



# The Kate Lynch Scholarship Fund



Assembly at St. Louis School

March 2015

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*Yes We Can*

Barack Obama

*Is féider linn*

Gaelic

*Ndiyo Tunaweza*

Swahili

## KLSF NEWSLETTER

### *Greetings to Family and Friends*

Welcome, *karibu*, to our 2015 Newsletter. The Kate Lynch Scholarship Fund is in its sixth year of supporting students in Tanzania. This year the Fund is supporting 10 students at a cost of \$4,817. Without the generous and loving commitment of family and friends in Canada, Ireland, England, Japan, Brunei and Australia this would not be possible. To date, March 2015, we have awarded scholarships worth \$19,803. Well done to you all! *Asante sana!*

Lavinia

*St. Louis School in Moshi, where most of our students attend, achieved excellent results in the Primary 7 Government Examination (PSLE) in 2014.*

*All 62 candidates from St. Louis passed the examination. The school was placed:*

- 7th of 46 primary schools in the city of Moshi,
- 51st of 927 primary schools in the Kilimanjaro Region and
- 859th of 15,867 primary schools in Tanzania.



Photo by Patrick

### *The Baobab Tree*

The Baobab tree has been called "a defining icon of the African landscape". It is known as the tree of life, with good reason. It can provide shelter, clothing, food and water for the animal and human inhabitants of the African Savannah regions. The bark and stem are used for making cloth and rope. The leaves are used for medicines. The fruit is edible and full of vitamin C. It can store hundreds of litres of water. Mature trees are usually hollow, providing living space for animals and humans. Some trees live to be 1000 years old.

Kate Lynch Scholarship Fund

1-639 Water Street, Peterborough, Ontario K9H 3M9 Canada  
Telephone: +1-705-755-1054 Email: hann@nexicom.net



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## Visit to Tanzania

In January I had the good fortune to be able to return to Tanzania. It had been seven years since my volunteer-teaching experience there. I was delighted to be accompanied by two of my sons, Fergus and Patrick. The main purpose of the visit was to meet with and encourage the ten students sponsored by the KLSF.

In all we visited five schools. First to St. Victor's Academy in Dar es Salaam where we met Irene, now in Grade 5 and doing well.



Four teachers, four friends



Flaviana with Neema

This was followed by a seven-hour hair-raising bus ride to Lushoto in the Usambara Mountains. There we had the pleasure of meeting Clementine, now in her first year of secondary school at Kifungilo Girls' Convent Boarding School. We see a great future ahead for this lovely young lady.

Next day, a further six-hour challenging bus ride to our final destination, Moshi. Here we were warmly welcomed by Flaviana Msuya, the head teacher at St. Louis School, at whose home we stayed. For the next five days, we met with the remaining eight of our sponsored students.

Catherine is in first year at Majengo Secondary School. We toured the school and met with some of the teachers. We spent time at Selemani's school, Moshi Technical School. We received good reports about him from his English and Geography teachers.

Then, on to St. Louis School where I was happy to renew my friendships with the teachers. We had encouraging meetings with our students: Gloria, Neema, Amina, Ally, Zahla and Maureen and also with their mothers or grandmothers.

Maureen lost both parents in 2014; Neema is also an orphan. Both of them will begin secondary school next year.

The visit to Tanzania exceeded all our expectations and for this we are truly grateful.



Catherine and her mother

## I Am An African

*I am an African  
Not because I was born there  
But because my heart beats with Africa's  
I am an African  
Not because my skin is black  
But because my mind is engaged by Africa  
I am an African  
Not because I live on its soil  
But because my soul is at home in Africa*

*When Africa weeps for her children  
My cheeks are stained with tears  
When Africa honours her elders  
My head is bowed in respect  
When Africa mourns for her victims  
My hands are joined in prayer  
When Africa celebrates her triumphs  
My feet are alive with dancing*

*I am an African  
For her blue skies take my breath away  
And my hope for the future is bright  
I am an African  
For her people greet me as family  
And teach me the meaning of community  
I am an African  
For her wildness quenches my spirit  
And brings me closer to the source of life*

*When the music of Africa beats in the wind  
My blood pulses to its rhythm  
And I become the essence of sound  
When the colours of Africa dazzle in the sun  
My senses drink in its rainbow  
And I become the palette of nature  
When the stories of Africa echo round the fire  
My feet walk in its pathways  
And I become the footprints of history*

*I am an African  
Because she is the cradle of our birth  
And nurtures an ancient wisdom  
I am an African  
Because she lives in the world's shadow  
And bursts with a radiant luminosity  
I am an African  
Because she is the land of tomorrow  
And I recognise her gifts as sacred*

by Wayne Visser  
1970 -