



SANTA MARIA SECONDARY SCHOOL-WATULUMA
PRIVATE MAIL BAG
ALOTAU 211 – GOODENOUGH ISLAND
MILNE BAY PROVINCE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

DEAREST MR & MRS HARRY GRAEPEL AND FRIENDS FROM AUSTRALIA,

We are writing to acknowledge your effort, gratitude and the donations you made available and received from friends and sent and continue to send to our school.

Since the introduction of the new PNG curriculum and the change of secondary status which our school is into we struggled to obtain much needed materials for our students learning as apart from Government subsidy, no help at all has come directly from government or its line agencies that could help us implement the upper secondary curriculum and continue the lower secondary curriculum. Our dreams of educating our students was boosted and we were motivated when you came along to support us in terms of reading books, teaching and learning resources, computers, desks, chairs, stationery, sports equipment and many other materials we cannot name all but a few which supported and continues to support us in our teaching and learning of our students. It has changed some of our strategies and introduced a variety.

Our students now have a variety of resource books and the stationery helped in many ways gave variety to their project work, when it comes to displaying their research or assignments or concept diagrams etc. In fact the desks we received helped so much too, we usually are short of desks now that the free education policy is in place we have overcrowding in a class and our students share sometimes 3 to a desk which was too crowded thanks now they are able to sit one to a desk. A set of desks and chairs we received too are now used for special cases such as National Examinations; Two/three years ago we borrow desks from the Grade 9's to have students sit for exams and our Grade 9/11 students had to sit on the floor for a week; that problem is now history, thanks to you and the kindness of our friends in Australia everyone is not affected.

Our Governments policy did not help much at all with resources such as desks and curriculum books. In fact the resource books we received from Australia are being used by us to implement the new curriculum as they are relevant in most subjects; for example – Language and Literature, Science- biology, chemistry and physics, Geography, Agriculture , Home economics, Mathematics to name a few.

We usually use the books to design teaching, learning and assessment materials and this has helped a lot in measuring our students learning fairly.

Our computer classes are also very interesting three to four years ago six students share a desk top. Today one student to a desk top and they are using the computers to do research work and are able to operate basic key functions of how to use a computer. Our Computer lab is always full during the lesson and free times. This has added very much a variety and bonus to our students learning. Some of us teachers use power point based lessons, using computers instead of the traditional use of black board and chalk this strategy has motivated teaching and learning.

Sports is one of the favorite pass time for many of our students and with the new materials too we introduced games such as cricket, athletics, rugby touch apart from the traditional soccer and volley/net ball.

We have also our feeder elementary and primary schools nearby whom we depend on to start the students with basic reading and numeracy skills; (we have found that many of our students lack proper reading and basic English and numerical skills) we did held several in-services with the teachers to link our teaching so that we can improve our students learning but due to our geographical setting and resources we could not hold continuous in-services and so we stopped for a while but with the new books and teaching and learning materials we received; we have identified what we could find as relevant to the elementary and primary level and have gone ahead to share with them the resources of which the schools were so much happy to receive; the indicators of this program will be

WITH LOVE AND MANY THANK YOU
TEACHERS OF SANTA MARIA-WATULUMA
"Success Through Love"



SANTA MARIA SECONDARY SCHOOL-WATULUMA

PRIVATE MAIL BAG
ALOTAU 211 – GOODENOUGH ISLAND
MILNE BAY PROVINCE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

evident in the coming years and we are looking forward to seeing the outcome once they enroll here after completing their basic education.

We will go back to the curriculum; you know our education sector we found and continue to find was tasked to implement this curriculum which did not have enough or at all teaching and learning resources to back it up;

- ☛ The books available here are so much expensive (schools do not have the financial capacity to afford a class set)
- ☛ Some subject departments struggled to get materials to teach effectively (Business studies, Agriculture, Biology, Geography, Maths to name a few)
- ☛ Teachers were not able to fully use suggested strategies in the teacher guide to teach their students.

These were some difficulties we faced when we began 3 years ago. However, today we are able to overcome these because we are lucky enough to be blessed by people like you both and the countless friends who have the heart for us.

The indicators of what we have from you all is that we were able to improve our Mean rating Indices (MRI) in our grade 10 National Examination results from 4/7 schools in Milne Bay to currently first in the Milne Bay province 1/8 and one of the top 8 schools in the southern region apart from Urban schools in the National Capital District and this is a bonus and a mile stone achievement for our students. This is because our students have a variety of learning materials and teachers have a variety of teaching materials to use. We are currently awaiting 2013 Grade 12 results and the Grade 10's we will share with you as soon as we receive the results.

Our school administration under the leadership of Sr. Bridget and both the Deputy Principal has in place proper stock control, care and borrowing measures to look after and maintain these resources. One task given to the Subject department heads is to come up with policies to care for these materials and most subject department heads have complied with this instruction taking into account how much time, effort, resources and the gratitude of those friends like you both and the countless in Australia has put in for us.

So many words cannot express our appreciation- But we wish to say our heartfelt Thank you so much for the help and continuous help.

In our prayers and our hearts we will always keep you all. We wish you all good health and kind regards and best wishes.

We will continue to keep in touch. We also would like to extend our invitation to you all that Watuluma is your home; please visit us.

God Bless you always! Siule lakaina

"Merry Christmas and a prosperous New year 2014

WITH LOVE AND MANY THANK YOU
TEACHERS OF SANTA MARIA-WATULUMA
"Success Through Love"