

**Dear Mama Moshi, dear Mr. Krebs,
dear friends, students & colleagues from Germany and Tanzania!**

The partnership between BMSS and our Wilhelm-Raabe-Schule is now already 11 years old! And just like a tree, also our partnership has grown since and experienced different times. To put it in “tree language”:

- Our partnership was planted in 2006.
- It slowly started growing its first young branches and leaves with our first respective visits, when Karsten Riggert and Stephen Mattowo met and opened their arms and hearts to each other.
- Time passed and on both sides the partnership witnessed changes (new headmasters have come such as Sophia Adess (Mama Moshi), Herr Krebs is here now, others have gone – some have retired, but are not gone) and also challenges from its surroundings, may it be decreasing numbers of students or difficult regulations by the authorities or superiors – these periods of drought have not been able to dry out our bond.
- In fact, they have made our partnership stronger, as we met the challenges with unified forces, sometimes even resulting in great projects, for example our kitchen project to reduce the use of firewood.
- Our “grow together”-project with the planting of many trees here in Lüneburg, with the support of many, many students, parents and teachers from our school and also the planting of more trees on the school ground of BMSS during our visit in 2016 has contributed to a more healthy and sustainable environment and our mutual commitment will bear many fruits for the future.

In 2013, we “planted” a tree on the walls of BMSS, with the colorful hand prints symbolizing the healthy growth and blossoming of our partnership. Today, the planting of this special tree, in Germany called “Säuleneiche”, which would be translated “pillar oak tree” in English, shall be planted in honor of our partnership. May this tree remind us, the whole school community of the Wilhelm-Raabe-Schule, of our friends and partners in Tanzania – even if you are far away. We are very happy and proud of this partnership, and may it grow stronger and stronger – just like this tree! ;-)