

INTRODUCTION

Since opening its indoor facility on the 29th of October 2009, Skateistan has completed two semesters of sport and education with Afghan youth. Each week over 280 students make their way to the Afghan National Olympic Grounds to spend two hours at Skateistan. Each student attends class once a week, and spends one hour skateboarding and one hour exploring a range of subjects, including art, health, information technology and languages. Skateboarding has been key in bringing together Afghan youth and the interaction is further built upon through classroom projects, such as posters, theatre, photography and video.

In their second semester, Skateistan students learned about importance of good penmanship, used computers, designed a Skateistan t-shirt, learned the English alphabet, created works of art, and took an eight week in-depth look at some the most important aspects of "Environmental Health". Led by the knowledge of Afghan volunteer instructor Dr. Matin Safi, Skateistan students learned about air and water pollution, deforestation, hygiene and the effects these issues have on human health. Students then put the lessons they learned to good use during the last three weeks of the semester by creating projects that focused on positive environmental change. Each class took on unique activities, many of which appear in the following pages of this magazine.

Some of the projects documented in "Fly Magazine" include photography field trips, garbage clean-ups, flower planting activities, painting, recycled material arts and crafts, and writing that showcases the unique and talented voices of Afghan youth. Thank-you for taking the time to view the incredible work done by Skateistan students. Skateistan is delighted to share their second semester projects with you

ENJOY!

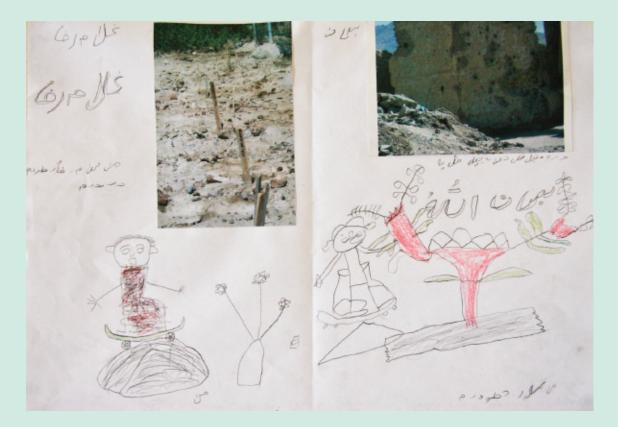


THE SKATEISTAN STAFF

SATURDAY CLASS A Photo Project/ Magazine Pages



AFTER TALKING EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE TYPES OF POLLUTION AND PROBLEMS THAT THE SATURDAY AFTERNOON CLASS A BOYS SEE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS, THE CLASS WENT ON A FIELD TRIP TO DOCUMENT BOTH THE THINGS THEY WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT THEIR CITY AND THE THINGS THAT MAKE THEM HAPPY. THE NEXT TWO CLASSES WERE SPENT COLLECTIVELY CHOOSING THE PHOTOS THAT THEY LIKED BEST, AND THEN WRITING AND DRAWING ABOUT THESE PHOTOS FOR THE COLLECTIVE MAGAZINE PROJECT.



SATURDAY Class B - Documentary



The older boys' class on Saturday decided to make a documentary about themselves. They decided it would be the first installment of "Afghan Skaters." In the future they hope to expand the project beyond their class to include the girls and boys who are not in Class B on Saturday. The project was shot during one class period at the end of Skateistan's second term. The included skaters took turns behind the camera during the skate session. During the class session, they took turns as interviewer and they each told the story of their skateboarding careers.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK THE BOYS LEARNED THE BASICS OF NON-LINEAR EDITING AND THEY PLAN TO CONTINUE WORKING ON "AFGHAN SKATERS" IN ITS CURRENT FORM OR AS AN EXPANDED PROJECT.

SUNDAY Class A - Diarama

To make the previous lessons on "Environmental Health" a more hands-on activity, the Sunday Afternoon Class A girls collected recycled materials and brought them into class to build their own clean environment. Some of the materials used included recycled paper, plastic bags, cardboard, egg cartons, and plastic bottles. The students spent one class discussing and drawing their ideas, and then the next two classes constructing various elements of their diarama.







