

## PARTNERSHIP VISIT TO

### GORDON SCHOOLS AND RHYNIE PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOTLAND.

The Welwitchia Partners of British Council Connecting Classroom program undertook a exchange visit to Scotland last year. Communication both locally and with the Scottish partners were worth mentioning. This contributed in overwhelming success of the visit. Transfers from Windhoek to the Airport was arranged timely, thus we could catch our plane on time and back upon return.

Having enjoyed our long but enjoyable flight we arrived at the airport and connect to our two hours flight to Aberdeen . Partnership Co-coordinator Mr. Adam Sutcliff awaited us at the airport and we were soon on our way to the lovely Huntly. Our host teachers who eagerly awaited their African partners were soon at our service back in Huntly, to our warm reception at their houses.

The first day at our partner schools was a great success, who still remains in our minds, What we could mention as a great success story is the learner's active involvement, leading the ceremony, and performing greatly throughout in a colourful way. We never imagined that today's generation could be so proud of their tradition and cultures and performed it in such a wonderful, amazing way. As our partners turned us into sweet tooth's we enjoyed every meal and the sweets which were to our service in every corners. The cool Scottish behaviour could be felt with ever friendly students who were so eager to learn and assist us in a wonderful way.

Partnership programs were discussed and all the parties agreed on the programs which was the main aim of the partnership. The activities that our partner schools students undertake are more educational, towards building children emotionally, psychologically and physically.

Another success story was our visit to Mr. John Gordons farm, although the weather was not on our side. What is so amazing is how productive he is farming on such a small hectares of land. He was able to share his success story with us.

The visit to Rhynie Primary School was like a cherry on a cream. The warm reception, our involvement in their classrooms activities are worth mentioning. The interviews with the local journalist, is the key testimony of how much we need to learn about one another and how much there is to share.

A very strict and friendly Principal as we (The Namibian Partners) has named her is find at Books Abroad. With their warm reception and eagerness they possess a special place in our hearts. We managed to walk away with materials we needed the most. Kindly express our sincere appreciation and thanks to Books Abroad Staff.

What we could not left out from our fruitful visit is our outing to the whisky brewery. After all to be treated to the Scottish sensation Haggis, by our partner teacher at their home. One culture of the Scotch is warm welcoming reception culture.

At Gordon schools we were prepared for the first Scottish dance. First having up and downs we master the routines in great ways. The concert which was organized in our honour was another partnership success. Having the whole community behind the partnership is worth to the project's team success. Community involvement and support was surely felt.

Our partners had their whole family behind their backs. This was noticeable with our visit to Aberdeen led by the partner teacher Tracy and her Boyfriend, who eagerly and tolerantly spent their time and energy in showing us around. The visit to the Art Galary was wonderfull. We learned about Scottish Art and how modern techniques compliment the other.

At primary schools we had time to talk to learners in different subjects who were eager to ask and learn more about their partner countries and their fellow learners. It is amazing to note how much the partner hosts had done to acquaint their learners about the other partner schools countries. The learners were very interesting and so they also learned and recorded greetings and counting in the Namibian local Language (Damara) and Armarick The Ethiopian Language. What we learned from the partners and which we by all means will try is not to leave learners without a teacher teahing, if the teacher is absent for one or the other reason. To our amazement we learned that our partners have support teachers for those individual learners who cannot cope who move with them time in and out. Concerning discipline and admin we got ideas and programs from the partners which we need to revise and incorporate in our schools and classrooms from the partnership towards improving better quality education.

Where ever we went we met eager and helpful learners and the community at large at our service. Gift packets from Schools and our host family's added finally to our painful and sad departure back to our destinations.

The only hint we would give towards the project is to have the visit extended to 2 weeks if possible. Hence we have lot to plan properly and need to be involve actively in and out of the classrooms.

On this note we want to extent our sincere appreciation and gratitude and congratulate your for your successful organization. We look forward to your visit to Namibia.