

The Zeke O'Connor School Winter Newsletter 2022



Improving the quality of life
of the Sherpa people of Nepal in the
areas of Health Care, Education
and the Environment

Zeke O'Connor School Newsletter Phaplu, Nepal Winter 2022

कृतज्ञ

Pronounced – Kṛtajña

English = Grateful

We at The Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation are grateful for your continued support of The Zeke O'Connor School.

Letter From Our Principal

Namaste from Phaplu!

We have had a very busy few months at the Zeke O'Connor School. Beginning with our Junior Section, we've added a new classroom for our youngest learners, our Early Childhood Development students. These children are mostly four years old. We made our classroom bright with warm carpets and child size benches. We also made a canteen room for teachers and students and created an attractive staff office where parents and teachers can meet. The Senior Section experienced renovations too! Our girls and boys toilets were in desperate need of repairs. We also did some fun improvements outside. We added two ping pong tables (table tennis), installed a basketball hoop, and added fencing around our school buildings.

All the students are very happy because we created a walking trail up the hill to school. This steep trail gets very slippery in rainy weather, but now it is safe and the students can run up to get to morning assembly!

Recently, our wonderful students arranged a special day for all our teachers showing their gratitude. All the staff felt very appreciated.

And of course, you will read below about how our school was honored with a visit from Mr. Peter Hillary. It was a true celebration for us.

We bow our heads in deep gratitude to all our benefactors and well-wishers. We express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all who have been with us in our journey to bring excellence in education to the students of the Zeke O'Connor School.

Lhakpa Ringee Sherpa
Co-Principal
Zeke O'Connor School





Our Special Visitor – Peter Hillary



The school was buzzing at the beginning of November when we had a very special visit from Peter Hillary, Alexander Hillary, and Dr. Migmar Sherpa. Peter Hillary is Sir Edmund Hillary's only son and a gifted mountaineer and philanthropist. He has climbed many of the world's major peaks and even completed the Seven Summits, summiting the top of the highest mountains on all seven continents. All our students were thrilled to have him visit and to hear him speak. The children performed cultural dances for our visitors. We were able to gift Mr. Hillary with our traditional prayer scarf the khata to honor all he has done for the Solokumbu region and the Sherpa people of Nepal.





ONESTUDENTONEFAMILY
ZEKE O'CONNOR SCHOOL



We would like to send a special thank you to all our current ONE STUDENT sponsors. We have been able to fully sponsor our 9th and 10th grades with your kind donations. We are now turning our sights on sponsoring students in our 4th grade class this year. **So far we only have one sponsor for our 4th graders!** Please consider a sponsorship. Let us introduce two of our current students, Sapana and Rishav. Click below if you would like to sponsor them or another child. Or to learn more, [email us please!](#)

SPONSOR A STUDENT



Sapana

Please meet Sapana a 10 year old student in our fourth grade. Sapana lives at home with her mother father sister and brother. She loves attending school especially learning all about science as she hopes to one day



Rishav

Please meet Rishav a 9 year old fourth grader. Rishav is originally from Kathmandu and lives at home with his grandparents and brother. Rishav dreams of becoming a singer one day and enjoys

become a doctor. When she isn't at school you can find her helping her mom in the kitchen or playing with her friends.

studying languages including Nepali and English. When he isn't at school you can find him cleaning his room or watching television.



Our Happy 4th Graders!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know...

The National sport of Nepal is volleyball. Thanks to your kind donations we were able to build a volleyball court at school which all the students have been loving!



Did you know...

There are 123 different languages spoken in Nepal, with the national language being Nepali.



Did you know...

Nepal possesses 8 of the 10 highest peaks in the world called 'Eight-Thousander' meaning that they are over 8,000 meters above sea level.



ONECLASSPROGRAM
ZEKE O'CONNOR SCHOOL



Our ONE Program has a new initiative called the **ONE CLASS** program. This is where an individual, family or corporation is able to take on the sponsorship of an entire grade at The Zeke O'Connor School. This means that for a donation of \$10,000.00 an entire class will be ensured their education will continue through our school year. The donation covers all expenses that are required for running our school and providing education to this area of need; including teacher salaries, lab equipment, textbooks, outdoor equipment and everything else that enables our children to be successful. The donor has the unique opportunity to follow the sponsored class throughout their years at The Zeke O'Connor School. They will receive photos of the class, a letter from the teacher, highlights of their curriculum and two letters from students throughout the school year. Our hope is to find a grade sponsor for our First Grade Class. Check out their shining faces below and please consider this incredible opportunity to help fund their education. Please [email Mary Kaye](#) our SEHF board member and school liaison if you are interested in the ONE CLASS Sponsorship.

SPONSOR A CLASS INFO



Our Smiling 1st Grade Class!

Come Visit our School in May

Have you ever wanted to see our school in person? Meet the student you sponsor? Look out and see the peak of Everest as you climb its foothills? Well now is your chance!

World Expeditions, a pioneer in travel to Nepal, has created two special options for our supporters in May 2023 – a 9 day and a 17 day trip. Join SEHF board members as we sightsee around the city of Kathmandu, visit our school in Phaplu, and take day walks in the Himalaya. The extended trip includes more trekking, a visit to our own Kunde Hospital, and participation in the celebrations for the 70th Anniversary of the summit of Mt. Everest!

To find out more about this once in a lifetime trip please click below to contact our board member Mary Kaye.



[TRIP INFO](#)

Would you like to donate or to learn more about SEHF projects? Click below!

[DONATE NOW](#)

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

