



# Newsletter

November 2016



## Student Showcase 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 19 in NE Portland

Yo Ghana! will be holding its first Student Showcase on Monday, December 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the St. Andrew gymnasium, which is just South of the church at 806 NE Alberta Street in Portland.

Students from St. Andrew Nativity School will present the life histories they have been researching and writing, some from nearby MLK School will read their poems, and some from our other twenty-five Pacific Northwest Schools will be sharing favorite letters from Ghana. African story teller Baba Wague Diakite will perform, and we'll show two new Yo Ghana! videos.

Admission will be free. We shall invite donations toward our very first book: *Yo Ghana! Transformations*, featuring work from some of our 2,500 students to be published in May.

## Our New Schools: Welcome!

Yo Ghana! is delighted to welcome these schools: Abavani JHS, Accra (pictured); Bunda JHS, Kete-Krachi; Community Reading Academy for Girls, Accra; Dahin-Sheli, Tamale; Dannaks SHS, Accra; Kamina Barracks JHS, Tamale; Kwahu Tafo SHS; Presbyterian JHS, Winneba; St. Ann's SHS, Sampa; St. Thomas Aquinas SHS, Accra; Teach for Ghana, Volta Region; University Practice School, Winneba; four Portland Campfire Columbia after-school programs; Dome School, Cave Junction; Fowler MS, Tigard; Heritage HS, Vancouver; Jane Addams MS, Seattle; Renaissance Public Academy, Molalla; Reynolds HS, Troutdale; two Africa House after-school programs, Portland; St. Mary's HS, Portland; two Tigard Girl Scout Troops; and West Sylvan MS, Portland.

These schools come to us through the recommendation of educators such as Dr. Eric Ananga and Mr. Dominic Fordwour and through our workshop at the recent Northwest Conference on Teaching for Social Justice.



## Collaborating



Dambai Demonstration School's JHS students are no longer studying under trees! Yo Ghana! provided some of the cement for the three classrooms' walls.



Local donations built most of Akalove School's computer lab. Yo Ghana! provided the roof.

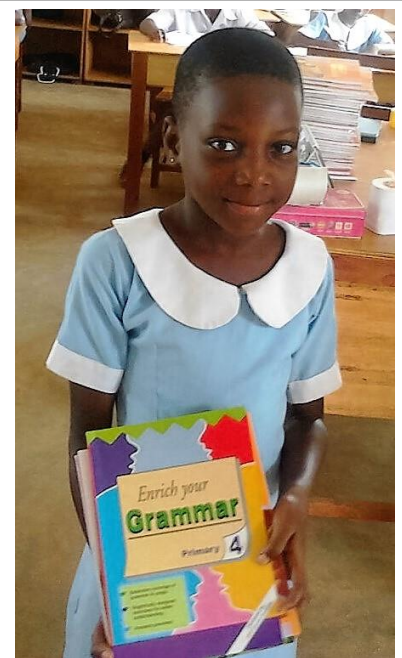


Yo Ghana! helped Ebubonko School finish its computer lab.

We offer modest grants to Ghana schools that have initiated projects like these.



John Doeswijck School has been collecting local donations for years for a computer lab. Yo Ghana! helped to finish it.



ECG School of Tamale has a fund to help students like Miss Farida, who recently lost her father, purchase books and other necessities.

# Connecting



David del Mar and Komi Kalevor presented to the Young Leaders in Action of the World Affairs Council of Oregon. Two fine students, Noah and Ibrahim, have already started volunteering with us.



Students at MLK School and L & A Academy are talking to and seeing each other over Skype! Thank you Noah Kurzenhauser for organizing this project and Ms. Kiera (above) and Mr. Kankam for getting us off to a great start.



Our new Coordinator of Internal Relations, Miss Berthy, has already visited eleven of our Ghana schools, including Presbyterian JHS in Winneba and St. Thomas Aquinas SHS in Accra.



Mr. Essan Weah, former Ghana teacher and headmaster, just visited nine of our schools. Here he is at Columbia River HS.

# Other News

## Welcome, Berthy Kpiebaya!

Coordinator of Internal Affairs Miss Berthy Kpiebaya is our very first National Service Worker. Under the supervision of Dr. Eric Ananga, Miss Berthy is coordinating letter exchanges in Ghana and has already visited many of our Ghana schools (see page 3). Miss Berthy graduated in 2016 from the University of Education, Winneba with a B.A. in Social Studies Education and is working toward "a career that puts me in the position to help young people, especially girls, get a quality education." Her excellent blog is at: <https://sugarkpiebaya.wordpress.com/>.

## Two New Board Members



Mr. Aaron Jones and Miss Dorcas Mensah have joined our board. Aaron brings an extensive background in marketing and has been an enthusiastic supporter of Yo Ghana! from its outset. Dorcas is a recent graduate of Ashesi University and co-founded Starfish Aid, an organization devoted to improving rural Ghana schools. She is a graduate student in African Development at the University of Edinburgh.



## Yo Ghana! Study Abroad Course at PSU

Dr. David del Mar, with the assistance of Dr. Kofi Agorsah and Coordinator of External Relations Madam Lucy Ampate Sarpong, will be offering a study-abroad course through Portland State University from June 19 to July 16. Participants will visit and volunteer at many Yo Ghana! schools. Contact David at [delmard@pdx.edu](mailto:delmard@pdx.edu). There will be a preparatory spring course.

## Support Yo Ghana! While You Shop

Yo Ghana! is a registered charity with Amazon Smile. Just go to "Your Account" on Amazon Smile and search for Yo Ghana! It won't cost you a dime, and it will do us a world of good.

Yo Ghana! facilitates letter and other exchanges between schools in Ghana and the Pacific Northwest and offers modest grants to projects initiated by Ghana Schools.

Yo Ghana! is a 501(c)3 public charity recognized by the IRS.  
Your contributions are tax deductible.

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