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Review of 2069.

**Continued SLC success:** For the sixth year in succession we were the highest scoring school in the District. With 4 Distinctions and 12 1st Division grades students, parents and teachers are to be congratulated.

**Target for 2070:** Maintain the excellent work.

**School Enrollment:** For the third year in succession we have enrolled more students, in all Grades.

**Target for 2070:** 260 students.

**A Government Target:** Enroll all the local students into your school.

**Our response:** We did so FOUR years ago.

**A Government Target:** The average grade achieved by Grade 5 should be 80%.

**Our response:** In 2068 we achieved 68.76%.

**Target for 2069:** We aim to achieve an average grade of 75%.

**The new hostel:** Work begun last year, this year we have added glazing and more lighting.

**Target for 2070:** Work was suspended due to lack of funds. This year we hope to complete the dining hall. We need to raise seven lakh from community sources – your help would be much appreciated.

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**Message from Purna Gautaum, the Headteacher**

I am delighted to present the first of our regular newsletters from Melamchi Ghyang Secondary School.

Our goal is to provide quality education to the deprived children of remote communities. To achieve our goal we have faced a lot of obstacles in the past. Although we have to enhance our teaching and learning methods. We are trying our best to take new concepts from qualified volunteers and inspectors. We are consciously developing a child friendly environment. Our current focus is student participation. We are also learning by doing. The School Administration supports this development. SMC, PTA and the parents are an essential part of the school. Every decision of the SMC is followed by school and the School makes the same commitment for the coming academic year 2070 BS.

We continue to achieve the best result in the past SLC board examination; in the face of insufficient infrastructure and a lack of resources. This year we plan to develop our hostel, internet facilities, classrooms and library. In the near future we will have a well managed library and computing mark ledger system. I am sure that the hard labor of the teachers and cooperation of the students will keep continue. We aim to match the magnificent results of the past. The concept of behavioral and vocational education will continue to gain prominence. We invite more feedback from parents and individuals in the coming academic.

We have a website, see Page 4. You will be able to download further copies from the website. Contributions from parents would be welcome for our next edition.
Excursion to Pokhara, Lumbini and Terai.

Five teachers and 35 students from Grades 9 and 10 enjoyed the trip which lasted 6 days and 5 nights. It covered nearly 1200 kms and involved some long bus journeys. That was not a problem as the group sang, enjoyed the views and gently teased each other. A few slept...... They all met at the school on 19 to 25th of Kartik 2069 and trekked into Thimbu. Then a bus to Kathmandu and a night spent there. Next morning we met at Chuchepati, Helambu Bus stop, we took a bus to Butwal via Mugling. One night in Butwal and in the morning onto Lumbini, the birth place of the Buddha. This was described as very beautiful with a large number of stupa and monastries. The whole world sponsors a site of worship and the world meets there. From there we moved on to Nepalgung for an over night stop. At Nepalgung we slept in one large room which overlooked the narrow, busy and noisy streets. The next day was onwards to Mahendranagar with a long welcome bridge at Chisapani. This was another beautiful location - because of Karnali river. We are now in the far west of Nepal. Our target. For Pasang Shyangba Mahendranagar was a serious disappointment. The city is very close to India and did not feel Nepalese. The culture, the feel and the language were all alien to him. After a night at Mahendranagar it was back to Butwal and on to Pokhara. Despite this being the height of the tourist season; Pokhara was very beautiful. Pasang commented on the change of ethnic origin, faces became Mongolian in Pokhara. We visited The Bat Cave and watched the Davis waterfall. Later in the day we visited the Himalayan Mountaineering Museum; an interesting and challenging site. Then as the evening came in we drove up and watched the paragliders soar on the evening updrafts. This was the last night and a trip back to Kathmandu lined us up for a drive to Thimbu and the walk home. For all it had been a very memorable trip and a big Thank You needs to go to all the staff. For Pasang the bridge at Karnali river was the most spectacular sight. The is a first hanging bridge in Nepal and spanning 400 ms it was an exciting passage with spectacular views.

Pasang also found Nepalgung an unpleasant experience because of the frantic, noisy and polluted nature of the town. The group stayed in trekking hostels and eat Nepali food.

Taken from an interview with Pasang Shyangba.

