Newsletter No. 52 – June 2026

Expansion of TANAT Primary School

A Positive Report from Fabrice, Final-Year Teacher

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to share this report with you—a reflection of both our collective efforts and the fruits of your steadfast commitment to us.

On behalf of the entire Tanat School educational community, our students and their families, I would like to express our deepest gratitude. Thanks to your support, we are able to maintain the high standards of excellence and achievement that make our region proud. You are not merely observers of our progress; you are active partners in shaping it.

The atmosphere at our school is presently both solemn and vibrant. We have entered the crucial phase of intensive revision with our students preparing for their final exams. This final sprint demands remarkable strength of character from the students, especially given the particularly gruelling weather conditions. We are currently experiencing the intense heat that traditionally precedes the heavy rains. Nevertheless, focus remains the order of the day in the classrooms; despite the heatwave, the flame of learning burns bright.

Our students are giving their all, driven by a keen sense of responsibility. They are fully aware of the sacrifices made for their education. They are working tirelessly, motivated by a dual commitment: not to disappoint their parents—who pin their greatest hopes on them—and to honour Tanat School and the trust you, our partners, place in them each year.

Ogatchine Fabrice, Philosophy and French Teacher

Primary school expansion project (doubling capacity)

Every year, a significant number of applications to TANAT School are rejected because, in order to maintain the quality of education, the maximum number of students per class must not exceed 30.

Faced with this situation, Billou, the initiator of our school project and president of the ONODEP Association that manages the school, wanted to double the capacity of the primary school, taking it from one class per grade to two classes per grade.

This expansion will be implemented gradually starting next school year with two CI classes (equivalent to the final year of preschool) and two CP classes. The following year, the CE1 and CE2 classes will be doubled. Finally, in the 2028-2029 school year, the CM1 and CM2 classes will be doubled.

To this end, new buildings will be constructed on the primary school grounds. However, in order to preserve the large and attractive playground, one of the new buildings which will our classrooms, will be a single-story structure.

Hamed Billou Mohamed Moctar president of the ONODEP Association

This doubling of capacity is an important decision for TANAT, which will now be able to offer a quality primary education to more than 420 children in Abalak.

Primary School: TANAT best school in the excellence competition

Thanks to the dedication of the teaching staff, the diligence of the students and the support of our various partners, teaching and learning activities were successfully carried out during the 2025-2026 school year.

Several educational activities were organized, notably "mini-CAPED" assessments, term tests and mock exams for candidates. These assessment activities helped ensure better monitoring of learning progress, reinforced students' knowledge and better prepared candidates for end-of-year exams.

Mariam Ahmoudou, a teacher at our school, successfully passed her CAP certification. This achievement is a source of pride for the entire school and demonstrates the teaching staff's commitment to enhancing their professional skills.

Our children have once again brought great honour to the TANAT school within the Abalak municipality. An academic excellence competition was organised in the municipality to select the best school to represent the area at the departmental, regional and national levels.

Agaouhouande Lazare, Directeur du primaire

To this end, each of the town's 15 schools sent their top three students from each grade, a total of 315 students. From this group, only the top three students per grade were selected and awarded prizes—a total of 21 students. TANAT School alone accounted for 15 of these 21 top achievers. This demonstrates the effectiveness of our efforts.

We also held our school celebration on Monday, June 15th 2026, an important occasion to celebrate and acknowledge the hard work of the students, teachers and the entire educational community.

We extend our sincere thanks to all our partners for their unwavering support and valuable contribution to the development of our school.

Agaouhouande Lazare, Primary School Principal

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.

Laboratory under construction in the Secondary School

News

Located in the heart of the Azawagh region, our town of Abalak faces unique challenges that sometimes impact the flow of school activities. Once again this year, **the intense heat experienced over several months** severely tested the adaptability of both students and teachers. Despite these harsh climatic conditions, classes continued as usual, thanks to everyone's commitment and a shared determination never to compromise the quality of learning.

The 2025–2026 school year will also be marked by significant progress in the development of our school's infrastructure. **Construction has begun on a science laboratory** for CSP Tanat. This facility will strengthen the teaching of experimental sciences and provide students with a modern environment conducive to hands-on practical work. The project reflects our commitment to preparing learners for the demands of higher education and the professional world.

Abalak also hosted a **visit from His Excellency the Minister of Justice** and Human Rights, Keeper of the Seals. This official visit was a significant event for our district, demonstrating the attention paid to the development of the country's various regions and the promotion of public services for the benefit of our citizens.

Ghissa Hamed Alyakib, Secondary School Supervisor

African wisdom

As a Philosophy and French teacher, I like to remind our students that modern education is deeply rooted in the values of our homeland.

African tradition teaches us a fundamental truth through a well-known tale from our elders:

It is said that an old sage, sensing his end was near, called his eldest son to his bedside. He handed him his hoe and said: "My son, I have tilled the earth all my life to feed our family and build this roof over our heads. If you are content to do exactly as I have done, our house will collapse in the next storm. For our lineage to survive and progress, you must plant where I could only sow; you must go further than the path I have blazed. You must surpass me."

This ancestral wisdom reminds us that in Africa, the "good child" is the one who accepts the challenge of surpassing their elders. This is how the upbringing of an entire family line is perpetuated.

In our culture, the family name is not merely a word; it is a mark, an identity, a label that carries a history, its struggles and victories. This name is a sacred trust that must never be tarnished by shame.

Failure is not an option not out of fear of judgment, but out of respect for the blood, the toil and the memory of those who came before us.

Our final-year students have understood this: to succeed means to uplift their family and honour their name.

Ogatchine Fabrice, Philosophy and French Teacher

Tuareg Tales

Tuareg Wisdom Over Tea

One day, a young man asked an elder from the campment:

"Why do we place so much importance on tea?"

The old man replied:

"Because tea teaches us about life.

The first glass is bitter, like the studies, effort and hardships everyone must go through to learn and grow.

The second glass is sweet, like the friendship, mutual aid and solidarity that enable us to overcome challenges.

The third glass is light and pleasant, like the success, wisdom and inner peace one reaps after working with patience and perseverance."

Then he added:

"He who refuses the bitterness of the first glass will never taste the sweetness of the ones that follow."

May this wisdom inspire our students and remind them that the efforts made today lay the foundations for tomorrow's successes.

Ghissa Hamed Alyakib, Secondary School Dean

The Little Shepherd and the Hidden Spring

Once upon a time, in a village surrounded by hills, there lived a young shepherd named Ibrahim. Every morning, he led his goats into the savanna and spent days observing the birds and trees.

One day, a severe drought struck the village. The wells dried up and the villagers no longer knew where to find water. While searching for water for his goats, Ibrahim noticed a group of birds that always landed in the same spot behind a hill.

Driven by his curiosity, he followed the birds and discovered a small spring of clear water hidden among the rocks. He immediately ran to tell the villagers.

Thanks to this spring, the villagers had water until the rains returned. The village chief congratulated Ibrahim and said, "Curiosity, observation and courage can bring great solutions."

From that day on, the little shepherd was respected by everyone and the children of the village learned to observe nature more carefully.

Moral of the story: Wisdom and attention to detail can lead to great discoveries.

Salissou DAOUDA, Head Teacher in Senior Year D.

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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.