



EDULUTION CLASS ROOM

# Propel Education Newsletter - December 2018

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## Developments at Linda Community School in 2018

by Pat Bergin

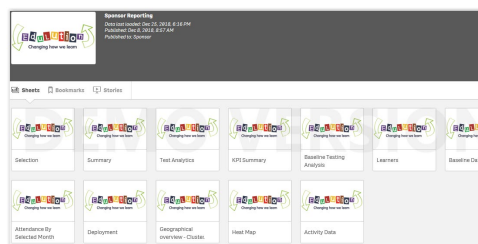
The year started out with grade 7 results. We saw a 30% improvement in the grades achieved year on year and the school moved up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the district school rankings for math - a solid indication that Edulution's math programme is having a positive effect. Edulution continues to provide supplemental math education for 600 plus students at the school and we look forward to seeing further improvements in grade 7 test results this year.

The programme's primary focus is on educating the students. It also employs 4 coaches at the school and they are developing their skills in managing technology in the classroom, classroom and time management, child motivation and interaction with school faculty and Edulution management team. They attend training sessions at Edulution's facilities in Lusaka where they share experiences, upgrade their skills and progress to lead coaches and area managers.

These coaches become competent, confident, self-motivated individuals who can go on to develop new enterprises in Zambia and contribute to the growing local economy.

Edulution developed a powerful analytical tool called Qlik. It produces very useful and

insightful reports on the class attendance and student progress.



List of reports available



Summary for the month of November 2018

With the help of data analysis we could see a low attendance for grade 8 and 9 students. We believe this is due to longer regular school day and more duties in the home. We expect the students moving from grade 7 to 8 to continue attending the programme as they and their parents see its benefits. We will also take grade 4 students onto the programme and add literacy as an area of focus.

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Computer Lab opened in 2017 and built by Build It International and furnished by Propel Education

## Teacher Development



With the help of a grant from Irish Aid, 4 sets of AV equipment, (Projector, Screen, Sound bar and laptop/tablet) was procured and made available to the teachers. The laptop is loaded with educational material and the teachers align this with lesson plans for their classes. This is an incubator project and requires significant development in 2019. With little or no resources available to the teachers, the ability to show and teach the students with good quality AV material is a revolution in the classroom. The school has 26 teachers (20 government paid and 6 community paid). The head teacher, Doreen Nzila, is an inspirational leader who runs a very organised campus and promotes the use of new and innovative teaching methods in the classroom. Doreen strongly supports supplementary programmes like Edulution to give the students from very disadvantaged backgrounds every chance to progress.

rate from secondary education as the cost of attending, and the distance to, the nearest school makes it difficult for families to send children. By starting a secondary element at Linda with grade 10 in 2019 the community expects 40 plus students to remain in education. Propel Education plans to assist the establishment of the centre with Audio Visual aids and guidance on development of a blended learning environment.



Doreen Nzila speaks at opening of two new classrooms with Sue and Jeff Alan (directors of Vision Zambia) who provided funded the building.

## Facility Development



New classroom block – opened in October 2018

A block consisting of two new classrooms was built by Vision Zambia. The classrooms are to facilitate secondary schooling for Linda students graduating from grade 9. Linda community experiences a high dropout

## Campus upkeep

The head teacher, Doreen, continually seeks funding to upgrade the school facilities where classrooms are painted and class/age appropriate wall paintings and posters are added to enhance the learning experience for the children.



Painted class room for Grade 3 students

## Volunteering



A good friend, Colum Carr, notified me that his son Ronan was taking a year out while he prepares for his MBA and he would like to volunteer on a developing world programme.

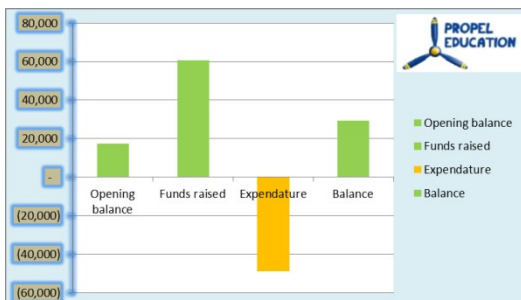
We connected Ronan with Michael Wray (founder and principal at Edulution), and following skype interviews Michael offered Ronan the opportunity to volunteer on their development team. Ronan joined the team in mid-September 2018 and his contribution is highly valued and a very positive addition to the team. Ronan is enjoying the experience and looking forward to expanding his circle of friends and experience's in 2019.



Computer Lab with 35 desktop computers. Funded by Propel Education



## FINANCIALS AND FUNDRAISING



## Fundraising 2018.

We are extremely grateful for all the support and contributions received to date and on behalf of the Children at Linda Community school we say THANK YOU to

Mortello Group; GECAS; Elizabeth and Robert James (CEO Aerfin); Paul Stoddart (CEO European Aviation); Conor McCarthy (CEO Dublin Aerospace); Declan Hartnet (European and Canada Manager at GECAS); Dave Houlihan (President at DAE Capital); Sylvia Moriarty;

We also thank all those who contributed to the fundraiser while attending the GPA reunion and to Chris Bergin's half Ironman fundraiser.

## Expenditure

90% of the expenditure was paid to Edulution for the e-learning programme where 600 active learners receiving 56,000 hours of class participation with an average of 8.4 hours per month per learner.



The balance was used to pay for security services and upkeep of the computer room and consultancy services. As the school now has a fully equipped computer lab, science lab and e-learning facility, and with the school being in the middle of an underprivileged compound, 24 hour security is essential so a private security company was contracted. Camara the Irish NGO provides maintenance and upkeep services for the computers and associated equipment in the computer lab. Sharon Dagg provided consultancy services to help with the application for charitable status.

## PLANS FOR 2019



The Edulution programme will continue to be funded to provide e-learning to 600 students by providing 10 hours per month per student on the programme. We will focus on consistent student attendance for students in grades 4, 5, 6, and 7, 8 and 9 Literacy will also be added to the programme for the same grades of students.

With two full school years of experience with the programme and the benefits of Liz James (donor) review, we will focus on improving and reiterating the classroom experience and effectiveness for the students. There will be a continued focus on a blended approach where the coaches and teachers work together to ensure the elements of math being taught is aligned.

## Teacher Training



The standard of teacher qualifications in community run schools leaves a lot to be desired and open to upgrading. To help improve the learning experience in the classroom, with the help of Irish Aid we have introduced Audio Visual teaching aids and e-learning programmes such as Khan Academy.

Irish Aid provided funding for the purchase of Audio Visual equipment for the classrooms and the teachers are now using this equipment to provide a blended educational programme. Propel Education will work with the teachers to improve/develop this form of teaching in 2019.

For More Information

Vist: [www.propeleducation.org](http://www.propeleducation.org)

## Donor Visit



Elizabeth James made welcome by the students at Linda

Elizabeth (Liz) James joined us for a review of the programme in March 2018. Liz spent the majority of her visit at the school observing the teaching methods in the classrooms and the methods employed by the coaches in the Edulution classroom. She produced a comprehensive report on her findings and we are working on her recommendations. Liz also attended the St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the Irish Ambassador's residence in Lusaka and met a number of other NGO's doing great work in Zambia

## Fundraising requirements for 2019

The fundraising target for 2019 is €80,000, We plan to raise €45,000 from corporate donations, €20,00 from individual donations and €15,000 from fundraising events.

## New Board Member

Propel Education will welcome Richard Forsberg as a board member in 2019. We look forward to availing of Richards input and wealth of experience.