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This is the MYO Christmas edition. All our staff members wish you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Recently Loide K. wrote us this editorial about her MYO experience. We would like to share it with you:



My Second Home.

It is such a great privilege for me to call myself a learner of Mondesa Youth Opportunities, a place that I can call home, a comfortable environment surrounded by lovely people.

I have gained a lot of experience since I entered the gates of MYO. I learned how to co-operate with my fellow classmates with positive behavior. MYO has played such an important role in my life since I started attending it. I have improved so much academically.

We do not learn on empty stomachs at MYO. We always eat lunch before we go into classes. We go on educational trips that allow us to acquire knowledge and skills about specific things. There are so many fun activities we do at MYO, and our teachers also help us to improve our philosophy and more.

I have such gratitude for MYO. I consider myself very blessed for being part of such a special place that I can call my second home.

Loide Kuutondokwa
MYO Grade 8 2021



Hello's and Goodbye's

A huge thank you to Neels for all his fantastic work as Manager of MYO for two years. Neels was valuable to MYO in many ways.

He maneuvered us through the biggest challenge for education we have been faced with at MYO: the first year of the pandemic with its long lockdown. He made sure MYO could continue to educate throughout and kept all of us positive and motivated.

Neels has been a wonderful asset to MYO. He will be greatly missed as a friend and a professional. We wish him well in his next adventure.



Anke Husemeyer, our new manager.



Dear MYO friends:

My name is Anke Husemyer and I am the new manager at Mondesa Youth Opportunities. I have been with MYO for two years now, helping to create paths for the Namibian Youth in our care.

After qualifying in German, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, and English Studies, I graduated in Business Administration. Most of my educational path and work experiences have been in international settings. I went to language schools in Canada, Australia and Spain, studied in Scotland and also took part in an intercultural program at the University of Bonn, in

Germany. As an assurance associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Hamburg, I acquired crucial administrative skills. I am delighted to take on a change of direction which encompasses all my skills.

It is my belief that it is my duty to use the possibilities that I have had in my life to create chances for others. The work with the youth, sharing of education and thereby combating the consequences of poverty, matches my career ideal.

On top of the personal challenges the pandemic brought us, it also left behind even more hurdles for the Namibian educational system - a system that was already in crisis long before Covid. Children deserve better. As the new manager I can now contribute with uplifting and developing them. It was wonderful to see how our students blossomed and made the best of their adverse situation. Education is so crucial and it is wonderful to be part of MYO, where we can witness what is possible with a dedicated team.

Anke Husemeyer

MYO Manager





In this newsletter, we have tried to give you a summary, in a nutshell, of our experiences in the last term of 2021. We enjoyed a number of heartfelt moments, and exciting events.

Little House of Hope.

The Little House of Hope, our sister project on MYO grounds, continues to provide the perfect environment for the development of young children. Their exciting news is that because of the demand they have received for places, they are building two new extra classrooms with full facilities.

MYO's partnership with the Little House of Hope has been successful and rewarding. Together we form a very strong educational center in the middle of an active, but underprivileged area, which needs all the help it can get.



MYO in 2021.

The second half of this school year was difficult. The second term opened just before the Corona peak in 2021, and therefore ended abruptly. The third term could not have been more challenging.

MYO lost Mr. Claudius Khoeseb, our Mathematics teacher, a very well known and respected man and a dear friend of ours at MYO. He will be greatly missed.

Once again, MYO stood strong and we made the best we could of the year. On a positive note, we welcomed back our Namibian volunteer Melty Mertens-Shikongo, who volunteered in Germany during the pandemic.

During this last term MYO also held a backfilling process and sadly the test results clearly showed the lack of schooling students received throughout the pandemic. To compensate for this, we offered potential students a trial term in which they had to show steady progress to remain at MYO. Teachers and staff responded with creativity, purpose and excellence, offering extra classes for these backfill students to reach that goal - with great success.





MYO Prize-giving 2021.

MYO did not hold a prize-giving in 2020, but last week we held a prize-giving to celebrate our hard working learners. Many challenges and many difficulties had to be faced, but we succeeded. We shed tears of pain and tears of joy. We celebrated and mourned, we struggled and we completed our mission. Throughout all this we made education our priority. We are proud that we kept the standard high at MYO and proud that we can celebrate our learners who worked so hard and persevered through these difficult times.