SUNDAY Afternoon class B



THE SUNDAY AFTERNOON CLASS B GIRLS TOOK A SHORT FIELDTRIP TO KABUL RIVER, where the girls were split into teams of two, with one girl talking about Kabul's environment and the other filming. They also filmed each other around the Olympic grounds and discussed how to make the environment cleaner and healthier for the people living in it. The video footage was then included in a semester-end video with contributions from all Skateistan students.







Monday Morning Class A



SINCE WE WERE STUDYING THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEANLINESS, THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, OUR CLASS DECIDED IT WOULD BE GREAT TO START WITH CLEANING UP THE WASTE AND LITTER THAT EXISTS ON THE AFGHAN OLYMPIC GROUNDS. TO PREPARE, ALL THE STUDENTS WERE GIVEN GARBAGE BAGS AND RUBBER GLOVES AND INSTRUCTED TO PICK UP LITTER AND DEBRIS AROUND THE GROUNDS AND THE SKATEISTAN COMPLEX. THE STUDENTS WERE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC AND MANAGED TO FILL MORE THAN 20 BAGS OF LITTER, WHICH THEN WERE DISPOSED OF PROPERLY. FOLLOWING WE DISCUSSED THE IMPORTANCE OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND HOW THE STUDENTS COULD CONTINUE THESE GOOD PRACTICES THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES.

OUR FINAL WEEK OF CLASS WAS SPENT BEAUTIFYING THE OLYMPIC GROUNDS BY PLANTING ROSE BUSHES. THE STUDENTS USED SHOVELS, SPADES, HOES AND RAKES TO DIG 5 DEEP HOLES TO PLANT THE FLOWERS. THEY CAREFULLY RETURNED THE SOIL TO COVER THE ROOTS AND GENEROUSLY WATERED THE ROSES. FINALLY, WE ALL POSED FOR CLASS PHOTOS WITH OUR NEWLY PLANTED ROSE BUSHES IN THE BACKGROUND AND CONCLUDED THE SEMESTER WITH A LUNCH OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES WHILE VIEWING PHOTOS OF OUR EXPERIENCES.



Monday Morning Class B



THE MONDAY MORNING B CLASS IS A VERY FUNNY BUNCH OF BOYS. SO, WHEN GIVEN THE OPTION OF A FINAL PROJECT THEY DECIDED TO PRODUCE A VIDEO COMEDY. THE END OF SKATEISTAN'S SECOND TERM WAS IMPACTED BY SCHEDULED EXAMS AT OTHER SCHOOLS AND A CONFERENCE FOR A NEW AFGHANISTAN WHICH SHUT DOWN ALL OF KABUL FOR ONE OF THE LAST CLASS SESSIONS.

THE DISTRACTIONS TOOK THEIR TOLL ON THE PLANNING AND NECESSARY WRITING OF THE PROPOSED COMEDY SO CLASSB HAD TO IMPROVISE. THE RESULT WAS A DIFFERENT FORM OF COMEDY AS WELL AS THE BEGINNING OF SKATEISTAN'S SCULPTURE LESSONS. THE CLASS LEARNED A TYPE OF MASK-MAKING THAT INVOLVES A WIRE FORM AND PAPER MACHE AS THE THE MASK MATERIAL.

