

You are receiving this e-newsletter to update you on activities of Partnership for Education of Children in Afghanistan (P.E.C.A.).

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1. WARDAK SCHOOL UPDATE

Wahid Omar, Director of Education (projects) for Afghans4Tomorrow and professor at Kabul University, updates the P.E.C.A. board on progress to the Wardak School, the first school to which P.E.C.A. contributed. This is his response to our questions .

1) Do you have all the funds raised for school construction?

(In April) according to Yama (our engineer) we will need an additional \$27,000 to complete the school. Price of lumber and other materials have doubled since last year. A4T can postpone the Farza project and divert those funds in order to finish Wardak's school, but we continue to seek additional funding.

2) What do you estimate the final cost to be?

That is difficult to answer now but I am think about 55K.

3) What has been decided about the roof? the sanitation system?

The central roof will be build flat with aluminum and the eastern portion will have George's design to match the western portion.

George Nez, an 83 year old engineer from Boulder, Colorado, is still working on a dry sanitation model and we shall use it.

4) What is the reaction of the community (adults and children to the foreseeable completion of the building?

Kids had a week of class in the completed section of the school and the response was amazing.

Just

happy faces everywhere and we have already identified two local female teachers as well.

Unfortunately we had to stop our two classrooms after recommendation from our local engineer.

The school is a construction site and may be dangerous for kids to be in the school during work.

So they are waiting patiently until completion.

5) What teachers' training has taken place to prepare teachers for this new school year?

None so far in Wardak because our priority is the building itself. Teacher training will be “in service” once the school will open its door.

6) Any changes to the curriculum to improve appreciation for ethnic diversity? Other changes?

As I said before, we will be following the MOE (Ministry of Education) curriculum because the school will need at some point to be handed over the MOE. However, ethnic diversity, and gender equality can be taught during in-service training for teachers.

7) What progress has been made on the medical clinic?

We are now seeking funds and are working with Andrew Tennyson from Compassion Services International, who visited Afghanistan recently. The plan is for A4T to build the clinic and for CSI to take over the recurrent cost as well as managing the clinic.

8) Anything you think the board would like to know.

It would be nice, once the school is ready to open its door, if PECA could send someone for the inauguration day in September.

Wahid Omar
Director of Education



- ✓ New curriculum and textbooks stress a single nation.
- ✓ 50,000 of a total 120,000 teachers have take short courses on how to teach the new curriculum.
- ✓ Half of the nation’s school-age population are not yet enrolled in classes.
- ✓ Two-thirds of the nation’s school-age girls are not yet enrolled.
- ✓ Taken from “The ABC’s of Building A New Afghanistan” by Arthur Levine reported in the Washington Post—April 2004 (NOTE: The school year starts in March.)

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3. FALL FUN and FUNDRAISING EVENT

A date has been set. Please mark "PECA" on your calendar for the evening of November 11. Fahima Vorgetts, who spoke at the fundraising event on March 29 at Da Afghan will be back. Since March she has made several trips to Afghanistan so will bring first hand knowledge. More information will follow.

In the meantime, we are working to develop a larger list of individuals and organizations interested in the situation in Afghanistan. If you know of someone who would like to be on our email list, please ask them to email Barbara Gerten at gerte001@tc.umn.edu.

If you would like to help plan this event or participate in some way, please contact Dr. Ghafar Lakanwal at ghafar@mcddc.org.

In the meantime, we invite you to help us reach our 2004 fundraising goal of \$17,000. Donations of all sizes are immensely appreciated. Keep in mind that the dollar goes farther in Afghanistan.

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4. What does it cost?

The cost for construction labor is about \$3 per day. Material costs have doubled since last year bringing the cost for a window to about \$70.

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5. ABOUT OUR PARTNERS

Tomorrow's Educators of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has partnered with P.E.C.A. to collect school supplies. Professor Jose Vega is advisor to this organization and Jeffrey Swanson lead the organization during the 2003/2004 school year. Several boxes of supplies were collected and packaged as "school kits" for individual students. Thank you!!!

P.E.C.A. partnered with Afghans4Tomorrow (A4T) to support the school in Wardak province. They are the lead organization overseeing the completion of this project. Their website is "www.afghans4tomorrow.com."

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6. Books about Afghanistan (non-fiction)

- Ansari (Ansary), Tamin - West of Kabul, East of New York (2002)
- Canter, Ergun Mehmet and Emir Fethi Caner – Unveiling Islam (2002)
- **Dupree, Louis – Afghanistan (1973)
- Hosseini, Khaled – The Kite Runner
- *Goodson, Larry P. – Afghanistan's Endless War (2001)

- Goodson, Larry P. – Rise of the Taliban (2001)
- Goodwin, Jan - Price of Honor (2003 Edition)
- Goodwin, Jan - Caught in the Crossfire
- Kaplan, Bob - Soldiers of God (2001)
- Lamb, Christina – The Sewing Circles of Heart: A Person Voyage Through Afghanistan (2002)
- Magnus, Ralph H and Eden Naby – Afghanistan: Mullah, Marx and Majahid (2002)
- Majruh, Sayed Burhanudin. Writer. Assassinated in 80's or 90's in Pakistan. Ego Monster-human desire for power. Also a psychologist.
- Marsden, Peter – The Taliban: War, Religion and the New Order in Afghanistan (1998)
- Mehta, Sunita, Ed – Women for Afghan Women: Shattering Myths and Claiming the Future (2002)
- Meyer, Karl – The Dust of Empire: The Race for Mastery in the Asian Heartland (2003)
- Rasanayagam, Angelo – Afghanistan: A Modern History (2003)
- *Rasid, Ahmed – Taliban (2000)

Yasgur, Bayta Swift - Behind the Burka

*If you read only two non-fiction books, choose these.

** Dated, but considered to be the most authoritative scholarly work on Afghanistan.

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7. P.E.C.A. Contact Information

Partnership for Education of Children in Afghanistan (P.E.C.A.) is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

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