

## Good work achieved during the 1st term



### A good start in kindergarten

According to a Tuareg proverb: "Everything that starts well, ends well". This is the case in TANAT's kindergarten class.

It is worth noting that we have an enrolment of 10 boys and 12 girls. Our class, popularly known as the TANAT elephants, is made up of four groups (red, blue, yellow and green). The distribution is done in the form of 2 workshops: the free workshop and the directed workshop and 2 corners: the doll corner and the library corner.

Our pupils can already master greetings in French and the 26 letters of the French alphabet. They know how to count from 1 to 31 without faltering and they can also recite the seven days of the week and the twelve months of the year in song.

In writing, all our pupils can write the vowels.

As for graphics, the kindergarten pupils are mastering scribbling, scanning, dots, circles, vertical lines and horizontal lines.

In addition, as far as storytelling is concerned, we tell the class a story every day, at the end of which one of the children will comment on what he or she has understood. "

Aïcha Tajoussir Hamed Moussa  
Kindergarten teacher



### A promising 1st term in the high school

*"We have started a new year so I am glad to have this opportunity to offer you my best wishes. May this year bring everything we dreamed of and have yet to achieve. May it bring us all good health, prosperity, joy, peace for our country and success for our students, at all levels.*

*Overall, the first term results are satisfactory and promising. Generally speaking, we can say that the work has been good and that only a handful of pupils (5 in middle school and 5 in high school) have an average below the threshold of 9/20.*

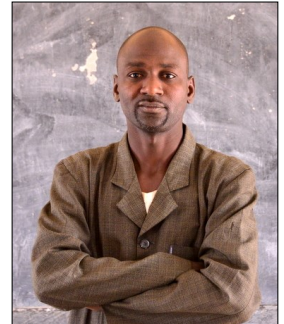
*Following the class staff meetings, we held meetings with all the students who did not reach the required average together with their parents, in order to decide their fate. The committee (made up of the parents' council, the CSP administration and the principal teachers) discussed the matter at length. This is what prompted the parents of students and the COGES office to beg the administration and the founder to be more lenient so that the progress of these learners can be followed and supported and to show the community that we can in-*

*deed teach those weaker students and bring them up to the standard of their peers. In terms of discipline, lateness has decreased considerably despite difficult conditions; absenteeism without a valid reason is seriously punished and the parents summoned.*

*I would like to assure you again of our gratitude for all you do to help Tanat and, through Tanat, all across Niger. On my own behalf, on behalf of the staff and on behalf of the students and their parents, Thank You.*

*Thank you especially for your generous sponsorships which have enabled so many pupils to be in school and to receive quality education that will help them in the future to be responsible members of society. "*

*Hassane Moumouni, principal of TANAT High School*



Hassane Moumouni,  
Proviseur

### "The Revised programme" in the primary school

*« Since the start of the school year last October, no major disruption has occurred during the past four months. Nevertheless, it should be recorded in passing that there were some absences due to illnesses such as malaria, coughs and colds as well as lateness during the cold season.*

*The "Revised programme" is now in effect. Its implementation was preceded by another programme called the "remedial plan" established to improve student ability in mathematics and French. The latter was spread over the first term. In order to assess it, the Ministry organised a pre-test last November and then a post-test in December.*

*It should be noted that at TANAT this programme was not followed because our students already had a good level. This is why, with the approval of the Inspector, we have always followed the initial official programme. But we evaluated it, as was done in all schools throughout Niger.*

*Implementation of the "Revised programme" has been mandatory since the end of the first term. It is now the official curriculum for teaching in primary schools in Niger. Teachers*

*at TANAT Primary School attended a two-day training course to understand its content and the new teaching methods. This "Revised programme" is accompanied by new manuals which are not yet available.*

*The school governing body was elected at the beginning of November with the task of ensuring, with the help of the caretaker, the cleanliness of the school premises and surroundings. The governing body is also involved, together with the teachers, in monitoring the learning of lessons and compliance with the school's internal rules.»*

*Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed directeur du primaire*



Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed  
directeur du primaire

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

Sponsorships are essential to offer schooling to underprivileged children (pupil sponsorship) or to balance the running costs of the school (class sponsorship). TANAT School needs you and your friends to give even more children the opportunity to take charge of their future.