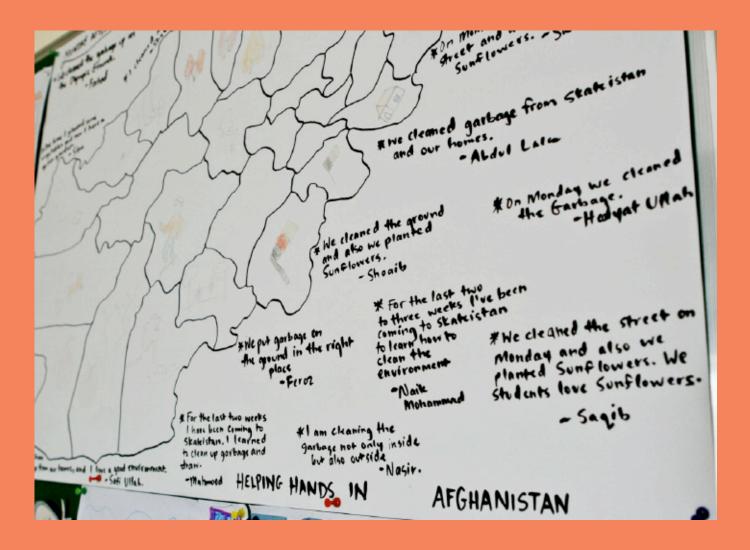
THEY SCULPTED A LARGE SMILING FACE, THE SYMBOL FOR COMEDY. THE PROJECT CONTINUED INTO THE BOYS' ADVANCED ART CLASS AND COMEDY'S TRADITIONAL PARTNER MASK OF TRAGEDY WAS STARTED BY THE GIRLS' ADVANCED ART CLASS. TOGETHER THE MASKS WILL SYMBOLICALLY WELCOME IN THE THEATRE PROJECTS OF SKATEISTAN'S THIRD TERM.

MONDAY AFTERNOON

CLASS A GARBAGE CLEAN-UP & MAP/HAND POSTERS

THE MONDAY AFTERNOON CLASS A STUDENTS SPENT THE FIRST WEEK OF THEIR FINAL PROJECT DOING A GARBAGE CLEAN-UP ON THE OLYMPIC GROUNDS. THE STUDENTS WERE GIVEN PLASTIC GLOVES AND ENCOURAGED TO PAY ATTENTION TO DETAIL WHILE PICKING UP THE TRASH THEY SAW. THIS INCLUDED PICKING UP CIGARETTE WASTE, AND BOTTLE CAPS, AS WELL AS LARGER LITTER ITEMS SUCH AS PLASTIC BAGS AND PLASTIC BOTTLES.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK THE STUDENTS WROTE ABOUT THEIR GARBAGE CLEAN-UP AND ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES THEY HAD PARTICIPATED IN THAT HAVE HELPED THEIR ENVIRONMENT. THESE WRITINGS WERE DONE IN PAIRS, WHERE THE PAIRS OUTLINED EACH OTHERS HANDS AS A REMINDER THAT HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR COUNTRY STARTS WITH PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMUNITY INTERACTION—INCLUDING THE USE OF ONE'S OWN HANDS AND THE HELPING HANDS OF THEIR CLASSMATES. THE STUDENTS ALSO ALL TRACED AND DECORATED THEIR HANDS ON RECYCLED PAPER.



MONDAY

AFTERNOON B CLASS - PHOTOJOURNALISM

A LOOK AT LIFE LIVING BY THE RIVER AS PHOTOGRAPHED BY MONDAY'S CLASS B STUDENTS OF THE FACES AND THE ISSUES ENCOUNTERED EVERY DAY.



LIFE ALONG THE KABUL RIVER

LIFE ALONG THE RIVER IS A DREAM FOR MOST PEOPLE. PEOPLE WANT TO ENJOY THEIR SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND OTHER HOLIDAYS ALONG A CLEAN RIVER WITH BLUE WATER. AFGHANISTAN WAS VERY RICH DUE TO WATER AND RIVERS AND NATURAL VIEWS, BUT AFTER YEARS OF DROUGHT AND CHANGES OF CLIMATE, NOW THERE IS LESS WATER IN THE RIVERS. A DROP OF THE WATER MEANS LIFE FOR HUMANS, ANIMALS AND AGRICULTURE. BUT UNFORTUNATELY OUR PEOPLE AND AGRICULTURE ARE FACING ISSUES FROM THE LACK OF THE CLEAN WATER IN OUR NICE RIVERS.A RIVER IS THE BEAUTY OF THE CITY – ONCE, THE KABUL RIVER WAS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND NICEST RIVERS IN AFGHANISTAN, BUT NOW IT HAS DAMAGED THE BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF KABUL CITY.









