

Chinyika Primary School

Monday February 6th, 2006

Today we are leaving early in the morning at 06.30 as the car has been fixed. It was several things to do but the most important was the brakes. One side was totally crashed and we were lucky to be able to drive. We could have been stuck up out there in the middle of nowhere...

According to the plan, we are going to Chinyika Primary School. On the way to the school we are acting as postman again by leaving a letter in a village we were passing. The roads are, as usual, not the best, but now we have a fixed car and that makes us feel more secure. The longer we drive the smaller is the road. We arrive at the school and when going out of the car we notice that we got a flat tyre. There is nothing else to do than using the spare wheel we have on the roof of the car. This is shortly being fixed by Willbroad and Sikiri.



Flat tyre

We also learn that there will not be any seminar at this school today as the school had received another project plan than the one we were holding.

We take a look at the kitchen house and find them using the old 3 stone stove. This will soon be replaced by the new fuel-efficient stove which I and Janet are supposed to help the local community to build. The old kitchen must be rebuilt or a complete new must be built before we return to this school again. The cooks are preparing the lunch and while we are there, the bell rings for lunch. Janet takes the opportunity to serve the children their lunch today, which is maize. The food has been prepared in old pots and it seems like rust and other particles is included in the food, this does really not look nice.



Chinyika old kitchen



Waiting for their turn to be served



"Mama" Janet serving lunch

But, time to go as we need to drive a long distance extra to next school to hold the seminar. We are driving along bumpy and sandy roads and we are driving sometimes through the savannah look a like nature, the only thing missing are the elephants, zebras and giraffes. We can see some monkeys and birds, and the birds have a fantastic color, the wings are neon-blue, I wonder what that bird can be? After a while we are climbing up the mountains and suddenly we are forced to stop, a big truck has problem, but seems not to be serious as he soon starts to drive again.



Truck stop

Later on we are out on the savannah again and the scenery is beautiful with all the ikuyu trees, they have a small crown of leaves but are huge when you look at the diameter which can be several meters. We have a nice overview as we at the moment are on a hill. Sometimes it seems to be hard to find out where the road is, so much sand and no particular road to follow, we are lucky that the driver are very familiar with this area.



Ikuyu tree

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We arrive to the school very late and we explain the reason why. The seminar follows the same pattern as before, James are really a professional teacher and have the skills to both enjoy and encourage the listeners.



James instructing



Time for a laugh



Lovely colors

After the seminar, we take the opportunity to talk to the children who just has finished their day at school and now are supposed to go home. Supposed to, but they think we "wazungo" are so interesting so they stay. We start to greet and shake hands with as we have done at the other schools, this are much appreciated. While we are doing this, a meal is prepared for the attendants of the seminar and the head master sends the children home. Below are some facts about this school;

