



TANAT celebrates 10 years!

Latest news from the Primary School



View of the Primary School with the new administrative building on the left in the background

BEPC and BAC results need to improve

TANAT exam results for the BEPC (29%) and BAC (Series A: 37%, Series D: 30%) are better than those in the region and above the national average.

Nevertheless, they remain well below our 80% targets.

Very poor grades in science subjects (Maths, Earth Sciences, Physics and Chemistry) are the main reason for these results. Our teaching of these subjects obviously needs to improve.

As it is almost impossible to find teachers in these scientific subjects, up until now they were taught part-time by teachers contracted from the public education system of Abalak.

To improve this situation, this year Billou was able to hire three BAC + 4 teachers from Franco-phone African countries: Abourel Bouraïma (Togo), Messan Folly (Togo), Lionel Akouheou (Benin).

This represents a very significant extra cost for TANAT but it is no doubt the price to pay for good results at the end-of-year exams.



« TANAT primary school pupils returned to class on Monday, October 1st 2018, for the tenth start of another happy school year. At the start of this academic year we have 195 pupils, this includes 88 girls. They were warmly welcomed as the school made sure that everything required was in place.

Indeed, all the teaching posts are filled, the textbooks and school supplies are on hand, the classrooms in a good state of repair are still comfortable and a new administrative building has replaced the old one that was damaged in the 2016 floods. In order to make this academic year productive and to ensure the smooth running of the school throughout the year, each teacher prepared his/her class a few days beforehand. Included in these preparations I must mention the revised school rules and the setting up of the necessary equipment and manuals for each grade.

An addendum was made to these rules and this relates to the safety barriers required because the school gates open onto a major road intersection. This factor represents a dangerous exposure of the children to the risk of an acci-

dent, especially those involving motorbike taxis typically driven by teenagers. Therefore it was decided to close these roads during pupil arrival and departure times. The first day was also marked by the visit of Abalak's administrative, academic and even customary authorities. The Inspector for Primary Education used this visit to declare his satisfaction regarding the respect of the standards he has always championed within the institution and the dedication of the staff, which explains the 100% success rate of its students at the end of each school year. Stressing that TANAT was the hope and the standard for Abalak, he said: "This is the school where 100% of the students in a class can read, so we count on you to represent us in regional and national competitions which will be organised".

This year too, a school council will be democratically elected in order to empower pupils to participate in the running of the school. Its task will be to protect the school environment, to monitor the learning of lessons and the respect of the rules of the school. »

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed: Primary School Headmaster

News from the High School

« 85 high school students began their academic year on September 17th and 125 college students on October 1st.

Just prior to the high school commencement, we organised tests to recruit new students for Final Year 6th Form and 5th Form. As a result, six students joined 6th Form A, three joined 6th Form D and one joined the 5th Form. This poor outcome is due either to the low educational level of the candidates, or to the strict marking process.

On the first day of the academic year, students were greeted by the Principal and some members of the Board of Parents.

The bell was rung, the flag was raised and we sang the national anthem, after which the students went into class. Teachers then distributed the school supplies and handed out class timetables before reading and explaining the school rules.

In other news: in order to remedy some of the disruption caused by the lack of teaching staff, we have recruited three teachers this year for French, Earth Sciences and Maths. This will certainly increase the payroll, but will give us considerable autonomy in allowing us to help

students who are having difficulty or who are in need.

In so doing, from November 2018 homework will be given in all subjects every weekend: one set of homework per week. Students who do not reach the average mark will have to redo the homework under supervision, after having studied the corrections gone through in class.

Some of our students who passed the BAC 2018 are now at institutions other than University:

Boubacar Zakari Farka BAC D was awarded entrance to EMIG (School of Mines, Industry and Geology); Soulimane Raïssa BAC D was awarded a Tunisian scholarship; Kadam Idder BAC D has won a place at ENAM, option Finance. The others are at national Universities.

