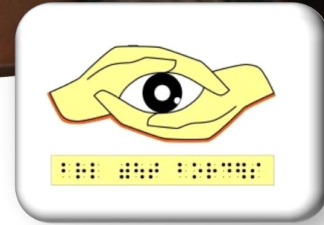


Braille Without Borders

Quarterly Newsletter 1 -2014



Dear friends and supporters,

The year of the horse started just a few weeks ago and it is time for some updates on the Braille Without Borders project in Tibet. Good news is that BWB has received permission to work in Tibet for at least another three years. An agreement was signed with the local counterpart, the Tibet Disabled Persons Federation in January 2014 and we are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation that will help to empower more blind students on the Himalayan plateau.

Preparatory school in Lhasa

New Braille Without Borders family member.

On the 30th of March 2014, Kelchoe, a former BWB teacher who married Gyendsen, the manager of BWB's Braille Printing Press, gave birth to a little baby boy. The name of the boy is Tenzin Kunchen. We congratulate Kelchoe and Gyendsen with their new born baby.

Holiday time:

During the first two months of the year, life in Tibet comes to a halt. Because of the intense cold, the winter holiday is long. The preparatory school in Lhasa project had winter vacation from mid January 2014 till March 10th 2014. Most of the students returned and celebrated Lossar (The Tibetan New Year) with their families and friends.

All the students returned back to the Lhasa school on 10th of March when the new semester has officially begun. The entire team with the help of all students had cleaned the project premises on the same day. During the cleaning session, all the old bed sheets and covers of quilts and pillows were replaced with new ones. The dormitories are all ready for a new season.

New computer training room:

During the winter break, we have made a partition in the large living room so there is space for computer training class. The space provides sufficient space for the students to learn how to operate the computer with the help of a speech synthesizer.



New students

4 new students joined the project for the new semester; two boys; Lobsang Turpten (10) and Samten Rechen (11), two girls; Yudun (7) and Kalsang Diji (10).

Vocational Training farm in Shigatse

From our vocational training farm we received the following news:

Spring planting season

The spring planting season has arrived. Up here at 4000 metres on our 'high altitude desert' in Tibet, water has always been an issue. The government assists local farmers by providing irrigation facilities. The good news this quarter? The local government has given us official access to their irrigation system. The word to note is 'official'. Moreover they have provided us with the standard, government issued equipment for controlling the inlet of irrigation water onto our property. Here's looking forward to bumper crops of barley, wheat and potatoes !!

March 28th 2014,

the final day of the first quarter, is an important cultural and historical festival here in Tibet. Our students and trainees were the chief guests and performers at the celebration organized by the Bureau of Government Official Retirees. This bureau has been generous in donating an industrial pressure cooker, washing machine and infra-red cupboard for sterilizing kitchen utensils.

Bad News - Good News

The State Grid for Electricity up here in Central Tibet is raising the cost of electricity as of April. That's the bad news. -The good news: they've decided to exempt us. This is an example of help and interest our little project is receiving from local friends, both official and personal.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

*On behalf of all students and colleagues we say **THANK YOU** for your ongoing support!
We would be grateful if you can share this newsletter with your family members, colleagues and friends. We wish all a great and successful year of the Horse!
With warm regards,*

The entire BWB team, Sabriye and Paul

www.braillewithoutborders.org

