

Thinkers Doers Leaders

M-PESA
FOUNDATION
ACADEMY

M-PESA Foundation Academy Magazine

Issue 5

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Editorial

The year has been full of amazing achievements and we as a school, have grown in many different ways. When the academy was started in 2016, none of us could have imagined that we could achieve such great strides but we have through team work and determination. The academy's magazine has also developed into an integral platform through which learners can voice their views and experiences during their stay at the academy. When you read through, you can feel their excitement as they narrate their adventures and journeys in their own words. They are constructively mastering the techniques of a good writer, composing bracing stories populated with memorable and rich experiences within M-Pesa Foundation Academy. Indeed, these narratives shall live on long after they have completed their stay and shall be the gems of the achievements the academy has made in each stride. The magazine has enabled students to unleash their creative side and improve their language learning. It is a self expression tool that provides room for growth of their imagination, self confidence as well as their communication and persuasion skills.

This term was the shortest of the year, with only nine weeks and very few outdoor learning for the learners, yet when they were called to write, they did so without hesitation and this is why it is always a pleasure to present their stories in a captivating package. As we look forward to the long holidays, I welcome you to enjoy the wide range of poetry, artwork, informative and inspirational articles.

“Writing is the painting of the Voice” **Voltaire**.

Enjoy the reading.

Happy Holidays
Miriam Kimani
Editor

A word from the CEO

It is always a pleasure to share through the magazine platform all that the academy has managed to achieve through this exciting journey that has seen our second year nearing its completion.

Throughout this time the academy has grown in many respects; the number of staff has increased, we now have a total of 100 staff of which 51% are Male and 49% Female. The 2018 Admissions process was closed at the end of July and we received 8700 applications from all the 47 counties. The selection for the new Form 1 students is ongoing and will be complete by the beginning of December. We continue to work on the articulation of CLAIRE values by all staff and students. To celebrate success we introduced a student and staff recognition scheme to reward and motivate both staff and students who demonstrate the CLAIRE values. In order to expand the students' ICT skills we introduced the Microsoft and Oracle Academy and will continue to expand these programs

We have seen the completion of four new dormitories, and these will enable us to, host the new Form 1 students. We took possession of the Resource centre and we are working on making it a more exciting and interesting venue. Also, we have commenced work on the final phase of construction to include the leavers centre, CEO and the Director of Teaching and learning houses, additional junior staff houses and a creche. Additional playing fields on the adjacent plot are being completed and lastly the Auditorium work is scheduled to resume over the holiday for completion next term.

At the farm the hydroponics and aquaponics structure is complete along with the fodder unit. Two fish ponds were completed during the term and harvesting is on going and restocking of the same.



Les Baille

The Zero grazing unit preliminary work is in progress and this will enhance our livestock farming which already includes broilers, layers and rabbits.

Student life continues to diversify and the students are becoming more involved in various areas. The Mentorship and Sponsorship program includes our family lunch on Wednesdays where all the staff are paired with three to six students whom they meet during lunch. The Academy held its second student council elections on Friday 26th May 2017, which were overseen by the IEBC officials from Thika office.

The school welcomed four sports coaches and they have enhanced the sports program at the academy forming boys and girls teams in each respective sports. Next term we are looking to start Elite Academies including Soccer, Basketball and Performing Arts.

We have eight Entrepreneurship program running these are by the students and the various staff supporting them. The detergent and soap making enterprise is doing well the CLAIRE products saved the school KES 200,000 just in June and July.

I invite you to delve into the exciting articles in this magazine as the students narrate their tales and experiences during this term.



“You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.”

by Prof. Wangari Maathai



Environmental Degradation in Kenya

The word environment is defined as the external surrounding of a living organisms. In Kenya, economic activities often impact back on the environment through using up non-renewable environmental goods and services, by converting environmental resources to other uses and by adding waste and effluent to the environment. In turn a decline in environmental quality and resources impacts on economic activities by diminishing the amount of goods and services available for future production and consumption and by progressively precluding economic activities. We see a downward spiral of economic opportunities as the environment becomes more degraded.

As environmental resources decline in quantity and quality, especially if they are non renewable or the rate at which they are used exceeds natural regeneration, the amount of raw material available to generate output grows less and the amount of output itself declines. An example of this is over-fishing and the consequent decline in fish catches and fisheries income. In addition a direct cost is implied in terms of the expenditure necessary to prevent environmental degradation occurring. An example of this is the cost involved in installing soil and water conserving structures to prevent farm soil erosion.

