

Date: November 15, 2009

To: SignWriting List <SW-L@LISTSERV.VALENCIACC.EDU>

Subject: **Amazing report from Malawi!**

Dear Valerie,

Thanks for the e-mail and Pocket Puddle update! I may not get a chance to work with it for a while but I'm glad to have it. We had a successful trip to Malawi --- back about 2 weeks and almost over jet lag. I took Pocket Puddle and SW to the deaf school; we didn't have as much time to work on it as I had hoped, but did get it introduced. The teacher in charge of computer lab has been able to install it on the school system. Many thanks for it and for the books you donated. I am attaching a couple of pictures of school for you -- one is the staff working on Sign Writing in the library/staff room. The man at the end of the table is Mr. Macleod Hara, headmaster at school and a good friend. The other picture is Standard 3 with their copy of Goldilocks. It took about 10 seconds for them to figure out the sign system....! Standard 8 (our oldest group) took around 5 minutes to figure out how to write sign and had a blast developing some Chitumbuka sign. It was fun watching them go back and forth about which piece of each sign was exactly right until all 10 of them were happy! Even on my tiny netbook screen it worked pretty well. I'm hopeful that this is a start toward getting sign in Malawi "tied down" instead of morphing every few days.

Thanks again,

Carol Nussbaumer

See two attached photos on the next two pages...



