



April 2012

## TIGER TOPS SWISSAIR PRE-SCHOOL & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



Namaste from all of the children at the Tiger Tops Swissair Pre-School! We are delighted to report that all 16 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> class students graduated, and have been enrolled in Government schools in the area. As always, their continued education will be funded, including school fees, uniforms, school supplies and health care. Our Headmistress, Om Kumari, will be following their progress at the various schools (literally -- on her smart motorbike!). At the end of term ceremony, graduates heading off to 3<sup>rd</sup> class in Government school received

the traditional set of brand new clothing, a book bag filled with school supplies, and bright splashes of vermillion powder on their faces as a congratulatory send-off. Since the School's establishment, 189 students have been through the programme (pre-Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade). The parents' involvement has meant that the whole family benefits from the knowledge picked up at the school: in hygiene/health, nutrition, goat breeding, gardening, literacy.

Along with earlier Duff Kennedy scholarship students, some of the TTSA graduates have now reached the SLC stage (School Leaving Certificate - on completion of Class 10), and are confidently holding their own in these final nationwide exams. It is a dream fulfilled to see the girls not only doing so well, but also receiving the encouragement from their parents to stay in school. We remain determined in our commitment to give them as much support as we can, by seeing them financially through the next phase of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> class. It is a tremendously proud achievement for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and extremely gratifying for us to have been able to provide the opportunity, through the help of donors.



Additional funding by the ITNC (International Trust for Nature Conservation), will help expand the "one tree for every student" plantation programme, (which was getting rather cramped as tree seedlings grew into big, healthy trees -- compounded by the 'cut 1, plant 2' policy!). A banana plantation has also been added to the garden, so students meals have become even more well rounded. Income is earned by the sale of excess produce.

continued...



The Snowball goat breeding project came across some bumps in the road as several of the groups had poor results and their kids didn't snowball (sadly some didn't even survive). These were mostly Mushahar/Majhi parents with generations of fishing experience but little livestock know-how. The sixteen groups have met to discuss the way forward, and have agreed to help and mentor those who are less experienced. The school tree nursery will provide 5-10 seedlings to each group member for fodder to help in stall-feeding.

Thanks to a loyal donor, eye exams have become an annual feature. The technicians tested all of the TTSA School children, plus those in the 3 Community schools guests are supporting - which adds up to hundreds of pairs of eyes.

In its decade and a half of existence, the School has visibly gone from strength to strength, as have the children who have thrived on nutritious meals and blossomed with solid education. Funding of the joint project between Swissair and Tiger Tops has changed shape, however, rolling with the punches of the recession. Although Tiger Tops is no longer in a position to fund 50% of the project, the Swissair Staff Welfare Fund for Children's Relief valiantly continues to raise more than its share of funding for the school, and donors and sponsors have remained committed - so we feel fortunate and grateful. This year we are particularly thankful to a generous benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous .



On behalf of all of the children whose lives have been changed by our free headstart programme and funding for their onward education in Government school, sincere thanks to our donors, supporters and friends. It simply would not have been possible without your help and involvement. You have given a precious and life changing gift to many children who otherwise would not have had the chance.

**continued...**

## ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS IN 3 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Since 1999, through the generosity of guests, Tharu Lodge has been able to reach out annually to 350 more children than its own free pre-school for underprivileged children (Tiger Tops Swissair Pre-School) could accommodate. We are proud and gratified to be able to continue to help out with teachers' salaries in 3 community schools.

These 3 schools started as simple grassroots centres built by the parents themselves. Unable to afford even the modest fees of Government schools, they took the



bull by the horns, constructed their own schools and made plans to pay teachers



with donations of rice. When the villagers found they were not able to barter or pay the teachers as they had hoped, generous guests stepped in to help out.



The three schools provide education for children who are, for the most part, from marginalised tribes. Without these schools, most of the students would never have had the chance. Education and the doors and opportunities it opens would have been beyond their reach. They would have followed in their illiterate parents' footsteps, and come up against dismally unpromising futures.

The schools have gradually grown in size and standard, thanks to the determination of the villagers and the continued commitment of donors.

continued...



All 3 have now been registered with the Government. Two are receiving support for libraries from Room to Read and Read Nepal, and the Bote School now has 4 computers. A positive result of the Maoist insurgency is that the Government has turned its attention to underprivileged groups. The schools are receiving more help from the Government, which has translated into a larger enrollment from poorer groups. A simple meal for the students is being provided to the Mushyar/Majhi and Bote schools but salaries are still not forthcoming.

Annual eye exams for all students and staff in these 3 schools were possible again this year, thanks to the generosity of one of the Lodge's guests, an old friend. And the nimble knitting continues - children in the village can be seen sporting jumpers and hats from the needles of another kind guest.



On behalf of grateful villagers, heartfelt thanks to those who have supported the educational projects. The gift of education has touched, changed and will continue to improve the lives of children from impoverished and marginalised backgrounds who never would have had the chance.

For any of the above projects (the Tiger Tops Swissair School, or the 3 community schools), a personal cheque in any currency payable to "Mountain Travel Nepal P.Ltd. - Swissair School" may be mailed to : Asta Kshetri, Accountant, Tiger Tops Swissair School, PO Box 242, Kathmandu, Nepal. This is the charity account which is authorized to receive foreign exchange remittances from abroad for our educational, health and conservation outreach projects.

Aimee Junker



**Tiger Tops Swissair Pre School**  
**PO Box 242, Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**[www.tigertops.com](http://www.tigertops.com)**