A direct cost is implied in terms of the expenditure necessary to replace these products as they are lost. An example of deforestation which makes it necessary to produce alternative, non-wood sources of fuel and construction materials and at the same time to replace some of the environmental functions of the forest, is the need for the construction down stream of flood control infrastructure to replace the watershed catchment protection once offered by forests.

As environmental resources decline in quantity or quality they have wide effects on other production and consumption activities, even when these activities do not depend directly on a particular environment resource. An example of this agro-chemical pollution which affects people's health through contamination of foodstuffs, water and soils may also destroy fisheries by leaching into surface water and which may harm livestock through soil and water pollution.

As environmental resources decline, a range of possible raw material for pharmaceutical, industrial and agricultural applications may be lost forever. In August 2017 Kenya joined Eritrea, Morocco, South Africa and Rwanda as a country in plastic bag ban which is a very positive thing by introducing biodegradable bags. In addition we must also look at who bears the cost of environmental degradation, now and in the future. The people who bear the cost of environmental degradation are not necessarily those who cause degradation. For example, many of the indirect or knock on effects of environmental degradation such as bad health, loss of productive opportunities and ecological disasters are felt by the poor people who lack resources to cope with these costs or will be felt by future generations as a result of activities carried out today.

This is a wake-up call to Kenyans to protect the environment so that our future generations enjoy a better place.

“Let us leave Kenya a better place”

Stanley Koigi
1 Kifaru



Being a Journalist



Who is a journalist? What is their main role in the society? These were some of the most frequent questions I asked myself when I was younger. Joining Mpesa Foundation Academy was the most exciting moment, as I knew my dream would come true. I suddenly saw a bright future ahead of me.

The Academy has made me understand who a journalist is and his role in society. A journalist is a person who collects, prepares and broadcasts all current affairs that are happening across. He/she is meant to educate the society on all that is happening around them or even across the world.

The school has identified potential journalists, via the journalism club, and empowered them through various ways. Just at the end of last term, ten members underwent photography training for two days. They learned about light regulations when taking a photograph and the best angles and postures before taking a photo. The school went further and allowed the club to be presenting weekly updates every Monday morning, during the assembly. It didn't stop there, the club was even allowed to be taking all the photos for the school magazine as well as collecting and selecting the best articles. It's really a privilege to be exposed to all these, considering that members are so passionate about it.

The club has been really active as they have greatly participated in production of the termly magazines. Under our patron Miss Miriam, and her assistant Ricky Ruto (student) who is the chairperson of the club, it has



greatly helped us improve on our interaction, communication as well as thinking skills through participating in many practical events.

For sure, the school will probably have produced the best journalists in the world by 2022. Some of the photos taken by members include the ones below and many more that we have printed and sold to staff, visitors and students:

by Andrew Munywa - 2 Twiga



THE AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The agricultural show that we attended was held in Nairobi. All the students in the academy had a chance to attend the show. We were also accompanied by our nice and loving staff. The journey kicked off at 8.00 am, we used our buses as well as hired buses. We were divided into groups and each group had 16 people with 3 members of staff being assigned to each group. We arrived at the show grounds on Ngong road at around 10.50 am. All the students had guaranteed security. The grounds were very big and full of pupils from different schools. I was happy to see how much people liked the show, especially the educational part.

My group got to first visit a chemistry learning activity of liquefied air, here I got to know and understand better a topic on air and combustion in chemistry. We also visited a group that was selling agricultural fertilizers, they told us the importance of the fertilizers to crops which helped the agriculture students understand the concept better. The next place we visited was a group that advertised a solar pump that could pump water from a water source that was as far as 800m and it pumped 2500 litres per hour which sounded amazing. We visited the ISU-ZU car company that showcased their cars and here I got to learn that petrol driven cars pollute the environment more than diesel driven vehicles. They advised us to buy their vehicles in future since they used diesel. I was challenged to work hard so that I would in future buy my own car.

We visited the Kenya Ports Authority which is a big company in Kenya that deals with goods that come in and out of our country through shipping. I got to learn a lot especially on the types of goods that go out of our country.

We then stopped by the Multimedia University stand and got to learn more about media. We were curious to know the grade that one needed to get to do a media course and we were told that one had to get a C+ as the minimum grade for admission.

