

Nourishing Minds

A Quarterly Newsletter published by the Jifunze Project

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The Jifunze Project works alongside individuals living in under-served parts of rural Tanzania to help them create innovative, empowering and sustainable educational opportunities that will expand their possibilities for livelihood and enrich their lives.

Volume 4 Issue 4

October 2006

New District Commissioner Visits CERC



Lt. Henjewele speaks to gathered staff

The Jifunze Project and the CERC were recently paid a visit by newly appointed Kiteto District Commissioner, Lt. John. B. Henjewele. The visit was part of district-wide tour introducing Lt. Henjewele to his new position.

The District Commissioner (DC) has a very important role in the governing of the district. Acting as administrator for the district, he directly represents the county's President. As such, he is responsible for the development of the district in all sectors, including education. Given that CERC management is the collaborative effort of the Jifunze Project, a local community-based Steering Committee and the Kiteto District Council (KDC), Lt. Henjewele's visit held much significance.

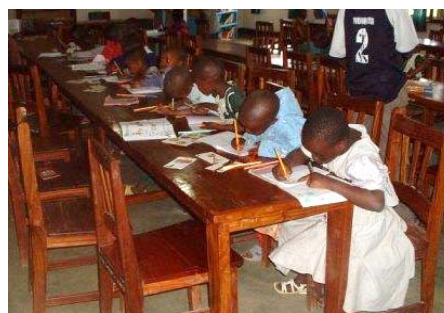
After touring the CERC grounds and complex, the new DC and Jifunze/CERC staff sat down together for a formal tea. Included in the ceremony were speeches from Jifunze Management Advisor, Mary Malekela and Lt. Henjewele himself. Both emphasized the great accomplishments of the CERC and a dedication to the continued cooperation of the local government and the Jifunze Project. In a letter written following his visit, Lt. Henjewele said, "I congratulate you, the management and staff who are responsible, through discipline and complete accountability, for the great success of the CERC. Furthermore, I have been pleased with the way in which donor funds have been so well and honestly put to use."

We, too, were very pleased with his visit. This opportunity to meet Lt. Henjewele served only to further strengthen ties between the local government and the Jifunze Project.

Bright Afternoons in the Primary and Children's Room

The primary room members couldn't be happier with the advent of new programming in their corner of the CERC. Between the English program and *Elimu Vitendo*, the members are being actively engaged in every aspect of their CERC experience.

July 2006 marked the official start of the Primary English program. After completing the preliminary



Students busy at work in English class

round of classes in 2005 and developing a curriculum to suit the specific needs of our members, the English program is now fully functioning. Three classes are given each week

to respective age groups with class sizes consistently averaging about 10-12 students, though oftentimes having as many as 16 students. The instructors of the program, CERC Teacher Joyce Nnko and Jifunze volunteers CJ Fravil and Modesta Kuzenzia, devote their time and energy to keeping the classes lively and stimulating. The effects of this can be seen whenever class time rolls around: students race to the English corner of the room as soon as they see the instructors coming. Every week students can look forward to new activities, worksheets, cartoons and stories.

Another program brightening the afternoons of our primary room members is a realization of *Elimu Vitendo*, the "active learning" program developed by the CERC teaching staff earlier this year. As part of their regular CERC experience, members usually spend the last 30 minutes of their day enjoying the educational playground. *Michezo* or "games" provides more structure to this time. Incorporating activities such as musical chairs and duck-duck-goose enriches their playtime by teaching them

