

## Hold the Date for our Gala

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., at the Banquet Center at St. Noel in Willoughby Hills, for our annual Gala Fundraiser. This event will be in-person and broadcast live on Zoom.

## Staying Healthy at School

Although we've had no reported cases of COVID-19 in our community, our School is operating with an abundance of caution to keep everyone healthy and safe.



Students and staff wear masks inside buildings and do their best to maintain social distancing. It's been a challenge to dispense with traditions like hand-shaking and hugs, but they are learning to adjust. Handwashing stations throughout campus and hand sanitizer in all classrooms also help. But the really good news is that all teachers and staff have received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, and will be fully vaccinated by the end of August.

## Celebrating Academic Achievement

The reputation of our School continues to grow, with student enrollment hitting a record high despite this year's challenges. There are

231 students enrolled in grades Pre-K through 9. Our student body now includes 146 girls and 85 boys.

During the marking period ending in June 2021, 34 students achieved scores of over 90% on their final exams, placing them on the DRPSL Principal's List. Our Vice Principal for Academics, Ms. Patience K.V. Wuo, regularly reviews class performance, audits lesson plans, and monitors academic and attendance records. Her hard work has resulted in steady enrollment and outstanding academic performance throughout this difficult year.

## Agricultural Education

Although many of our students are able to continue their education when they leave us, many choose to remain in the community and pursue a career in agriculture. For this reason, all students in Grades 4 through 9 receive instruction in the latest farming methods from our Agriculture teacher Isaiah Tugbah.



This year the students and their parents are putting the lessons into practice by expanding the School's kitchen garden. They prepared the land, planted a variety of vegetables, including peppers, eggplant and cabbage, and then maintained the garden – watering and

weeding as needed. Crops were selected by Mr. Karmee, our cook, and all produce from the garden will become delicious lunches for our students.

staff members, who now pass this knowledge on to other farmers when they visit our plantain demonstration area.

## Operating Funds Needed

Our School is growing, and with that growth comes more demand for staff, supplies and other expenses. Giving has fallen off slightly during these troubled times, leaving us with an immediate need for operating funds. If you are able, and would like to donate, you can do so on line at [DRPSL.org](http://DRPSL.org), or by mail:

Dougbe River School  
P.O. Box 18017  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118



## Our Farm Gains Regional Recognition

Our school farm has recently received recognition from partner organization Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and from the Liberian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). Recognizing the importance of agriculture in our community, MOA has installed an agricultural agent in the village of Sayuo, about 1.5 miles east of our School. The agent regularly consults with our farm staff, and showcases our farm as a prime example of how to employ modern agricultural techniques to increase food production. Most recently he helped to oversee the three-hectare expansion of our cocoa grove, adding a new variety of cocoa tree which matures in only 18 months. This takes our cocoa grove to over 3,600 trees. We look forward to our first significant cocoa harvest in 2023.

In addition to these partnerships, the farm staff has teamed up with the community to expand our rice and pineapple growing areas to meet the needs of our student lunch program.

## Student Leadership



Student government helps develop leaders in the community. This year's Student Council President is Enid Tarley. Enid's first official act as President was to name the new cafeteria in honor of

long-time School supporter Jeanne Patterson, who passed away in 2020.

Our farm staff has also partnered with WHH to improve local farmers' knowledge of plantain-growing techniques. WHH agents trained our