

## Newsletter n°25 - July 2017

# Already 9 years .... of success !





Flag raising in secondary school under Rissa's chief supervisor authority

## Exemplary success of Rissa, chief supervisor of secondary school

Rissa, former director of primary school, chief supervisor of secondary school since last October, managed right from this year to establish an exemplary discipline, an on-time compliance... within a human and warmful atmosphere. He expresses here his philosophy and his way of acting: *"Everybody needs to see TANAT school performing its noble mission of school of excellence and* 

of success. Pupils are my great flock, a little herd difficult to manage who needs a strong monitoring, with a proper direction to follow if the shepherd has the will.

I come within the shy or quiet groups, I make them laugh, I bring them knowledge in different fields of life, I reply to the addressed questions.

All this to ease tensions, to judge also ,since skirmishes between teachers and pupils or between pupils are not uncommon. But with everybody's strong longing, all goes without problem whatever the severity may be." « It is always a real pleasure for me to speak to you.

You who do everything for us, for our school. You who follow us

You who support us

You who fight for our children's well-being You without whom this school will not be created

I greet you and I say to you "good day"

In TANAT school institution, the school year 2016-2017 proceeded smoothly, without significant disturbances in spite of children's and teachers' repetitive strikes at the national level.

We made a good job and at the time being the programs have been completed to almost 100% in all subjects. We set up two halfyearly assessments. The first one by the beginning of February was satisfactory: out of 206 pupils, 171 got half marks, 55 girls out of 65 got half marks, i.e. a rate of 84,61 %. 116 boys out of 141 got half marks, i.e. a rate of 82,26 %.

The second assessment is now taking place, you will get the results as soon as possible. On last May  $8^{th}$  we organized a mock examination in order to get an idea of the candidates' level to the A-degree exam. The results are the following: in literary studies, out of 12 candidates, 3 are admitted directly, whose 1 girl, and 3 to the second group (oral exam). In science studies, out of 15 candidates, 14 have taken the exam and 6 are admitted directly, whose 2 girls and 2 to the second group. These results are encouraging. Pupils and teachers have promised to do their best to keep on these achievements or to do more.

The month of Lent (Ramadan) has begun in a blistering heat. Rain is long to come, what thus causes temperature to raise and does not fall below  $40^{\circ}$ . In some districts, even the water of pumps does not run. Men and cattle suffer.

I shall not end without thanking all these men and women who work tirelessly for the future and the good running of TANAT institutions. My thanks first come to TANAT Association and to its volunteer helpers for all their efforts, for all support. To our two partners, namely ITEC Boisfleury and Bayard for their helps, supports, coaching, advices... I also thank them for their welcomes and their availability, making our stays in France so instructive and pleasant.

I also thank and greet all godfathers and godmothers without whom many of our pupils will not have the opportunity to attend school and/ or to continue their studies.

#### Great football match on May 13 th « Woman's Day »

In Niger, May 13th has been declared as "the Niger woman's national day" to immortalize the women's march in the streets of Niamey in order to claim a substantial representativeness to the works of the sovereign national conference of July 1991.

This May 13 th, in TANAT school, a match between a female and a male team was played. The score was 4 goals to 3, but the girls lodged a claim to the referee of this match who cancelled the boys' last goal. They thus split up on an equal score of 3 goals all. What was the girls 'joy !!! Prizes were granted to both teams to encourage them.

Shortly after this match, a conference was held, chaired by Harouna Boubacar, teacher of French and assisted by Hassane Mamane also teacher of French. During this conference this was a matter of reminding the meaning of "the Niger Woman's national Day" and to discuss about the theme of the year "the young girl's



Football match, boys against girls on May 13 th education". Fruitful debates have come out of the discussions.

The day ended with a party between youths: music, dance, lunch under the headmaster's and some teachers' supervision.



