

W5 on Missions

Back to School Edition

In Canada, September means back to school, but this is not so in all parts of the world. Three CBM Field Staff share what school looks like in their contexts:

Deann Carter – Czech Republic

“The school where our boys have been attending (Riverside International School in Prague) uses a British curriculum. Class sizes are 16 maximum. They go to school from 8:30 to 3:30. After the school day, various clubs are offered. There is a lot of variety to choose from: sporting clubs, music and fine arts to intellectual/ language clubs. The school takes those students who are able to financially pay on school trips to various places. This past year some went to Austria, skiing in Northern Czech, Iceland, London, Spain and Italy. Both boys have been exposed to many cultures in the classroom and have made friends with classmates from all over the world.”



Matthew & Zachary

In September, the Carter boys will be studying on two different continents, as Zachary begins his first year at Crandall University, Moncton, NB, and Mathew will be continuing at Riverside in Prague and be in grade 6.

Erica Kenny - Kenya

“There are several major differences between school in Kenya and school in Canada. Kenyan schools are drastically underfunded. In 2003, the Kenyan government made primary school (grades 1-8) ‘free’ and there was a flood of students into the school system. Although primary school is technically free, parents are still expected to pay for school uniforms, books and exam fees. Since then, classrooms are extremely overcrowded and it is not uncommon to be in a classroom with 60-100 children with just one teacher. Because of this, the quality of public schools is a major concern for Kenyans and many parents opt to send their children to private school often run by religious organizations.



**Emma, Tristan & Ava Kenny
Canada Day 2015**

Within the private schools, there is a wide range of

quality and structure. Most schools in Kenya, public and private, follow the British school system. The school year begins in January and students move through the year with three terms each separated by a month long break-- April, August and December being school break months.

Our children attend Rosslyn Academy which is one of only a small number of schools that follow a North American calendar. They begin school in August and finish at the end of May. They have a short Christmas and Spring break. Rosslyn has teachers and students from all over the world. The curriculum used at Rosslyn is American, although because there are so many countries represented, the students are offered four language choices -- Kiswahili, French, Spanish and Korean. Rosslyn is a Christian school; not only do the students attend a weekly chapel service but start each day with devotions and prayer. They have Christian Education classes and an annual Spiritual Emphasis Week. They have opportunities to be involved in several outreach projects, as well.

Unlike Canadian schools, schools in Kenya are much more open (space wise) and the students spend a lot of time outside.”

Suzannah Nacho – Bolivia

“In Bolivia and most of Latin America (apart from Mexico, which is in the northern hemisphere), the school year is from February to November. December and January are the months of summer break. The kids also have two weeks of winter break at the end of June and beginning of July, the coldest months of the year. By law in Bolivia, children have to go to school at age 5 for kindergarten, but most kids go to preschool at age 3 or 4, similar to in Canada. School is just in the morning, from 8am to 1pm, a bit shorter for children in kindergarten and preschool. All of the children go home at midday because lunch is the most important meal of the day and parents come home from work and everyone is together.

One of the big celebration days in Bolivia is Carnival, which is celebrated soon after the school year begins, usually at the end of February, so the kids often dress up to go to school. Music and dance is also an important part of Bolivian culture and education, and children may receive some music and dance education at school.”



**Sofia Nacho (in middle) at a
School Presentation**

Lisa Lohnes

Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW