

Report of Jessica Linke

Last reports feedback from Dr. Scheiter:

Can other schools meet our criteria? Is it of advantage to have other Freetown schools in our program?

These are questions we need to discuss further. Mrs. Bendu and I will think about this again and talk to Joseph.

Planned activities:

The planned activities for the activity plan are mainly for the Class 2020 and the new Class 2021. Some of the activities like the Career Day or the Culture Day would be activities we would like to do with all the scholars. The Friday Talk with the Nurse Sylvia need to be evaluated by Mrs. Bendu and me, which we will do this week.

Thank you very much for the other topics. National and international politics and environmental studies being taught as subjects during the Saturday classes already. Women's rights and violence will be part of the Management and Living schedule which I will discuss with the MIL teacher.

Saturday Classes:

I am with you, that Saturday Classes shouldn't be Private Classes but according to Mrs. Bendu, the teachers and also my observation, we all think its necessary for those scholars who will take the WARCCE exams soon, being more focused on the key subjects such as English, Math, and Biology (..).

Inception Workshop

The Inception Workshop took place on 20th of November at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Freetown. Overall, the Inception Workshop have been a great success. Teachers, Parents, and the new scholars participated greatly in all planned activities. We are very happy to start with the new scholars on the 10th of December. Mrs. Bendu and I will visit all of them in their homes and communities at the beginning of next year. Please find the detailed report attached.

Fieldtrip to the University of Makeni

The fieldtrip to University of Makeni took place on Friday, 3. December until Saturday, 4. December 2021. Mrs. Bendu, me and the Class of 2019 and 2020 visited the Fatima Campus of the University of Makeni. We did a guided campus tour, attended two classes, visited the Campus library and the student hostels and been able to talk to different lecturers and heads of departments. Please find a detailed report of the fieldtrip attached.

News from the GE- Program

Class 2019

1. Girl's Talk with the Nurse Sylvia

Mrs. Bendu, me and Sylvia have started to meet the Class of 2019 every Friday between 10 am and 1 pm. In the first 30 minutes, I usually take the time to talk to the girls about current topics. We are also use this time to watch the Interviews of Frau Holzhausen. We discuss about the topics, and they get assignments to work on it at home (look at Elsevier-Interviews). Madam Sylvia has been teaching the girls so far on the reproductive health, menstruation and STIs. Currently, we are working on the project proposal for educating other Sierra Leonean girls on these topics. Firstly, they will get the opportunity to teach the new Class of 2021. They girls enjoy the classes and consider the Girls' Talk as a Safe space to talk about sensitive topics which are related to the above topics. Madam Sylvia is very patient about girl education and comes with a lot of ideas, e.g. how to involve the parents with this topic etc. Nevertheless, Mrs. Bendu and I want to evaluate the Girl's Talk with Sylvia this week.

The next steps are:

- Finishing the project proposal with the girls
- Structuring the topics, they want to teach and speak about to other girls
- Planning the Girls Talk activity on Saturday for the new Class 2021
- Evaluating the Girls Talk with Sylvia



Figure 1 Nurse Sylvia and the Class of 2019



Elsevier- Interviews

Two weeks ago, we started showing the first Elsevier – Interview with Gutt Hannu to the Class 2019. Firstly, we watched the interview and went through it again to identify certain topics that were raised by Mr. Hannu. We discussed about the meaning of happiness and each girl got an assignment, to answer different questions I gave to them, e.g. Do you think that happiness lies within you, or does it depend upon other people and external things?, Do you think other countries are happier than your nation? If so, give some reasons., Can money buy happiness?

The girls are currently writing on their assignments. They enjoyed the video a lot and want to say thank you to Mr. Hannu. The assignments and feedbacks will be sent to Frau Holzhausen as soon as possible.

What we really need is a projector. Showing the videos to all the girls is now more and more difficult because I use my laptop and not everyone is able to see them nicely. A projector would be also great for the FSL school to show different slides or short movies and pictures while giving the German classes. It would be very great if there is an opportunity to get one. I will write an official request to Joseph and to you.

Extra Classes at the FSL School in Waterloo

Rebecca and Zainab are currently giving extra classes in English and Mathematics to almost 14 pupils of the FSL school, who need extra attention. They work closely together with the teachers to identify the problems. They prepare their classes and also write reports, which I send to Joseph. Both of them take it very seriously. The children love the extra classes and always looking forward to them. It helps the pupils to catch up a lot. Rebecca and Zainab have shown real role model potential. It's a pleasure for me to go with them every Wednesday and see how individually and personally they grow. The teachers find it very helpful and keep on asking for more help.