### Sponsor a class or a pupil of TANAT school

Sponsorships are essential to provide scholarship to underprivileged children (pupil sponsorship) or to balance operating expenses of the school (class sponsorship). Tanat school needs you to receive more sponsorships and supports to offer more children the possibility to take in charge their future.

### **Tribute to Bruno Grillet**



Billou et Rissa (first Director for primary school) with Bruno Grillet within the Bayard Institution in July 2009, prior to the opening of the TANAT school.

#### News

A block of two classrooms was built in College-High school. It will allow finally to provide lessons in separate rooms for the series of High school.

Life conditions are more and more difficult for Abalak and its area where cattle breeding is the main economic activity : drought is still prevailing and the cattle price has dropped by more than half due to the lower value of the Nigerian currency (Nigerian people are the largest buyers of animals).

Under these conditions departure towards other towns of Niger or exodus towards Algeria and Libya are the sole remedies for people of the area who own nothing left. TANAT school has lost this year several sponsored pupils for these reasons.



 "It is with great sadness that I heard of Mr Grillet's death, a figure of the Bayard Institution of Grenoble.
A leaf fell and dried.
This man was among the first founder members of TANAT school and was highly longing for observing Tuareg children evolving.
I shall never forget the moments spent with him around our table within Bayard Institution during my stay in Grenoble. We were discussing all topics regarding the school, exchanging on our pedagogical experiences.
I know that he continued to contribute

and to do its part. I regret and I am deeply concerned by the death of this renowned man who certainly would have liked to see the first A-degree targui graduate from TANAT school. Further to this painful event, I offer to his family, his friends, TANAT association, my deepest sympathy.

May God welcome him in his eternal paradise. Amen"



Rissa Mohamadou, first Director for primary school

#### Tamzak : Tuaregs'dromedary saddle

The manufacture of Tuareg utilitarian objects shows an aesthetics as well as an utilitarian concern and elaborate techniques are used but the peak of sophistication is reached in the "Tamzak", a saddle with knob and cross where are associated with mastering the work of wood, leather and metal.

The complexity of the forms, identically replicated from one specimen to another one, requires a precise assembly of cut parts : the cross, the seat, the cantle, are each formed of two symmetrical parts joined and hold by the white and flexible skin of the belly of a cow, that links the upright of the cross to the back encased at half-height.

Each part of the saddle has a name sometimes conveying an anthropomorphism : the metallic topped tip is called "the beard of the bottom" with respect to the "beard of the top" represented by the leather bulge located under the cross. The two lateral arms of the cross are called "ears" and the upright from the top to the bottom "throat" and "neck". The tanned skin that covers the three arms is called "the veiled" in reference to the male veil of the head. In contrast the vertical arm of the cross and the finger topping the cantle bear the name of the dama gazelle "front gazelle" or "rear gazelle".

The Tuareg saddle belongs to the technologic model that makes the camel driver's weight carried on the withers contrarily to the "pack-

saddle" or arab. oriental, egyptian, asiatic saddle with four points of support, that balances the weight between the withers and the loins of the animal.

The Tuareg saddle allows a smooth and accu-



Tamzak, Tuaregs'dromedary saddle

rate horse ride since the camel driver is given the opportunity to lay his feet on the neck of the animal and to use this contact for stimulating or giving orders to his mount. Each adult man places particular emphasis to own his Tamzak.

According to Tuaregs of Niger by Edmond Bernus

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#### **TANAT School**

Faced with the condition of the educative system in the Abalak department of Niger, inhabitants gathered in 2008, within the ONODEP association chaired by the mayor Billou Mohamed Moctar, to open and manage a school from nursery to high school, with the support of the French TANAT association.

The TANAT education plan is :

- To welcome boys and girls, irrespective of social, cultural and religious background.
- To give the young entrusted to TANAT school on top of a sound academic education, human training to prepare them for behaving in life like trustworthy men and women.
- To foster a family atmosphere that allows young people to feel loved, accepted, supported and valued.