A student report for this trip is on the next page.
Excursion Report from Grade 9.

This trip to Western Nepal was fantastic and very supportive of our education; it gave us cultural insights, which were both new and challenging. Our first visit was to Lumbini; there were many stupas and monasteries erected by foreigners. This reflects the historical and cultural importance of Lumbini as the birthplace for the promotion of world peace. It is the birthplace of the Lord Gautama Buddha. Then we moved onto Nepalgung, which is popular as a center for Nepali industry. Even if it is popular there are some obstacles due to its rapid development. These include an increase in pollution, over urbanization, over population and the mis-management of the infra structure throughout the city. However the main attraction is the Bageswori Temple. Then we moved on to Tanakpur near to Madenhranagar within the Mahatali zone. There we felt very sad when we saw the border encroachment by India. This dam is a complete mis-match with the lay of the land. This clash mostly affects the Nepali people; the rusting and collapsed pylons are an eye sore. The waters from the Mahakali river are taken by India over all the year. If there is too much water it is dumped in Nepal causing floods, during the summer season. It seems necessary that the Nepali government should revoke the previous treaty and negotiate a new treaty. This must be beneficial to both Nepal and India.

Our final destination was the Switzerland of Nepal – Pokhara. The wonderful features and lakes at Pokhara have made it the tourist destination; it is a genuine source of economic development with the country. This tour has given us a new insight into the historical, cultural and geographical map of our country. It has helped to form an understanding of the need to focus our government’s attention on our own sovereignty. Finally we would like to say that every field of our studies would benefit from such an expansion of our knowledge and understanding. We look forward to such a future.

From Ram Mani and Ganesh Jyoti (District Topper 2068).

New School Management Committee.

They hold their posts for three years. We are delighted by their decisions to join us and look forward to their contributions over the coming years. Some 40 parents attended an active and stimulating meeting on 2069/10/26 (February 8th 2013)

From Left to right: Indra Dev Yadav, in charge of the election procedure.

Members: Kanchha Babu Sherpa, Kami Lama – Founder, Pasang Temba Lama - Chair Person, Mrs Pema Buti Sherpa - female Member, Kinjo Tashi Sherpa - Teacher Member, No Babu Sherpa, Dawa Jhangbu Sherpa, Lari Sherpa, Purna Gautam - Secretary, Founder and Principal.
Terminal Test 2 Results day

Nothing demonstrates the enthusiasm for education within the community than the attendance on Wed 19 Dec 2012. Although the weather was warm there was a chill wind; some 50 parents attended and all the students. Of course there were smiles and some disappointed faces; however the detail of the marks was the focus and what will need to be achieved with the fast approaching 3rd Terminal Tests.

Annual Picnic at Bhieding.

The weather was cold but bright when we met at the school for a 9 o’clock walk to the picnic site. We had been asked to wear shoes; most people did! It was an hour long stroll with a line of 250 students, 15 staff and some SMC members. We all carried something cauliflowers, pans, tomatoes, rice, the large pans were carried by students. There was some snow and ice, a little slipping and some snow balls flew. We arrived and many people got to work, collecting water, lighting fires and preparing the first of three excellent meals (Thanks to Tashi 😊). The students looked around, found vantage points and settled down. Two male yaks appeared and were happy to be left alone. Football, chess and parachute games were started and much enjoyed by everyone. The food kept appearing, large hot quantities of food. The football was fiercely played, occasionally the ball disappeared down the hill and we all sat down for a welcome break.
By 3:30 it was time for a hot tea and the walk back to the school. The last few people came down by moonlight.
An excellent day much enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to all.

Our New Website.

www.melamchighyang.edu.np

Please visit us and leave a comment.
Science Exhibition.

A major innovation from 2068 was the Science Exhibition, conceived and managed, very well in difficult circumstances, by Bijan Dhakal. There were 19 demonstrations covering a wide range of practical work; all the ‘stalls’ were managed by students who were expected to answer any questions about their demonstration. Staff and students circulated on a rota system. Staff were asked to score each demonstration, so we had a winner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Some of the Topics demonstrated.</th>
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<tr>
<td>The laboratory preparation of Oxygen. O₂</td>
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<tr>
<td>The preparation of a permanent slide from an onion cell.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electro magnetism.</td>
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</tbody>
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The understanding of the students’ was a compliment to both themselves and their staff. There had to be a winner and the team of Pasang Yangjen and Diki Dolma were narrow winners. Well done to them.

