



Little Sonam Tsering on the way to Kapuche glacier lake – read all about his journey later on. At first, start with us the adventure of the „Mustang House“

And we're off! Schule macht Schule Newsletter February 2023

Dear supporters and friends of the Medical Centre School in Jharkot, dear students, parents and teachers of Musisches Gymnasium,

Sometimes we question whether our peaceful little Jharkot project is meaningful in the midst of everything happening in the world today. But when we receive news and photos from over there, our doubts vanish: yes, it has real meaning!

It feels good to look to the future and keep focused on our obtainable goal: giving these children as much support as possible on their journey through life, so that they can be happier people in a perhaps safer, calmer world too ...

In just a few days, we – Wolf and Christina – will be heading to Nepal again, because things are really getting going with the construction of the winter school. This is the focus of this newsletter, along with news of a really grand achievement by the children.

As always, enjoy!

1.	<i>And we're off: the blueprint is done!</i>	1
2.	<i>Money talk: Building blocks and ARTificial building blocks</i>	2
3.	<i>It's all about the children – and they were hiking!</i>	3
4.	<i>Please and thank you – this time it's especially urgent</i>	4

Until recently washing and bathing day was a real endeavour at the winter school. This year there's at least a shower in the converted workshop - though it's cold. There will be two proper bathrooms in the new residential house!

1. And we're off: the blueprint is done!

Last time, we told you all about our new plans for the winter school under the heading "A workshop becomes a school and a new house is made": the winter school would be run in the grounds of the FWHC Children's Village in Bhakunde with an adapted workshop serving as classrooms and a boarding house to be built as a home for our children.

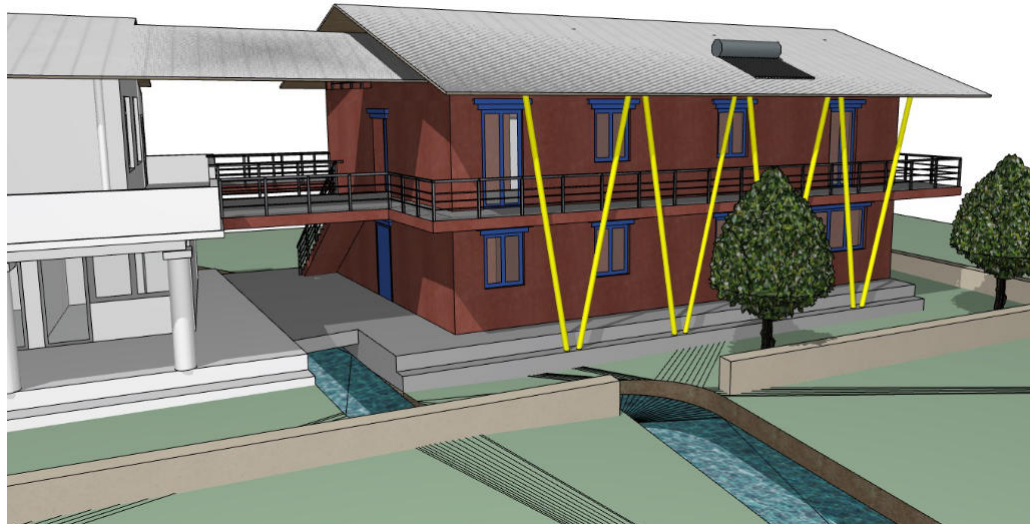


In the intervening months the children have settled in wonderfully well to what will remain a somewhat provisory setup this year (learning and living in a former workshop) and they took no time at all in making friends with the children at the Children's Village. We'll be able to share our first-hand stories of this when we return from Nepal!

Christoph Brandstätter, Salzburger architect and long-time supporter of *Schule macht Schule*, kept his promise and found a sound solution for the difficult plot of land, which is functional and modern but at the same time makes reference to the existing workshop building and elements of traditional construction in Mustang. For that reason, our boarding school building will be known as "Mustang House". If you'd like to find out more, click on [News on our brand-new website for the building](#).

... Of course it's not been as simple as it all sounds though. Christoph's plans had already been completed (as they can be seen on the building's website) when it turned out that, despite previous enquiries, the stream cannot run beneath the building! It must be moved to between the school and boarding school buildings. It wasn't a case of back to the drawing board, but did mean a lot more work for Christoph.

The application is now going through the relevant authorities in Nepal – keep your fingers crossed!



The renewed plan for Mustang House - the residential house for the children during winter school. On the left, the former school now converted to a school. On the ground floor are the kitchen, dining room (which also serves as prayer room), guest and staff accommodation. The bedrooms and washrooms are on the first floor. The blue window frames reflect a motif from Mustang.

2. Money talk: Building blocks and ARTificial building blocks

Even though we don't have to buy a plot of land, the winter school will still cost around 150,000 Euros. The detailed cost estimate from the Nepalese building engineers (excluding furniture and appliances) totalled an estimated requirement of €100,000 to €110,000, depending on the exchange rate. Since construction costs are almost always higher than estimated, we have allowed a certain amount for contingencies.

So where is the money coming from? In recent years *Schule macht Schule* has built up its savings. However, that money is intended to provide for the children and staff for a year, in case our support has to come to an end.