At MYO, we keep careful track of our learners' performance, attitudes and participation. Based on these criteria we chose our subject awards. As well as subject awards, we named our student of the year and our alumni of the year. We said farewell to our Grade 8 learners. The majority of them have been with us for five continuous years. Our prize-giving ended the year with music, dances and mainly a celebration of education.

It is hard work and perseverance that leads to our learners' success, all of which would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of the teachers, parents and guardians - and only with the help of our sponsors and MYO friends. Thank you for your continued support and belief in MYO.



MYO Tours 2021.



With the kind support of Rotarian Erhard Krause, his family and friends, this term we were able to take all of our learners on various trips. We arranged our timetable so that all our trips could take place within the last term.

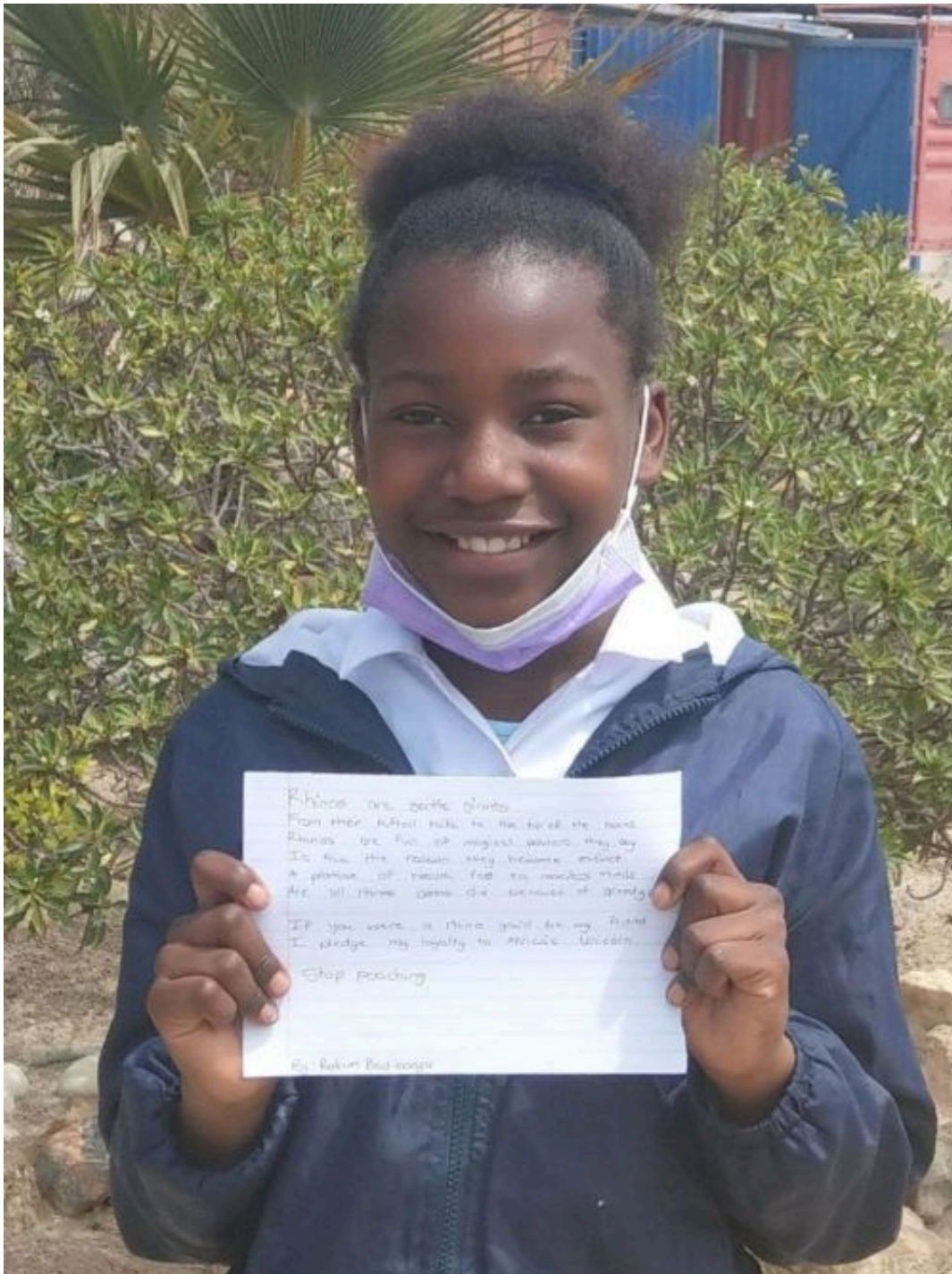
The Grade 5 class enjoyed a day trip of camel riding in Swakopmund, bird watching in Walvis Bay and climbing Dune 7 (the highest dune in our area.) Our Grade 6 class was taken on a tour through Swakopmund's history including the Woerman House with its wonderful library and the Woerman Tower, from which the whole town and surrounding areas can be overseen. In addition to that they learned all about the Namibian world of snakes at the Snake Park. The most exciting trip for the Grade six learners was the day-trip to the Gobabeb Research Center.

