



Ganja International School

newsletter, Nov / Dec 2007



On 25th September we got the documents for our new building and started work: remodelling, plastering, painting, plumbing, fixing floors and ceilings. On October 20th we moved in. Again, lots of work, and, as you can see in the picture, everyone is very happy.

The happiness was rather short-lived... Partly as a result of our move and partly because of our late start to the school year, the number of children at GIS fell sharply. Last year we started with over 100 children but this year we started with only 26! Since then the number has increased to 39, but that is still a low number. We were already quite tired from the long drawn-out purchase process and the effort of moving. The low number of children and the difficult financial situation that it produced got us all down. Fortunately we are all in a more positive frame of mind now.

Jobs-to-do



Nonetheless we have much work still to do. Here are some of our most important tasks:

1. Increase number of children. We are having a TV advertising campaign over the Christmas / New Year period and are hoping that this will bring in quite a few new children.
2. There are refugees living in the property. On 13th November there will be a court hearing and we hope that the court will rule that they must leave.
3. We have so far only completed the purchase of the building, but not the land that it sits on. This needs to move forward.
4. We have to create a new legal entity for the kindergarten.
5. Former kindergarten staff must sell their remaining small shares in the kindergarten. It looks as though this will go smoothly but we take nothing for granted.
6. We were expecting a budget shortfall anyway, but the low number of children means that we both have to seek financial support and also ways to keep costs down.
7. Obtain a license for the school. But we're afraid that with the school as it is, we're not in a good position to apply.



A new administrator

By Margrethe Hjellum

We have a new administrator, Velizade Nargiz. Her son, 9, is in year 5 at GIS. He likes all subjects, she says, and also to play football with headmistress Shirley and 'uncle' Vaqif, our administrator assistant.

Q: You have been very engaged in GIS's situation for a long time. What is it about this school that makes it so interesting for you?

A: Well, here the children learn sufficient English, and I think that is special since it's an international language. It's important to learn.

Q: If you compare this school with other schools around in Ganja or the school you went to, what is the biggest difference, which made you choose to put your child in this school?

A: The teachers are different at this school. Other teachers just teach. They don't play with the children like the teachers at GIS do. That the teachers make it fun to go to school is the main reason why children like this school.

Q: What does the school need to become an even better school?

A: I think the school needs to get a license. I think that more children would come to both the school and kindergarten at GIS.

Q: Do you have a message for our sponsors and others who support us in different ways?

A: Thank you for supporting us! Please help us until we can stand on our own feet, till we are stronger...

A Christmas present for GIS?

Shirley Weston, the educational director of GIS, says that what she would most like as a Christmas present for GIS is a better playground. We could paint the existing playground equipment and paint lines on the asphalt for games, put up basketball hoops and if we had quite a lot of money (about \$3000) we could re-asphalt the playground, which would be very nice!

Chinese day at GIS.

By Reidun Aabrekk and Margrethe Hjellum

On November 22nd the 4th and 5th forms had a Chinese Day. They played chess, which is a Chinese game and with many good chess players in the class this activity was very popular. For lunch the children got Chinese food: egg fried rice and chicken with sweet sour sauce. Some of the children tried using chopsticks. After the break there was a performance where the parents were invited. A lot of people came to watch the children. The boys did a great job acting out the Chinese story about the magic paint brush. Then the girls danced dressed up like Chinese girls.

Q: What did you learn about ancient and present China?

- A:
- Chinese girls' feet used to be tied up to be beautiful
 - Over 1 billion people live in China
 - The first Chinese emperor was called Kin Kin Chin Huang Te. He ordered the great Chinese wall to be built.



Ganja International School Tel. +994 22 56-96-74 / 56-72-23

General enquiries: gisadmin@azeronline.com

Newsletter editor: simon@ganja-international-school.org

www.ganja-international-school.org