



Dispatch

The newsletter of Education without Borders

December 2005 – Issue # 3

In this issue

- Sibusio Vilane @ Fezeka High
- Update on Fezeka's computers
- An easy way to make a difference
- Syringa Tree Benefit - Wonderful success
- Calgary Syringa Tree helps, too

Education without Borders (EWB) is a Canadian non-profit and charitable Foundation. Our mandate is to foster educational opportunities and provide educational facilities in disadvantaged regions of the world. Our primary current goal is to help create a better future for Fezeka School, South Africa, and for Fezeka students.

Everest hero, Sibusio Vilane inspires students of Fezeka School



In March 2003, Sibusio Vilane set off for the Himalayas with a quest to become the first black African to summit earth's largest and most fearsome mountain - Everest. He summited successfully on May 26, 2003. Two years later, in May of this year, he reached Everest summit again, this time via the more technically-difficult North Ridge. He is the first South African to manage this feat twice using two different routes. Sibusio is now committed to a speaking career with a focus on talking to school children to encourage them first to dream and then to wholeheartedly pursue their dreams.

On October 5, 2005 Sibusio spoke to the students at Fezeka School and for many of the youngsters, it was a life-changing experience.

This opportunity was a direct result of the initiative of two members of the EWB Connections group in Capetown. Ernie Bulgin and Roger Trythall approached Mrs. Sitshongaye, the Life Skills teacher, with the idea of Sibusio speaking. She explained to them that "many of the learners, while motivated in the early years, become despondent as they approach their final years. They lose their motivation because of the uncertainty of post-school and setting goals. They seem to lose their self-confidence, their self-belief."

When the EWB board received the request to fund the visit, it was approved with enthusiasm. Following the visit, Roger wrote to the members of the EWB board:



"You would have thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. It was staggering how Sibusiso captured not only the hearts and minds of the learners, but he had an enormous impact on the teachers. I think for Mr. Sujolo and his staff it raises the challenge to them about their vision for the school."



Plans are now underway for even more motivational speakers to come to the school.

Above: Sibusiso with students of Fezeka.

Left: Roger Trythall, 2nd from left, with Sibusiso and teachers.

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Fezeka High School's Computer Laboratory... Update

EWB Connections has also been active helping Fezeka students and teachers make their computer lab more functional. They have been so successful over the past ten months that Fezeka has been invited into the South Africa - wide Khanya Technology Education Program. (A project of the Western Cape Education Department). To find out more visit: [Khanya School Info: Fezeka Secondary](#). We are proud that EWB has made a contribution to improve the security of the Computer Lab.

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An easy way that *you* can make a difference

It's amazing how far our dollars can go in empowering these young people to lift themselves out of the challenging lives they face. It's such an easy way for us to make a difference. This newsletter is for people who have provided support to EWB in the past and for those who have expressed an interest in our work. We are grateful for past generosity, but ask that you consider making another contribution today. If you'd like to make a gift, please use the form on the last page. Thank you.

Syringa Tree - Our best fundraiser ever!!

Education without Borders was fortunate enough to host a benefit performance of the Syringa Tree on October 15th at the Playhouse Theatre in Vancouver. Pamela Gien, the playwright and actor of this one-woman show, gave an incredibly moving performance of the South African play. The Syringa Tree was a very popular production, playing to sold-out houses and held over for an additional week.

Ms. Gien joined EWB guests at a post-play reception where she generously answered questions.

EWB raised over \$19,000 net from the benefit. Thanks to Pamela Gien, the Playhouse Theatre, our sponsors, silent auction donors, our volunteers and our generous guests. All these funds will be dedicated to the Fezeka school.



Actress and playwright, Pamela Gien, centre, with Ruth and Cecil Hershler

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Calgary production of Syringa also benefits EWB



According to critics, actor Meg Roe (left) gave an equally powerful performance of the Syringa Tree at Calgary's Alberta Theatre Projects. Ms. Roe generously used the occasion to raise awareness of Education without Borders.

One Calgary donor wrote: *I recently attended the play 'The Syringa Tree' in Calgary. I learned about your organization through the program.*

I was very impressed with Meg Roe's performance and am making this donation as a result of the awareness the program evoked.

Giving to the Education without Borders Foundation



Thanks for giving to the Education without Borders Foundation. There are 3 ways you can make a donation:

1. **BY FAX:** (604) 732-5913. Simply print and then fill out the form below, include your VISA number and then fax it.
2. **ONLINE:** www.educationwithoutborders.ca . Click on 'Donate Now' and follow the instructions.
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