Grade 7 explored the beauty of art at the Art Gallery, the fascinating world of

weaving and the amazing nature highlights north of Swakopmund. They went on a road adventure visiting Cape Cross, the Dead Sea, Henties Bay and the Zeila Shipwreck.

The Grade 8 learners learned all about the desalination process in the Erongo region at the desalination plant and conquered the wild Moon Landscape on their way to Goanikontes, a desert oasis.





Rhino Week.

A number of women had to leave the room
Are all things going to the benefit of greatly people
If you want a thing you'll be my friend
I pledge my loyalty to Africa's women

Stop coaching!

Follow @myo_news on Twitter



Don't let your voice go silent. It's the only way to
Keep news on the ground and keep the people's voice



How can you help?



Dear MYO Supporter:

Please would you sponsor a learner through MYO?

It is such a worthy act, to contribute towards the good education of another person who cannot fend for himself. We are so privileged in our lifestyles, so comfortable and so well set up, that really, it does not cost us much to reach out and do a good thing.

We have never needed to ask before this, as we had a good sponsor, but our sponsor has fallen on hard times and closed down. Difficult as that is for us, we appreciate and thank them sincerely for the good years.

This newsletter of ours goes out to supporters in Germany, America, Australia and Africa. It is not a difficult decision, really. You know our integrity, you know our work, and you understand the cause. Please, simply go to your computer and donate for the education of one child.

If/When you do so, please contact MYO and let us know so that we can keep good records. (myotrust@iway.na)

At MYO, we are very proud of our financial efficiency.

We spend approximately 97% of every dollar donated on goods and services that directly serve our core mission of educating students. We educate 120 learners at one time, and MYO's running costs, are approximately N\$1,6 million per annum despite our best cost cutting efforts.

We have been fortunate in recent years to have strong local support for our funding needs. But due to the current economic conditions in Namibia, we now find we need to seek funding from our international supporters.

You can sponsor an MYO learner for the cost of:

N\$ 14500/year (N\$1208/month)

USD \$1006/year (\$84/month)

Euro €840/year (€70/month)

Learner sponsorships can be paid annually or in monthly instalments, and of course you are free to choose a donation amount that suits your budget.

On-line donations via credit card can be made at:
<http://mondesayouth.org/how-you-canhelp/donations/>

Donations can also be made via PayPal or direct bank transfer at:

Mondesa Youth Opportunities Trust

Standard Bank Namibia

Branch Code Number: 082-172

Account Number: 240206363

Swift Code: SBNMNX



MYO receives many visitors and they are always welcome. They see first-hand what it is we do, and they understand, far better than any brochure can explain, our work and energy. They see MYO 'alive and vibrant' and they are able to speak to, and share with, our learners. Many of them make donations: sometimes money, sometimes school items, sporting goods, and so on.

To all – thank you for your interest, thank you for your support and thank you for your input. It is all valued and appreciated.

Thank you to all our visitors and donors!



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Forward

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