We would like to find the money for the construction from different sources:

- **Public funding:** we have submitted a funding application for 20,000 Euros to the Development Policy Advisory Board of the State of Salzburg - we have great hopes for this.
- **Sponsoring:** a very significant amount, which we cannot disclose, has been donated by former Musisches Gymnasium student Michael Gordon. Together with his company Amata AG, he is our first sponsor. We're looking for more! Martin Seibt, communication trainer and a long-time friend of the project, is in the process of putting together a sponsor packet, with which we are looking to drum up interest - from companies in and around Salzburg in particular.



Photos from our very first trip to Jharkot in 2008, when we gained building experience with the children through play. Bhujung (above) now runs a small textile shop in Jomsom, Pema Dechen (bottom left), has two children and works as a kindergarten teacher in Lubra, and Dolma will soon complete her studies to be an Amchi...



We also have great hopes for lots of individual donations – and our ARTificial building blocks. And our biggest hope is you!

- **Every Euro is a building block, every Euro counts!** Here's what your donation can do:
 - 5 € buys 5 kg reinforcement irons for an earthquake-safe structure, 12 € buys a shower head and fitting.
 - 30 € finances 1 m² tile floor, including installation, 130 € pays for a solid wooden door of good quality.
 - 350 € allows for a 2000 l water tank.
- **Turn works of art into building blocks!**

A range of established and up-and-coming artists, including students from the Musikisches Gymnasium and a professor at the Academy of Art, have donated more than 100 works of art, as building blocks for the winter school so to speak. We are now giving them away as "ARTificial" building blocks.

If you donate more than 100 Euros, you are free to choose one of these ARTificial building blocks as a token of our thanks. Click on **Kunst & Helfen** (Art & Help) on our building website to find out more about this fundraising campaign: Take the opportunity to browse all the wonderful ARTificial building blocks available!

Do take part! Send your donation directly to the SmS donation account:
Schule macht Schule | Volksbank Salzburg
IBAN: AT09 4501 0000 0811 1486 | Reference: Winterschule

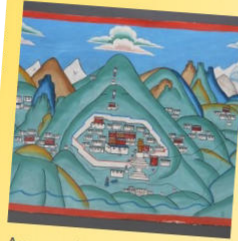
... or, do you prefer Paypal? [Here's our Paypal donation page >](#)

Spread the word about the winter school building project. Share our information with friends and family and anyone else who could be interested. There's no time like the present, so do it now!

www.bau.schule-macht-schule.at

Kunst & Helfen - Ihr Dankeschön ab

Unsere (Kunst)Bausteine sind ein besonderes Dankeschön für Ihren Beitrag. Aus den (Kunst)Bausteinen auf dieser Seite können Sie wählen, wenn Ihre Spende ab 100 € ist. Wenn Sie jedoch Ihr Wunsch-Dankeschön bei den (Kunst)Bausteinen ab 100 € wählen, erklären wir [hier](#).



Anonym (tibetisch) | Das Kloster Rongbuk



Brandstätter E. | lebt und liebt



Brandstätter E. | Blumen



Edermayr J. | Lagune



Edermayr J. | schiuma



Egermann-Bie Gradisca



Gasser H. | Schattendasein



Hofmann-Molis



There were a number of obstacles to overcome on this hike - and a head for heights was necessary too...

3. It's all about the children – and they were hiking!

In October last year, the children worked particularly hard over two days, going from village to village with their teachers at Diwali. They danced and sang untiringly at all the houses in return for sweet treats and gifts of money. A tradition akin to carol singing, which had an unbelievable result!

Together with their teachers they discussed what they should do with the money they had collected and decided on a short trip. The children were also given their say on the destination, choosing Lake Kapuche, the lowest glacier lake in the world.



In January the time had come. And what a trip it was! Four days hiking up hill and down dale, past precipices that take your breath away when you watch the videos. Arriving at mountain huts at twilight, sitting around campfires, enjoying wonderful food – hunger is the best seasoning! And then dancing, sleeping on mattresses on the floor and then heading off again on the next leg ...

The whole project family was there except for the Amchi: the children, the teachers, the cooks. And as reinforcement, Ngawang Tsering, who grew up in the project and is now making a living as a Tanka painter.

The children's hard work at Diwali made all this possible – impressive!

4. Please and thank you – this time it's especially urgent

We're delighted to be able to tell you all about Schule macht Schule and the children in Jharkot with this newsletter. We're grateful for your interest – and we hope for your involvement, your contribution to Mustang House, the winter school for the young children in our care.

If you already support the project – perhaps even regularly – and a further financial contribution is not possible, then please help us to spread the word to more people – the more personal and direct the appeal, the better our chances of eliciting further support.

By the way: three little boys are still without godparents! And we're looking for volunteers too – there's a slot over the summer for someone with a taste for adventure, as well as from October onwards.

On behalf of the children and everyone involved in the project, thank you for all your support, be it moral or financial!

Kind regards,

Wolf Pichlmüller

Christina Klaffinger



www.schule-macht-schule.at  www.facebook.com/schulemachtschule

Donation account at Volksbank Salzburg:

Schule macht Schule | IBAN: AT09 4501 0000 0811 1486 | BIC: VBOEATWW

Subscribe or unsubscribe to our newsletter: just send an email with the subject "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" to team@schule-macht-schule.at