From there we passed by a sugar cane juice making machine and got to see how sugarcane juice is made, this was so interesting, I had always chewed sugarcane and also knew it produced the sugar we use in our tea, but I had

Stanley Koigi
1 Kifaru



never imagined a healthy juice could come from it. It was an entirely awesome day, there was a lot to learn and I gained much knowledge. At the end of the day, armed with all that I had learnt and seen, I looked forward to rest as we drove back to the Academy.

We visited a Scouts stand and we got to learn a lot concerning scouting particularly the scouts who were in our group. We visited the Chinese shop which I found fascinating. We took a break and I decided to enjoy myself in the merry-go-round together with other students from my group which was very exciting. After that we went to the agricultural sector where agricultural students like me, got to relish the most, since we had just started to learn about livestock production. I got a chance to see the different cattle we had learnt about in class including the *fresian, sahiwa, red poll, hereford, charolais and jersey* cows. We also went to the poultry farm and saw chicks and were told how they are fed so that they can grow into mature and healthy hens.

Another interesting stall was the vegetable stand where we saw different vegetables like kale (sukuma wiki) the sunflower and a cabbage that had a similar name to one of our classes in school called "*Kifaru*". We learnt how to make a raised bed and I promised to practice to make one at home. We visited the goat section where we saw very many goats including the British alpine, toggenburg, and the saanen. Here again the agriculture students including me, got a chance to experience what we learn in class.

After all the immensely enjoyable experiences at the show, we had to go back to our bus and head back to school. All the students were delighted and excited with all they had learnt. I thank the school management for taking us to such an educative show.



FIRE FOR THE FUTURE

At times life may be against us as we say, but God created us for a purpose and not failure. At times we may feel that we are at the end of it all. We may feel that no one is ready to help us in any way, but God is always there to help us in every way.

We should never allow our conscience to lie to us, for the body and the mind always work differently. We should always have only positive expectations (HOPE) for hope is not a dream but a way of making dreams come to a reality. We should always be optimistic for optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. We should let go of the past and focus on the future since life is a series of thousands of tiny miracles, notice them.

Our success in academics and whatever we do lies in our hands. We should always try no matter how many times we fail, for success is built on failure.

Remember that challenges aren't there to devastate us. Joshua Marine encourages us by saying that challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful. My dear friends I urge you to take everything positively for everything that happens in our lives happens for a better tomorrow.

Continue working hard putting in mind the quote of Colin Powell 'a dream doesn't become reality through magic, it takes sweat, determination and hard work'. Burn the midnight oil to ensure that you bring out the best out of yourself not minding what others might think about you.

I wish you all the best as you focus on brightening your future now.

By Warren Peter - 1 Swara



Brain Teasers

1. Find a word that begins with R and with the addition of the letter A gives another word that sounds the same in the past tense

2. This is a very special sequence and is complete, but what is the missing letter?

TIAVSSAIC....WITML

3. If today is Monday....

What is the day after the day before the day before tomorrow

4. Below are some proverbs with their vowels removed

*bs*nc* m*k*s th* h**rt gr*w f*nd*r.

Ch*Idr*n *nd f**ls m*st n*t pl*y w*th sh*rp kn*v*s.

* D*g d**s n*t **t d*g.

Y** c*n't k*d * k*dd*r.

Show the answers

5. In the town of USA, 7% of all telephone subscribers are ex-directory.

If you pick 500 people at random from the telephone directory, how many will have ex-directory numbers?

6. How many seconds are there in a year?

+++++

Answers

1. Red

2. "B" this is because only the first letter of each word was picked from the series

3. Monday

4. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Children and fools must not play with sharp knives.

Dog does not eat dog.

You can't kid a kidder

5. They are ex-directory, and therefore are not in the directory!

6. 12

By Jenta Onjoro - 2 Nyati



UNLOCK YOUR JAWS

By Enock Samuel - 1 Nyati

An old geezer, who had been a retired farmer for a long time became very bored and decided to open a medical clinic.

He put a sign up outside that said:
"Get your treatment for sh.1000 - if not cured get back sh.3000"

Doctor "Young," who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get sh.3000

He went to Dr. Geezer's clinic and this is what happened.

Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?"

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Aaagh! This is Gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be sh.1000"

Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

Doctor Young: "Oh no you don't, that's Gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be sh.1000."