Mirwais

Noman





KABUL RIVER HAS CONTAMINATED THE ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE CANNOT GO NEAR TO THE RIVER DUE TO THE BAD SMELL AND POLLUTION. KABUL RIVER CAN BE A BIG RISK FOR THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE LIVING ALONG THE RIVER. OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE ACTION AND CLEAN THE RIVER TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNITY. PEOPLE ALSO CAN DO VOLUNTARY WORK TOWARDS THE CLEANING OF THE RIVER.

People who live along the river are very poor and most of the families have lost at least one of their family members in these three decades of war. And as we know, water is the most important element in our life and a river for a city should be very valuable and a natural resource for agriculture. But people in Kabul who live along the river, they don't think anything about the river and they don't know the value of the river because they are just passing their lives, they are not living their lives.

They are not enjoying life, just they are thinking about their families and how to feed them. Everyone has thousands of problems in their life, so they don't think about their health and their environmental health, and that's why people are suffering from the current state of Kabul river. Every day it harms the health of the people along the river, and sometimes in summer when the ice and snow in the mountains melt the river swells so that the water rises up and destroys the houses of the people along the river. In some poor areas of the city, people are using Kabul river as a garbage bin or toilet, which paves the ground for the worsening of germs and disease.



written by Ahmad Noman Stanekzai



TUESDAY Map/Hand Posters

The first week of the Tuesday Morning and Afternoon Class A girls was spent brainstorming and drawing things in their environment that make them feel happy. The next class the students spent time writing and drawing about how they have helped their environment become a better place.

To do this the students were grouped into pairs to trace each others hands. The students' ideas were written on the outlines of their hands as a reminder that helping the environment and their country starts with personal responsibility and community interaction—including the use of one's own hands and the helping hands of their classmates. The students all traced and decorated their hands on recycled paper.



TUESDAY MORNING CLASS B

> THE TUESDAY MORNING OLDER GIRLS' CLASS PAINTED WATERCOLOUR PICTURES REPRESENTING THEIR IDEA OF EITHER A CLEAN OR A DIRTY ENVIRONMENT. AFTERWARDS, WE FILMED THEM TALKING ABOUT WHY THEY CHOSE TO PAINT WHAT THEY DID AND WHAT THEY LEARNED IN SEMESTER 2 ABOUT POLLUTION, HEALTH AND HYGIENE. THEY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN WATER, TREES AND FLOWERS, AND GARBAGE COLLECTION.





MANEJA

SAHILA







MADDIE



ROHINA



ARZOO



MARZIA



RISHAM

TUESDAY Girls Journalism Class



BY MUSKA QASMI, AGE 15

We all are well acquainted with the fact that children and youth (the young generation) are the present and future of a country. Unfortunately our young generation is facing a huge range of problems and amongst them one of the biggest is unemployment. Due to the lack of jobs our young generation is compelled to go abroad particularly to the neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Iran, Russia, and Tajikistan. However the most valuable and biggest wealth for a country is youth, but here our young generation works in other countries to earn something for a living.

HERE IN AFGHANISTAN THE YOUNG GENERATION IS ALWAYS INSULTED BY THE FAMILY, SOCIETY, OR GOVERNMENT. THERE IS NO FACILITY FOR THEM TO STUDY IN ESPECIALLY AS WE HAVE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE THAT ARE GRADUATED FROM SCHOOL AND ARE NOT ABLE TO PROCEED WITH THEIR EDUCATIONS BECAUSE OF NOT HAVING THE BUDGET OR HAVING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AT HOME SO THEY CAN'T GO TO UNIVERSITY. THAT'S WHY THEY START ANY KIND OF BUSINESS SUCH AS: CAR WASHING, PLASTICS SELLING, CIGARETTE SELLING AND ALSO JOINING SOME MAFIA GROUPS. STEP BY STEP THE COUNTRY WILL LOSE ALL THE EXCELLENT YOUNG ATTITUDES.