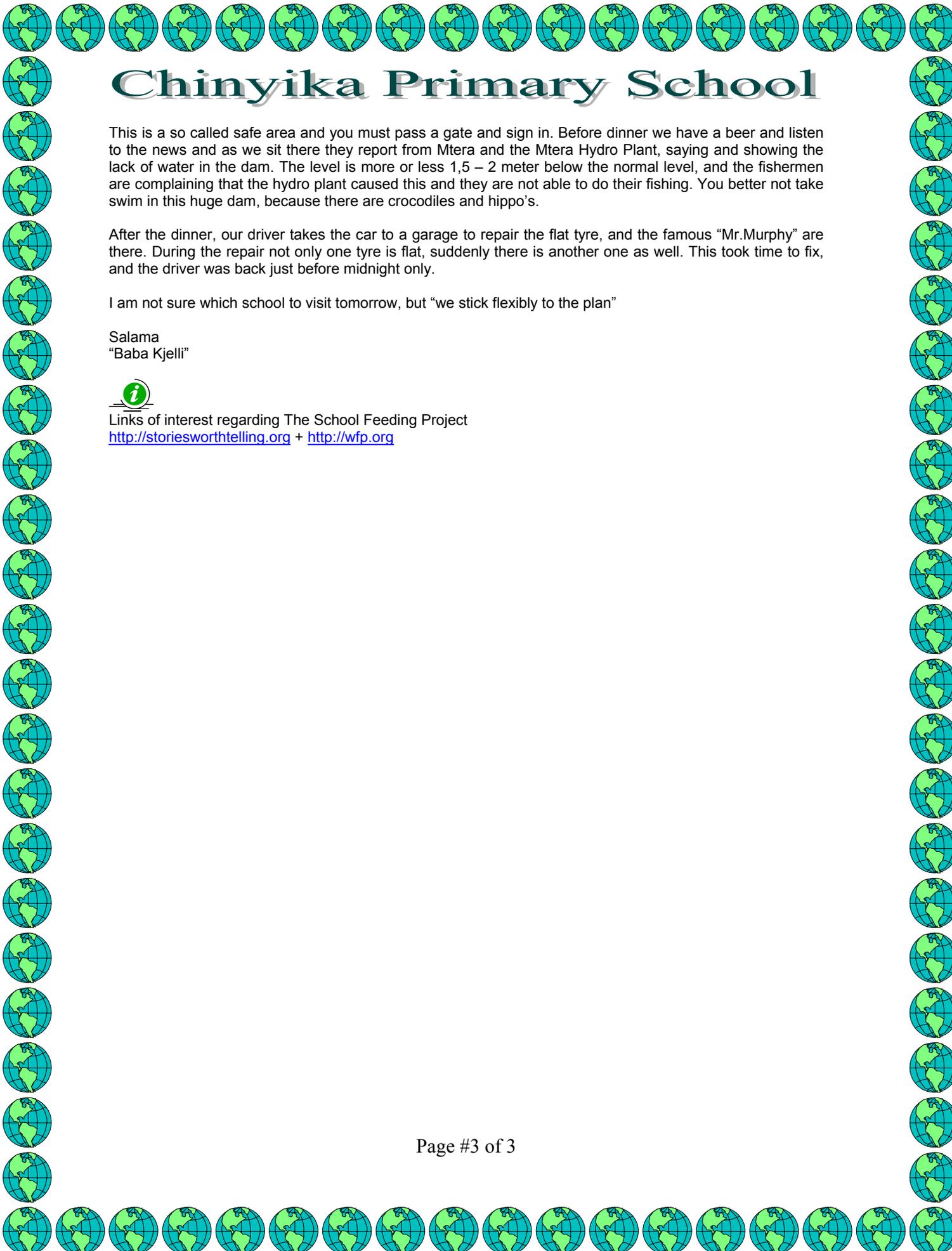
Chinyika Primary School	Pre-primary	Primary	Cobet	Total
Boys	27	431	27	485
Girls	28	427	20	475
Nbr of teachers				14
Total	55	858	47	950 (teachers excl.)

The meal served today is Ogali and some kind of meat, probably goat. As usual, we eat with our (right) hand as the locals do and this is very much appreciated. After the meal we express our thanks for the meal by saying, Asante kwa chakula kizuri, which means, thank you for the good food. During the meal, it seems like nearly one hundred of the pupils have come back again to the school to look at us "wazungo", and once again we are shaking hands and taking photos of them and showing them the pictures. They show an enormous joy over their own and other pictures. After a while they start to sing their school song for us, which have the text "we love our school Chinyika... this of course in Swahili



This is a real killer, and for the second day it is time to shiver again and feel the joy and happiness to be able to be here...

The time is late and we need to go before its getting dark. We are staying overnight at TANESCO rest house located in Mtera. This rest house are monitored by Tanzanian Energy Supply Company Limited and are a very nice and clean place, they have a swimming pool but unfortunately without water. The rest house is only for the personnel working for TANESCO, you may be allowed to stay here but you must apply long time before at the head office in Dar es Salaam, they will there after send a fax to the manager for the plant, informing that we are allowed to stay there.



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This is a so called safe area and you must pass a gate and sign in. Before dinner we have a beer and listen to the news and as we sit there they report from Mtera and the Mtera Hydro Plant, saying and showing the lack of water in the dam. The level is more or less 1,5 – 2 meter below the normal level, and the fishermen are complaining that the hydro plant caused this and they are not able to do their fishing. You better not take swim in this huge dam, because there are crocodiles and hippo's.

After the dinner, our driver takes the car to a garage to repair the flat tyre, and the famous "Mr.Murphy" are there. During the repair not only one tyre is flat, suddenly there is another one as well. This took time to fix, and the driver was back just before midnight only.

I am not sure which school to visit tomorrow, but "we stick flexibly to the plan"

Salama
"Baba Kjelli"



Links of interest regarding The School Feeding Project
<http://storiesworthtelling.org> + <http://wfp.org>