Figure 2 Rebecca gives Extra Classes in English



Figure 3 Zainab gives Extra Classes in Mathematics





Internship of Fatmata and the others

Fatmata started her internship on the 1st of December at the College of Digital Excellence for the next three months, four days a week from 9:30 am – 5pm. Fatmata's dream is to study Information and Technology. At her internship, she is able to attend classes, help the lecturers and assist her boss. She also learns about marketing and IT. She will get a monthly payment of 500,000 Le from the IT Company and they will write her a certificate.

The College of Digital Excellence is very happy working with FSL and is open for other internships if one of our scholars should be interested. Fatmata is very grateful and enjoys her internship so far. She loves it and is happy for such an outstanding opportunity. Usually, it is very difficult to get internship opportunities in Sierra Leone if somebody is not attending a University or College yet. I am currently still looking for internship opportunities

I am still trying to organize an internship for Jeneba, who wants to study law.

Jane wants to help to register the books at the FSL library, so we are currently waiting for the books to arrive. Rebecca and Zainab are being busy with the Extra Classes, but I still try to get them a place to observe.

Home Visits

I have started the home visits of the Class 2019. So far, I visited Fatmata, Jane, Zainab and Rebecca. All families have been very welcoming and being open talking to me about the challenges they are currently facing. For all the families, water and transport is a huge problem in their communities. Fatmatas family need to move where they stay right now because the landlord needs the space. The family is currently looking for a new home. Their biggest challenge is food and the medical conditions of the father. Fatmata is also sick quite often. Mrs. Bendu and I have already talked to Joseph, so that we go to a medical check-up with Fatmata.

Janes living conditions are difficult. The family struggles to pay the rent of 900.000 Le. In Sierra Leone, most of the time you have to pay the rent for the full year at once. They been asked now to move to the back room which is worse than the way they stay now. In their house is no electricity and they sometimes struggle with food. Both brothers finished school but staying at home. Janes youngest brother (6 years) seems to have the Down Syndrome according to my observation.

Zainab has a beautiful home. She stays with her mom, her granny, sister and stepdad. The family was very welcoming. Their main struggles are also the food situation at home and the water problem in the community.

Rebeccas family moved to another community last year because their home got floated many times. They community she is staying right now is quite and nice, but the transportation costs are very high, and the water is also a problem.

In generally, FSL scholarship helps the families a lot. If the scholarship won't continue, these girls won't be able to afford attending a university or college.

Mrs. Bendu and I will do the home visits of the new Class 2021 in January 2022 together because I want both of us seeing the living conditions. Joseph is fine with that.



Figure 4 Zainab, her Grand Mother, and her mother

Class of 2020

The Saturday Class continue. All three scholars attend the classes. On the 11th of December there will be the first exams for this term.

Gertrude became the Head Girl of her school which is a huge success. She is very proud about herself and Mrs. Bendu and I think it would be nice if FSL can give a small present to her, also to motivate her and the others. We will talk to Joseph about this too.

Class of 2021

On Saturday 11th of December, we had the first Saturday Classes with the Class of 2021.

All of them got their school items and uniforms.



Outlook

Mrs. Bendu and I currently finalize the activity plan for the academic year. For December we still planning an outing and the Christmas Gifts. We will prepare a budget by this week so, Joseph and Dr. Scheiter will be able to decide about it. Prices for rice and other food items are constantly rising up. From my home visit observation, I still recommend Rice and some food items as a helpful Christmas Gift. Due to the number of the students, we might need to consider the amount of it, as Joseph has already been discussing with me.

I am currently planning motivational talks with different successful women in Sierra Leone and planning outings to the Freetown City Council and a visit of the German Embassy.

German Language and the FSL Campbell School

Every Wednesday I am going to Waterloo to give German Classes at the Class 1a and 1b. In the past two weeks, I recognised a major change with the students of Class 1b. They practice at home, asking a lot of questions and want to know more. They are being able to simply introduce themselves now, asking easy questions and greet and say goodbye in different ways.

I have a few pupils in both classes which show a huge talent in learning German but the others also trying their best. This week they took their first exam, and they scored with high marks, which means all have really studied at home. I am currently start preparing for a short drama in German and maybe a song, which will be performed by the best in front of the whole school at the official opening of the FSL school in February. All the pupils give their best, because all of them want to be chosen to perform in front of the audience.

Meeting with Mrs. Turay

As Dr. Scheiter asked me, I had a short but good meeting with Mrs. Turay. She gave me good feedback. She is happy that I am being able to teach the children in German. We started talking about some ideas and she raised up that in the community is a huge lack about reproductive health, menstruation etc. She said that parents also have problems to talk to their girl child about it. Mrs. Turay and I decided to take this discussion forward and to see what will be possible. We also came up, that a lot of Sierra Leone children don't know about their culture. I had this discussion with some of the teachers already. A lot of Sierra Leonean cultures and art is not known to the young generation anymore. Schools should also be a place of art and culture. We currently talking, how the FSL school could be one of the first schools in the whole country who would help their pupils to experience and develop their own cultural identity. We planning to have a meeting about it.