Tuesday 2nd June 2015

**Trek to the Roof of Africa**

The world needs almost 7 million new trained teachers by 2015. And that’s just to address the needs of children in primary schools. It’s equally important, however, that these teachers be of an adequate standard.

Unfortunately, current solutions for teacher training are unlikely to produce either the quantity or quality that children in the developing world deserve. In many countries, teachers are required to have only slightly more education that their students. In fact, in sub-Saharan countries like Congo, Tanzania and Mozambique, fewer than 60% of primary school teachers have any professional qualification at all. The Varkey Foundation believes that the biggest factor in the quality of teaching is the quality of specific, vocational teacher training.

Ultimately, such training can raise the overall standard of classroom pedagogy, helping more teachers to have a significant positive impact on the lives of their students.

**Our Solution**

The Varkey Foundation has designed a low-cost teacher training programme that will address the issue of teacher quality in developing countries.

The 5-day face-to-face course, aimed at school principals and senior management team members, will focus on the skills required to improve pedagogy within the school and will include an embedded “train-the-trainer” course so that principals can cascade their learning and deliver the content to teachers at their schools.

You can support this great cause through the Kilimanjaro Challenge. A team of 22 GEMS teachers will be trekking to the summit of Kilimanjaro in July 2015 to raise awareness and to raise funds for this cause. As part of this endeavor the team of teachers are also raising funds by completing a static cycle marathon, the ‘Kilimanjaro Cycle Challenge’. They will be cycling nonstop for 72 hours to see how far they can cycle. Please see the attached flyer.

To support the teachers in their challenge we are asking that you help your son/daughter to calculate how many meters the team might ride in a total of 72 hours. Your child can register their calculation at their school for 10 AED. The closest guess to the final distance travelled, by the team will win a new bike from our supporter, Ride Cycles.

To register a guess please tear off the reply slip below and return it to your class teacher with 10AED in a sealed envelope before 3pm, Monday 15th June. You can register more than one guess, simply print off the slip again and put each guess in a separate envelope.

On behalf of the ‘Killi Team’ we would like to thank you for your support in the Kilimanjaro Cycle Challenge and the overall goal of reaching the summit of Kilimanjaro to raise funds and support teachers in Ghana.

Team Kili!

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Reply slip:

I would like to support the Varkey Foundation’s “Train the Teacher program” and the GEMS teachers attempting to reach the summit of Kilimanjaro by registering my calculation:

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| --- | --- |
| Student Name: |  |
| GEMS School: |  |
| Year/Grade and section: |  |
| Number of meters ridden in 72 hours: |  |