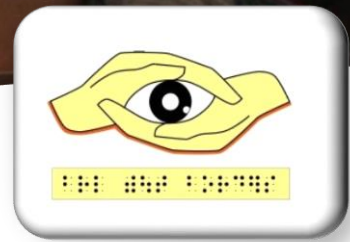


Braille Without Borders

Quarterly Newsletter 2 - 2015



Dear Friends and supporters,

The BWB programs during the months of January and February are usually a bit quieter than the rest of the year. This is due to the Lossar (new year) Holidays. During January and February the students return home to celebrate the Tibetan new year with their families. Yet several activities have happened that we wish to share with you in this newsletter. Nyima and Gyendsen shared the following updates from Lhasa.

YOUTH DAY 2015

May 4th is a youth day and five of our students attended a concert organized by China youth league and performed songs. The concert was attended by many students from universities and high schools. Out of 30 different schools, only ten schools were given an honorable award. Our school was one of the awarded ones.

International Childrens day 2015

The first of June is international Children's day. It was celebrated with 58 team members. The entire team went for picnic and the students and staffs performed many songs and dances. Many local people joined the BWB team and some also performed songs for our students. In addition, to show the capabilities of blind people, our blind students performed group dances and sang songs for a large audience on the city square.

Medical support

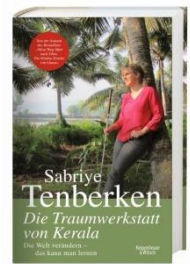
On the 2nd of June, representatives of the Shanghai Buddha temple visited the school. They brought an eye specialist from Shanghai to do the eye check-up for BWB students. Some of the students will receive eye treatment in Shanghai soon. They have often itchy eyes and some uncomfortable pain. The eye-specialists will provide treatments for the same.



The 6 Rabbit class Graduates and teacher Gama Choedron"

New Book

In the fall of 2015 a new book with the title "The dream-workshop of Kerala, changing the world is something you can learn" will be published in German in Germany. In this book also the history of BWB and the personal story of Nyima Wangdu, who now leads the school in Tibet, is being told. Kiepenheuer & Witsch ISBN 978-3-462-04717-2



Rabbit Class graduates

In June, 6 students of the Rabbit class passed their graduation exam. They were accepted into the government regular primary school in Belshung. We wish them lots of success with their continued studies.

Self-Integration continues

In 2013 the first ever batch of BWB graduates entered regular universities. This year another two BWB graduates have taken the university entry exam. At the moment they are waiting for the results. Their examination was covered by many different media. This has created awareness about the fact that blindness does not play a role when it comes to academic studies. More and more people understand this and that itself is a big step forward in the acceptance of blind people by and in society. Five of our students studying in the government primary school (next to the farm) have graduated and have been accepted into the government middle school in Shigatse as residential students. The regular schools in Shigatse have added a blind friendly facility for the totally blind at examination time. Staff will read the questions to them and extra time will be given for this.

Giving Back

Our blind students teamed up with the deaf students from the local government school to raise support for the handicapped. With training from the government performing arts troupe our students presented an entertaining show. They are, as this is being written, preparing a concert for those people rendered homeless by the recent earth quakes and who are temporarily housed in a camp near Shigatse.

Government Chooses Farm for Pilot Program

The government has chosen our weaving and knitting component for a preliminary 10-day course for local handicapped persons. Our own trainees will receive training from professionals provided by the government and in turn will become the instructors for regular programs throughout the year.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

*On behalf of all students and colleagues we say **THANK YOU** very much for your ongoing support!*

We would be grateful if you can share this newsletter with your family members, colleagues and friends. With very best regards,

The entire BWB team, Sabriye and Paul