. The blind student which they used to discriminate was the only one to solve the problem. Dorjie reads Braille in the dark, he also speak good English to the foreigners. This has brought new impact in his village and the circles of his step mother. Dorjie proudly shared the news in detail and said "I am very happy! Now I am not being discriminated at home and in my village anymore."

Medication for Tsering Dondup

Tsering Dondup has done first surgery for his foot in September 2016 and had a follow up check in January 2017 in Chengdu. The doctor suggested doing the second surgery in March and now we have managed to send him to Chengdu. The cost of his medication is donated by a Tibetan lady this time. Volunteer Jampa accompanied Tsering from beginning till now. We sincerely thank Jampa and all other



Sharing holiday experiences



Nyima and Yudun'd son: Tenzin Wangdu

donors for their support!

The new semester in March

After a long holiday, the school has started with new refreshment. All teachers and students returned to the school and are very energetic. On the first day, the staff member helped the students with cleaning, all bedsheets and quilts were renewed, the boys had haircut, and everyone took a nice hot shower. Then the staff members entertained the students and also shared different stories from their holidays. We now have thirty students from two provinces and six different counties.

Eye surgery for Nyima Dorjie

Nyima Dorjie is an old student at the BWB school, he has been here for three years, he is from Lhoka. His blindness is caused by cataract and it is possible for him to do a surgery which could recover some sight. We have found a donor for his medical cost and did eye surgery in the current week. He is now recovering and we are happy to let you know that the operation was successful.

Beishung FARM: BLIND GRADUATES OFFER COURSE PREPARING OTHERS FOR LIFE IN THE REAL WORLD

Dachung and Kyumi, graduates of BWB, offered a course over the winter holidays to our integration students. Besides subjects offered in many such courses, ie., language, etiquette, interview techniques etc, the course provided training and materials in Standard Chinese Braille and a historical first -- the presentation of editions of Tibetan Braille text books produced by their own newly formed printing company.

TRANSITION TO STANDARD CHINESE BRAILLE

The first shipments of Chinese Standard Braille school texts, and quality Braille printing paper, have arrived from Beijing. Our integration students, and the teachers who correct their exams, are pleased and excited by this development.

GIFT OF BLIND FRIENDLY SOFTWARE EQUIPPED COMPUTERS

Thank you, Sung Chi Ling Group of Shanghai for inviting us to Shanghai and for the gift of twenty computers equipped with blind friendly 'speaking' software. These will be shared among the blind projects in Tibet such as KIKI's kindergarten, Dachung's Group, the BWB School in Lhasa and in Shigatse.

DOWN TO EARTH

Our greenhouses have been too successful. Or rather one has. Neighbouring trees' roots have invaded looking for moisture, warmth and delicious composted earth. They've evicted our veggies. A solution we think: OK, they win. Let's make it a tree nursery.

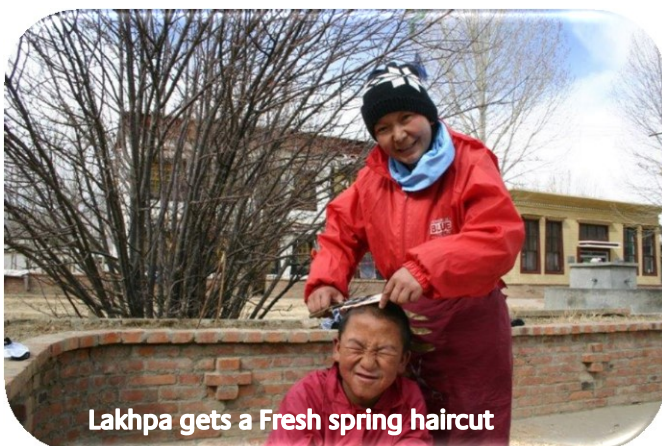
FINALLY, A THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CARED...

...you our friends and benefactors and our counter-partner who graciously added a New Year's gift to the 'pot': this year being the Year of the Fire Bird. Less poetically but appropriately, the Year of the Chicken.

On behalf of all our students and colleagues, we say thank you to everyone for your continuous support and wish you all a wonderful spring time!

With warmest regards,

the entire BWB team, sabriye and paul



Lakpha gets a Fresh spring haircut



Tashi Dawa proudly shows his new talking watch

You can support the work of Braille Without Borders [here](http://www.braillewithoutborders.org) - THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
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