Billou standing in front of the biometric census machine

## News

The notable feature that defines Abalak at the moment is and remains the biometric registration of voters for the next elections (2021). This registration - the first of its kind - has aroused great enthusiasm amongst the population.

It is also the cold season with very dusty days and a wind that blows very strongly, usually from 9 in the morning. This disrupts the attendance of students and even some teachers who fall ill with colds or pneumonia. Since we do not have a first aid capability to care for them, we take them back to their homes or leave them.

A popular cross-country event was organised on Sunday January 19th for the youth of Abalak. This event which was organised by the Guidance Facilitator in Physical Education of the High School Inspection team, saw the participation of all the schools and young people of Abalak. TANAT was not well represented because we were supervising homework. We did, however, organise inter-class football matches throughout the month of January. The final was won by the final-year students against the Grade 10's with a score of 2 goals to 1.

Hassane Moumouni, *principal of TANAT High School*

## A little educational tale

An old man meets a young man who asks him: "Do you remember me?" And the old man says: "No".

The young man tells him that he was once his pupil.

And the old man asks: "What are you doing now in life?"

The young man answers: "Well, I became a teacher because you inspired me to be like you".

The old man, now curious, asks the young man when he had decided to become a teacher.

And the young man then tells him the following story:

"One day, a friend of mine, also a student, came to school with a nice new watch, and I stole it.

Shortly after, my friend noticed the theft and immediately complained to you as you were our teacher. Then you went into class:

- This student's watch was stolen during class today. Whoever stole it, please return it.

I did not return it because I didn't want to.

Then you closed the door and told us all to

stand up as you were going to search our pockets until the watch was found.

But, you told us to close our eyes because you would only look if we all had our eyes closed. So we did as we were told and you went from pocket to pocket. When you searched my pocket, you found the watch and took it. You continued to search everyone's pockets and when you were done you said

- Open your eyes. We have the watch.

You didn't say anything to me and you never said who stole the watch either.

That day, you saved my dignity forever. And thanks to you, I understood what a true educator must do.

Do you remember this episode, Sir?

And the teacher answers:

"I remember the occasion, the stolen watch that I was looking for in everyone's pockets, but I did not remember you, because I also closed my eyes while searching."

This is the essence of teaching: If to correct you must humiliate, you cannot teach

Mohamed Razak teacher of P.C.

## Tuareg marriage today in Abalak

Timidoua (literally: being friends) is the first step in marriage. The boy and the girl get to know each other better through meetings which must, by tradition, remain very discreet.

Then if the two young people wish to marry, the boy lets his parents know, although never directly but through his sisters or his friends. If the parents approve of their son's choice, they contact the girl's parents to ask for her hand in marriage.

The parents then ask their daughter for her opinion. If she consents, the religious marriage ceremony takes place at the mosque in front of the Iman, without the presence of the newlyweds but with that of their representatives. The boy's parents traditionally give the girl's parents three camels. The marriage is then official and everyone is informed, but the couple is not yet living together.

As soon as they are financially able to live together, the traditional wedding ceremony can be held. The girl's parents give their daughter her trousseau, which contains everything that allows her to live independently and which will remain her property all her life. It

will be a bed, pestles (millet / maize grinders), kitchen utensils, a few animals, etc.



Bed, pestles: part of the trousseau given to the bride

On the day of the traditional ceremony, men and women meet separately. Women can admire the gifts offered by the husband. The bride is prepared for the ceremony (braids and henna tattoos...) and at the end of the day the groom's friends come to pick her up and take her to the groom's house.

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## TANAT School

Given the state of the education system in the Abalak region of Niger, residents banded together in 2008, within the ONODEP association chaired by Mayor Billou Mohamed Moctar, to create and run a school that would cater for pupils from nursery school to final year graduation, in partnership with the French TANAT association.

The educational aim of Tanat School is to:

- Welcome boys and girls regardless of social, cultural or religious background.
- Give young people entrusted to them not only a solid school education but relevant training to prepare them for life as responsible men and women.
- Maintain a family atmosphere that allows young people to feel loved, recognised, supported and listened to.