All 210 students who enrolled, including 79 girls, are present and classes are being held normally.

We hope this year will be a good one and that the results will come up to our expectations. "

Hassane Moumouni, Principal of TANAT High School

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.

TANAT celebrates its 10th birthday !



Beginning construction of the Primary School in March 2009

Latest News

Alichina Kada, a teacher and censor since the college opened in 2011, has retired. We thank him for all he has done for TANAT, especially for his key role in starting the college. He is replaced as censor by Ghissa Alykib who has already been twice to France for training.

Despite all their efforts, our Maths students had a difficult year because no-one locally could assist them.

Only Zahra is continuing and repeating his first year, but this year two competent French sponsors are volunteering to help her.

This year again, no one from the TANAT Association was able to visit Abalak for the start of the academic year. Security conditions in the region still do not permit such visits since the kidnapping of Jeff Woodke 2 years ago.



Camels gathered at the "Salt" festival

This is TANAT's tenth year of welcoming pupils back to school.

Construction began in March 2009 and the first-ever school year started on October 1st 2009 with 4 classes and 120 pupils.

October 2011: the college opens with a complement of 227 students.

October 2014: the high school opens with a total enrolment of 355 students.

The school was completed in September 2016 with the opening of Forms 5 and 6 and a complement of 418 students.

But there is still so much to do:

- Consolidate the quality of our high school education despite the immense challenge of finding teachers.

- Really launch our Digital Academy by finding the right educational supports for our students.

- Open a vocational high school when conditions permit. Creating a facility that offers training as an electrician could be a first step.

This wonderful project could not have been realised without your faithful support over all these years.

We are truly grateful for all the generous support we have received from you, our sponsors, donors, corporate partners and partner schools.

The camel among the Tuaregs

The camel, although the commonly used word when it is actually a dromedary, is the most noble and the most pampered of animals.

It is the camel we ride to take us to official gatherings or weddings; the camel indeed is an integral part of Tuareg life. To own a proud mount, sleek and fast, is for a man one of the ways to please a woman. Knowing how to ride it, getting ahead of others in races and games is good for being noticed: we will sing about your strength and skill around the fire.

But the camel is also an animal raised especially for its milk and female camels are the object of a jealous regime of care and maintenance. Lastly of course, the camel is a transport animal.

The female camel carries its young for eleven months; she is closely watched as she reaches term because the birth is often tricky. The mother gives birth while standing and the baby camel may injure itself if it falls to the ground as it is being born. The presence of a camel breeder or farmer is therefore essential: he grasps the baby camel by the head and the forelegs and then blows into its nostrils to start it breathing. He then carries the new-born under the udder of its mother. 24 hours later the new-born camel can stand and suckle alone. It is often only a year after giving birth that the female camel is pregnant again.

At 2 years old the baby camel is weaned permanently.

From 3 years old, the young camel can be trained and mounted, it is also at this age that the young female is pregnant for the first time.

A camel lives up to 25 years but when it is over 15 years old it cannot be asked to make any strenuous effort.

This is an animal that is perfectly adapted to this Sahel or Saharan region. Its stamina is legendary but it goes hand in hand with fragility. It can be asked to produce huge effort but this must be followed by long periods of rest. A saddle camel can sometimes cover 50 km per day but it needs a day of rest every four days and every month it must be left out to pasture for a fortnight. A pack camel carrying a 150 to 200 kg load travels 30 to 40 km per day but must also be rested like the saddle camel.

The camel's physiology enables it to withstand exceptional water loss. In the heat, it can lose up to 27% of its weight, twice as much as would kill other animals. Its capacity to drink is enormous; thirsty, it can drink 186 litres of water in two sessions, not to build up reserves but to compensate for a loss of water.

If the camel can achieve such feats, it is understandable that it is the animal best suited to arid regions and the best able to withstand periods of drought and famine.

From « Touaregs Nigériens » by Edmond Bernus

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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.