
TIGER TOPS SWISS AIR PRESCHOOL

2018/2019 Annual Report



Above, the morning ritual starts with reciting the Nepalese National anthem after breakfast followed by teeth brushing and stretches.

Dear Donors and Supporters,

All the schoolchildren at the Tiger Tops Swiss Air Preschool would like to thank you for your contributions and valuable support over the last year.

The brainchild of Ursula Rosenburg of Swiss Air and the founder of Tiger Tops Jim Edwards, the Tiger Tops Swiss Air Preschool school enrolls disadvantaged children from various ethnic communities (Mushahar, Bote, Tharu, Kammi, Damai, Gurung, Kamal etc.), selected on the basis of their financial and nutritional needs, with the aim of preparing them for their journey through the Nepalese government schooling system.

This free head start gives them the skills and confidence they need to carry on with their education throughout primary and secondary schools. In addition to schooling, the project also covers meals, uniforms, books, school supplies, immunisations, healthcare, and any special needs the children may have. A proportion of the funds then continues to support graduates throughout the rest of their education by providing uniforms, stationary and medical care.

Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge supports the program through fundraising, administrative and logistical support and by providing conservation and nature-based education programs throughout the year.

Currently, the school's first enrolled class of 1996 are in their late 20's and many have gone on to various professions in a variety of industries. In August 2019 we will be welcoming a number of the school's alumni to our Tharu Lodge for job interviews with regards to filling various roles within the company for the very first time. Should this be successful, this would mark a historic milestone for Tiger Tops and highlights the benefits that well managed, sustainable tourism has on disadvantaged communities.

Running for the last 23 years, we are extremely proud with what has been achieved at the school, the longevity of the initiative and the positive effects it has had on the community. All of which could not have happened without the support of our very generous donors and supporters. We would like to thank you all once again!

We are always in search for further donations to boost the fund against the backdrop of a rapidly rising inflationary environment here in Nepal. Additional funds will allow us to raise staff salaries, undergo much-needed repairs and upgrading of facilities as well as installing a new, safer playground. As such any help would be greatly appreciated from our supporters.

For any additional information or donations to the school, please contact me directly at jack.edwards@tigertops.com.

Kind regards,

Jack Edwards, Managing Director, Tiger Tops

School Year 2018/2019

This year, 51 children attended the school in the following grades:

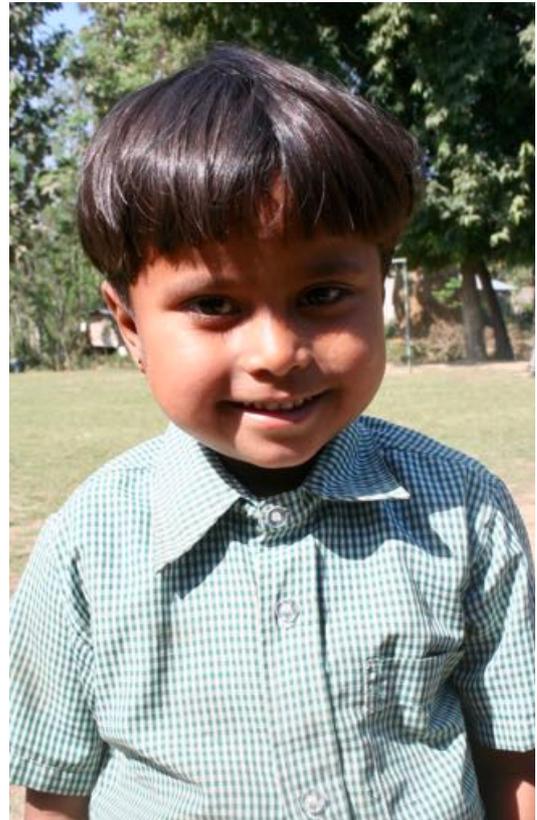
- Pre-nursery - 15 children,*
- Nursery - 11 children,*
- Grade 1 - 13 children,*
- Grade 2 - 12 children*

Our youngest pupil is Kristi Mahato at 4 years old from the nearby Kawasoti village; and the oldest being Debika Dama who will graduate this summer aged 10.

All 12 Grade 2 pupils successfully passed their exams and will go on to local government schools in the coming semester. A new intake of children will also happen over the course of the summer.

In 2018, our headmistress Mrs Gita Kumari Thanait, celebrated 23 years of service at the school. We are immensely fortunate to have Gita here and for her dedication in improving the lives of the disadvantaged from her community.

The school currently employs 4 teachers, three women and one man, in addition to one cook, one gardener and one groundsman. Your generosity also helped to recruit an additional teacher, Ms Aashina Gurung last December.



Above, Kristi Mahato, 4 years old, prenursery;
Below, the four grades with their teachers





From left to right, dates of starting position at Tiger Tops Swissair Preschool

*Jag Ram Tharu, 1999
 Sher Bahadur Mahato, 2017
 Satya Narayan Mahato, 2000
 Bishnu Kumari Mardaniya, 2003
 Aashina Gurung, 2018
 Gita Kumari Thanait, 1996
 Nirmala Dhungana, 2000*

Notable Events

Cape Town to Kathmandu Expedition

Looking back over the course of the year, there were a number of exciting events that took place at the school.

We were delighted to have supported the Cape Town to Kathmandu Expedition, who reached our Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge after a grueling 17,000 km drive from South Africa on December 8th 2018. Run by the Kingsley Holgate Foundation the expedition was an awareness campaign for Rhino Conservation in both South Africa and Nepal, aimed at educated schoolchildren on the benefit of wildlife and in particular rhino conservation.

Prior to their arrival, the children received lessons in conservation and were asked to express their artistic talent by colouring Rhino Art posters, sent to us in advance by the foundation. The school hosted the famous South African adventurers with a meal, cultural Tharu dancing and contributed by the children reading out their rhino conservation messages and exchanging their best pieces of Rhino Art with those from South African children, which Kingsley's team carried with them from South Africa.



New Dining Hall Under Construction

The school's new dining hall is taking shape and should be ready for the start of the autumn term. The construction of the dining hall could not have been achieved without the very generous donation from the Lucy Monro Memorial Trust.

The Lucy Monro Memorial Trust was established following Lucy's death in 2015 and exists for the public benefit in the advancement of education, human health (including the prevention or relief of sickness, disease, or human suffering) and animal welfare, through the provision of funding and direct aid, for immediate and tangible use. Lucy was a great supporter of Tiger Tops, visiting us for a number of years and helped promote our initiatives through her Equestrio magazine.



Visits from Tiger Tops Guests

Throughout the season we often receive visits from guests of our Tharu Lodge, eager to learn more about our community initiatives. We are very grateful for these visits as they often bring with them supplies, help out with extra curricular activities and help with one off donations. This year guests from the UK, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Iceland, Dubai and Brazil all contributed tangibly to the school one way or another.



Pictured here, guests from UK and Germany with soccer balls they donated to the school

Looking Forward

For the next school year, there are a number of initiatives to look forward to.

The new dining hall should be complete, allowing students to eat collectively in the same room for the first time. We are tentatively looking at building a new playground should we receive adequate funding. This would replace the existing swings and slide that had to be removed due to fears of safety for the younger kids. We are also replacing a number of books from the library.

School outings tentatively planned for the coming term will be a visit to the Jatayu Vulture Restaurant, the first vulture breeding site in Nepal, which is located in the Kawasoti municipality in Nawalparasi, only a short distance from the school. The objective with this visit is to heighten awareness to wildlife conservation amongst the community. Cooking classes with our kitchen at Tiger Tops are also in the pipeline for older students, with the visit of our organic garden and farm part of the program.