Dr. Young (after having lost sh.1000) leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

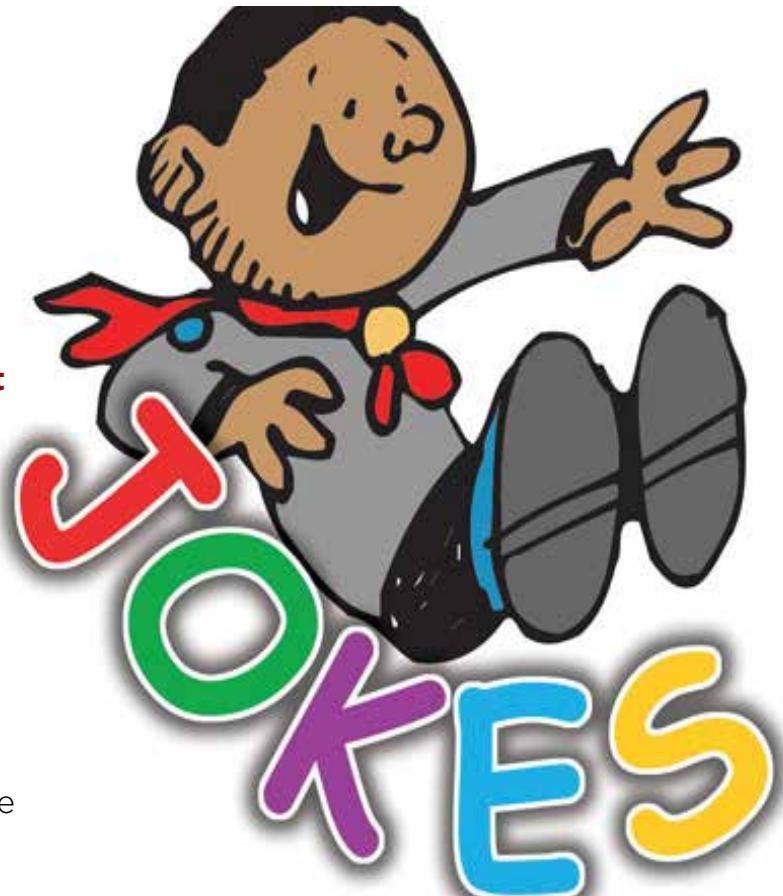
Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become weak I can hardly see!"

Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so. Here's your Sh.3000 back."

Dr. Young: "But this is only sh.600."

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be Sh.1000"

Moral of story: Just because you're "Young" doesn't mean that you can outsmart an old "Geezer"



How to deal with peer pressure

by James Maina - 1 Duma

Peer pressure (or social pressure) is the direct influence on people by peers, or an individual who gets encouraged to follow their peers by changing their attitudes, values, or behaviors to conform to those of the influencing group or individual.

Here are some ways of dealing with peer pressure :

Say “No” like you mean it.

Say “No” like you mean it.
Make eye contact, then say “No” forcefully, to those who’re misleading you from doing the right thing. The more certain you are in your refusal, the less people will bug you.

Back-up a no with a positive statement.

For example, if you're turning down an offer to smoke cigarette, say something like, "I don't have time now and I would like to concentrate on my studies, thanks." Be repetitive. Don't hesitate to state your position over and over again. Practice saying no.

Practice saying ‘no’ in safe environments.

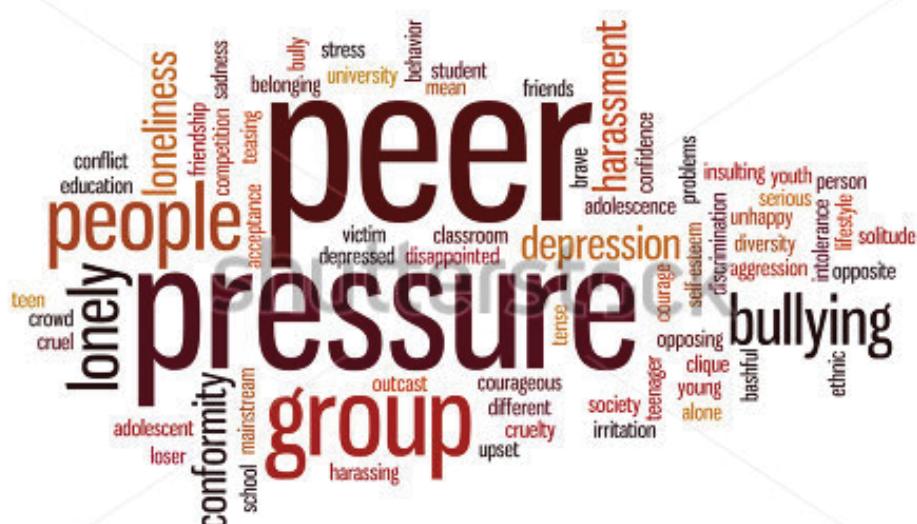
Get away from the pressure zone .Leave the scene where people who are trying to waste your future life and make your exit and do something beneficial. Avoid stressful situations in the first place .If you know there's going to be alcohol or drugs at a party, make other plans. Or, if you're going out with a guy, avoid being alone with him... anywhere he might pressure you to get more physical than you want to be.

