

# TOS Newsletter

The "Time Out For Science" Club (TOS) wishes you a Great School Year and reminds you to "be scientific" in your thinking!

Essence International School, 20 Kashim Ibrahim Road, P.O. Box 7622, Kaduna, Nigeria Volume 1- # 2  
June 2002

## TOS Kids Make Musical Instruments

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front row l - r: Shivee Sharma, Khadija Armiyau, Chirag Jain, Amira Ibrahim  
back row l - r: Maureen Lim, Umar Abdullahi, Hafsat Umar, Hamid Ibrahim

People use music to communicate emotions, stories, and ideas. In some cultures, songs tell stories of news and history. Instruments may be used for pleasure and entertainment and they may be used to relay information. Drums, for instance, can relay information over some distance, as can horns, flutes and other instruments. The TOS kids used local materials in making their instruments.

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# TOS Experiments



left to right: Amede Obi, Kemi Ogunyemi.



Nikki Lim

Laborious, yes it is! Here the land is being cleared for cultivation. Now the young city dwellers get a chance to know what the farmers go through. Later our pioneer farmers will enjoy the fruits of their labor.

“This is just the beginning. I am determined to see the successful ending.”  
Crops can grow almost anywhere if the land is cultivated with care. Farmers are the backbone of the nation.



A rich harvest is a farmer’s joy.



Left to right: Maryam Baba Ahmed, Hauwa Ibrahim, Abdulhalim

TOS farmers admire their abundant harvest of soybeans from the school TOS farm. They cleared the farm, made the ridges, planted, weeded, prayed for a good harvest and finally processed their soybeans into a very fine milk, which was bottled hygienically and kept in the fridge.

The TOS students then decided to share this nutritious and healthful drink with their friends- the students of the HDFN Model School on Kwato Road. Well done vibrant farmers!

# with Practical Farming

In order to effectively utilize the knowledge gained in the teaching of science in class, the students have been engaged in an intensive practical class specifically in the area of agricultural crop production.

Agriculture is the bedrock of every economy. Developed countries like America, Britain, Malaysia, France, China and a host of others, spend a large chunk of their annual budget on agriculture in order to be sufficient in food production.

In Africa, the reverse is the case where available resources are channeled into importation of armaments for prosecution of wars and numerous conflicts to the detriment of education. Successive governments in Nigeria had invested in agriculture but to a large extent, it became a failure, perhaps due to lack of commitment on the part of government and lack of incentives to the poor farmers. With a view to encouraging our young ones to be involved in agriculture, “Time Out For Science” (TOS) thus decided to introduce the school’s farm project which has so far been very successful as the students in particular have shown a lot of enthusiasm.

A little portion of land was donated to TOS for this project at the back of the school, close to the generator house. The land was initially cleared, ploughed and then ridged during the 2001 farming season. With a lot of support from the principal in terms of farm implements, kits, improved seed variety and funds, the first trial started in March last year with the cultivation of maize, soybeans, and groundnuts under a mixed farming scheme. Natural sources of manure like cow dung and poultry wastes were applied as soil-plant nutrients. In June, 2001, a rich harvest was recorded from this little experiment. Subsequently, fresh soybean milk was processed by TOS students and teachers and donated to the HDFN pupils as a protein supplement in line with our community service goals.

The dry season farming (irrigation farming) took place in October last year to March 2002, with pepper and tomato as test crops and the harvest was enormous. With this little beginning, Essence community has realized that if we use our hands and time judiciously, there is no doubt that we will be sufficient in food production.

Bassey Ukem  
For: TOS Farm Team



# TOS Students Recall



Alhaji Sarki Ibrahim, Makaman Kano



Makaman Kano and his beautiful daughters

The day – 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2001, dawned bright and beautiful and there was excitement and anticipation in the air especially on the faces of the intelligent and adventurous children and teachers of Essence International School, who were going for the excursion to Kano. At 8:00 A.M., we set off in two cars and the school bus (Peugeot boxer). It was touching to see the other little friends of the traveling kids come out to wave their friends off and wish them a safe and happy trip. So amidst much cheer and good tidings from both friends, parents and colleagues, we set off for the memorable trip.

We arrived in Kano at about 11:00 A.M. and went straight to Tahir Guest Palace, where we stayed for 2 nights and 3 days of the trip. How will I describe the guest palace? With just three words “BEAUTIFUL AND COMFORTABLE”. A home away from home with a fantastic landscape. The staff of the hotel were surprised and excited to see these lovely children coming to the hotel to stay. We occupied 3 chalets. The students were divided into 3 groups (the girls separated from the boys). The children confessed that their stay in Tahir Guest Palace was an experience that will be remembered always.

The first place we visited after lunch was the Kano zoo. The children were amazed and amused at the animals present there. They took photographs of them. The lion was especially exciting because it was charging at us and the children all broke out in giggles, fright and excitement.

From the zoo, we went to the famous dye pits – a very historic and interesting place. Our guide told us a bit about the history of the pits, which he said have been in existence for over one hundred years and each pit was inherited by the same family from one generation to another. The people took a lot of pride in their work, using natural dyes.

We came back for the greatest excitement of all as far as the children were concerned, the ‘Swimming pool’. This was not surprising because we had with us Mrs. Ortoho, an expert in swimming, in short, a Gold medallist and she did show us this expertise. After dinner, the children did a bit of study with Mr. Peprah and at 9:30 P.M. they went to bed.

The next morning we made breakfast ourselves from the stock of provisions, after which we set out for the Dala hill with the tourist guide. Practically speaking to the top of Kano, it was a indescribable sight. It was exhilarating, we had fun pointing out familiar places especially the airplanes at the Kano airport.

# Memorable trip to Kano

From Dala hills we went to the Sarkin Makama's house who gave us a very warm welcome and answered some questions raised by the children. He told us a bit of history about Kano and his position. He is one of the four king-makers, in fact, the first out of the four and the emir consults them on very important issues. After the discussion, he and his family treated us to a mouth watering buffet. He even offered to accommodate us when next we come to Kano. After which we had some snap shots and he and his family waved good-bye to us.

We then went to the Gidan Makama which is the Museum. It is directly under the jurisdiction of the Sarkin Makama. At the museum a lot of artifacts and history of Kano was on display. The building itself was a piece of history because it has been there for over 500 years. We saw a lot of things overwhelming and even emotional but most of all we saw that we were a people with history which gives us the zeal to move confidently into the future with a determination to make things work out for us.

We came back to the hotel, had another wonderful lunch, then went to the Kano amusement park. There the children were in a familiar territory. That is a place meant solely for fun and designed most especially with children in mind. They had a wonderful time at the amusement park and left only because we were going to the swimming pool. Mrs. Ortoho commended that our second day swimming was an improvement on the first.

On Friday, due to a bit of delay, we left Kano after lunch, that is around 2:30 P.M. and arrived Kaduna or school at about 5:15 P.M. We again arrived school amidst cheers and laughter with a lot of people, parents, relatives, principal, colleagues waiting for us and it was with a sense of happiness and joy the children went to meet the principal, who had made this wonderful experience possible. It will remain in the children's memories for a very long time because this experience has further inspired their interest in science and its importance to our lives.



TOS students relaxing in the parlor at Makaman Kano's residence