I WILL ASK OTHER COUNTRIES FOR HELP. THE YOUNG GENERATION IS THE HOPE OF A COUNTRY BUT UNFORTUNATELY IN AFGHANISTAN THERE IS NO VALUE PUT ON THEM. SOME OF OUR YOUNG BOYS GO TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY TO IRAN, AND WHEN THEY ARRIVE THERE THEY WILL BE JOBLESS FOR A LONG TIME, AND THEY WILL GET INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING, KIDNAPPING, AND SELLING NARCOTICS. THOSE WHO CAN'T GO TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO START A JOB, THEY WILL BE STUCK IN POVERTY WITH HUGE PROBLEMS.

UNLUCKILY THE NATION OF AFGHANISTAN IS ALSO FACING POVERTY. AS MOST OF OUR YOUNG GENERATION LIVE IN POOR FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND UNSTABLE ECONOMICAL CRISIS MOST YOUNG BOYS AND MANY GIRLS ARE OBLIGED TO WORK AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR HOUSE'S EXPENDITURES THROUGH THEIR SALARIES. THIS IS THE STORY OF EVERY HOME HERE, THAT'S WHY OUR YOUNG GENERATION HAVE BEEN KEPT AT A LONG DISTANCE FROM EDUCATION AND HIGHER STUDIES, WHEREAS IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THE YOUTH TRY TO GET KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION TO COMPETE WITH THE WORLD. UNFORTUNATELY OUR YOUTH IS CAUGHT UP WITH THOUGHT OF EARNING MONEY AND FINDING A JOB TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THEIR FAMILIES.

IN ADDITION, THE EDUCATION SYSTEM COMPARED WITH OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS IS TOO WEAK/OLD, AS WE DON'T HAVE THE LATEST MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AND EQUIPMENT TO DO EXPERIMENTS PRACTICALLY. WE JUST STUDY EVERYTHING ORALLY AND WE ARE UNAWARE OF THE MOST RECENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH/INVENTIONS.

ONE OF THE OTHER BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN AFGHANISTAN IS THAT MANY FAMILIES FROM DIFFERENT PROVINCES DON'T PERMIT THEIR CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY GIRLS, TO GO TO SCHOOL AND ALSO THEY MARRY THEIR YOUNG (SMALL) DAUGHTERS TO OLD MEN FOR MONEY.

At the end I want to just mention the main problems of the young generation in Afghanistan: no facility for jobs, economic problems, family problems and education problems. I and every young member of this poor country have this hope and request from the government of Afghanistan to please provide the best facilities for every member of this country so that they live in comfort and spend their lives in happiness and safety.



JOURNALISM CLASS AND FRIENDS

PHOTO TAKEN BY MUSKA

THURSDAY Afternoon A + B



ONE OF MY BEST MEMORIES THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET WAS TEACHING THE YOUTH AT SKATEISTAN. DURING LAST SEMESTER I WAS TEACHING THE YOUNGER KIDS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PERSONAL HYGIENE. IT WAS ODD FOR ME AT FIRST, BECAUSE THE CHILDREN I TAUGHT WERE WORKING ON THE STREETS SACRIFICING THEIR CHILDHOODS TO GET A PIECE OF BREAD. YET THEY WERE ALL SWEET AND INTELLIGENT.

THE KIDS KNEW GOOD JOKES TO TELL AND WERE RESPECTFUL TO EACH OTHER. Sometimes, when I was contemplative they would try to make me happy. These children sometimes had trouble with concentration, for example if I told them to sit in their spot, they would start to move around after five minutes. They were always active and trying to work together with their classmates.

I WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO CREATE A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT IN THE CLASSROOM, BUT SOMETIMES WHEN THE CLASS' DISCIPLINE WAS BAD I WOULD BE SERIOUS, BUT NEVER FOR MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS. IN CASE SOME OF THE STUDENTS FEEL SADDENED BY WHAT I WRITE, I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE. I WANT TO SAY YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST AND I REALLY LOVE YOU ALL.

LOVE

MATIN SAFI





FOR MAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY POSSIBLE