We look forward to next year’s exhibition, it was exciting stuff.

Introduction of IT skills to the staff and students.

With a retired English Computer teacher, Corin Hardcastle, volunteering at the school for 6 months; we are able to introduce ICT skills to both students and staff. Two laptops were donated by the Yorkshire scouts and 5 have been donated by Helambu Education Livelihood Project (HELP) we now have 6 working laptops, although only 4 chargers. Mikkhael Hentze left his laptop after he had volunteered earlier in the year. Karma Sherpa organized it’s transition to English (from Danish). It is now a Staff laptop. AVG anti-virus software has been downloaded and is being installed on all laptops. Staff, student and some community training is taking place. The benefits of using computers are becoming apparent. The school hopes to appoint an ICT teacher for the coming academic year.
Developments for 2070

Three Science labs are planned:
The existing wooden facilities are adequate. The students would benefit from additional practical work. The school plans to move into the Secondary Course for Grades 11 and 12. To meet District requirements we would need to build 3 further more technical laboratories. These would need higher levels of Health and Safety than our existing lab.

Hostel
Windows have been glazed, lighting installed in rooms and we are ready for the next phase. For both security and safety reasons we need to erect a solid fence around the newest hostel.

Dining hall
There is a little final fixing to do, a floor to finish and then all we need is lots of furniture and storage for both food and wood. The benefits to the school of having such a dry multi-function space are clear to those who have lived in Melamchi. Finally Tashi would have the kitchen he deserves.

Cinema
One of our much appreciated charities KetaKeti, in Belgium, is raising funds to buy us a projector. With the completion of the dining hall we will be able to show films! This facility will greatly increase the available activities during the short winter days. It will be open for community use.

Courses
We intend to introduce the Secondary Course for Grades 11 and 12, from Spring 2014. The key areas for our development are Science, Management and Arts. We will keep you up to date with this exciting development.

We, in line with Government regulations, are introducing a 50 marks compulsory ICT course for Grades 6 – 8. We plan to introduce a 100 mark elective ICT course for Grades 6 – 12.

Staffing needs for the coming year.
We would like to appoint the following staff:

A Biology teacher, qualified to Masters level.
A Physics teacher, qualified to Masters level.
A Chemistry teacher, qualified to Masters level.

An IT / ICT teacher, qualified to Masters level.

A Cultural teacher, qualified in keyboards, harmonium and guitar.
References will be expected.
More details and application forms will be available from the school and interested parties will be able to download theses from the website.

Donors make a big difference.
Eviline Muller and her organization Nepal helf (German) gave us a very solid foundation by giving two teachers' salary and school uniform for 50 children from 2000 AD to 2002 AD.
Hilde and her organization Keta ketti (Belgium) have supported four teachers by paying their salaries.
Further both Nepal helf and Keta ketti have supported four teachers by paying their salaries.
Further both Nepal helf and Keta ketti have funded scholarships for poor and intelligent children from this village to further study in Kathmandu.
CAN (Community Action Nepal) UK based organization, funded the construction of classrooms and paid two teachers' salaries from 2000 AD. Doug Scott, founder of CAN, has shown consistent and generous support.

Pam, Catherine, Sandra and Gwenda a group of four ladies from the UK and her organization, Nepalese Children's Trust, have supported Kanchha Babu Sherpa during his five years of UK based training to become a qualified doctor at Manchester University UK. In addition they have funded the construction of the school library and purchased apple trees for the community. They are very keen to establish a good library at the school.
HELP/Mondo foundation (UK) has provided both laptops and furniture. Thanks for their magnificent contribution and the precious time they have given supporting us.

Volunteers are very welcome.
A briefing paper with lots of useful information will be on the Community Action Nepal website very soon.
We accept only experienced teachers and suggest a three to six month visit. This gives you enough time to become familiar with our systems, staff and to pick up some Nepali.
Teachers in Music / Modern Foreign Languages (French, German or Spanish) / Sports and IT would compliment the existing offer.

Finally

The school looked lovely in the snow.

Photos donated by Bijan Dhakal, Purna Gautam and Corin Hardcastle.