Find a friend who shares your values and back each other up.

Confront the leader of the pack. The best way to handle a peer pressure bully is to be good to him (or her) when the two of you are alone and explain how you're feeling and ask him/her to visit a chancellor if he/she does not change his/her behavior.

Consider the results of giving in.

Take a moment to think about the consequences of your actions. Look for positive role models. Ever notice



that the real popular and successful teens at your school or society are the ones who weren't afraid to say what they like and don't like? Don't buy the line that everyone's doing it so I must do it. The truth is, everyone's deeds are not the best things to do.

Seek support.

Talk out any peer pressure you're experiencing with other friends who are also feeling the squeeze. It can be reassuring to know that you're not the only one. Be your own best friend.

Remind yourself every now and then that you are special and refuse to follow any negative statements

Find ways to excel. Challenge yourself to do your best. Focus your attention on following your personal goals instead of the goals of the group since some groups have goals which can mislead you.

Don't pressure others, so as you cannot be pressured.

Watch out for any subtle forms of pressure you may be exerting. Speak out in order to solve the problem of peer pressure in your school, society, county, region or country.

Fight peer pressure by taking the side of the underdog. Supporting others' opinions will send the

message that you think for yourself even if the opinion is wrong just listen and then you can make your judgement.

Watch your moods.

Be aware that your moods can affect your sensibility. Evaluate your friendships and the people you associate with. If your friends are always bugging you to do something you're not comfortable with, remember that true friends like you for who you are, not who they want you to be.

Find new friends who are well behaved and who cannot lead you to do wrong things.

If you've decided that your friends don't have your best interests at heart, search for new friends who share your values and interests. Remember that you are important both in school and in the society at large for the transformation of our country. Your life counts, and you can make a difference.

*Be yourself, If you follow
the crowd, you might get
lost in it.*

Jokes

Who killed Goliath

TEACHER: Good Morning class.

STUDENTS: Good Morning Miss.

TEACHER: You can sit down.

STUDENTS: Thanks Miss.

TEACHER: Today we are learning C.R.E. Which means?

STUDENTS: Christian Religions Education

TEACHER: And I am going to ask you a question,

WHO KILLED GOLIATH?

STUDENTS: (silent)

TEACHER: (furious) You don't know who killed Goliath . Jake who killed Goliath?

JAKE: Aunty I don't know!

TEACHER: John who killed Goliath?

JOHN: Aunty It is not me OH!!

TEACHER: James who killed Goliath ?

JAMES: Aunty I was not in school that day.

TEACHER: If you are not going to tell me who killed Goliath I will call your headmaster. I will ask you for the last time, WHO KILLED GOLIATH?

STUDENTS:(silent)

JAMES: If you know that you are the one who killed Goliath please surrender, I don't want the headmaster to flog me.

TEACHER: I am going to call your headmaster.

(goes out and calls the headmaster)

HEADMASTER: You mean in that class they don't know who killed Goliath .



TEACHER: Yes in that class they don't know who killed Goliath.

HEADMASTER: (enters the classroom) Students WHO KILLED GOLIATH?

STUDENTS: (everyone silent)

HEADMASTER: James who killed Goliath.

JAMES: I was not in school that day. If you're the one who killed Goliath please surrender.

HEADMASTER If you don't tell me who killed Goliath I will flog each one of you 30 strokes of the cane .

STUDENTS: No! No.! No Sir

HEADMASTER: (asking the teacher) ARE YOU SURE THAT THE PERSON WHO KILLED GOLIATH IS IN THIS CLASS??

TEACHER: Fell down and collapsed.

By James Maina Nduru - 1 Duma

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Serving our community was the greatest thing that I have ever done. I am overjoyed at serving others and the thought that things as simple as sharing my time, effort and knowledge could make such a great difference overwhelms me.

We recently volunteered for community service at Gertrude's children hospital and I was so touched by the sheer impact this had on the hospital and the patients. I have always had a passion of helping children especially the sick in hospitals. It didn't matter to me whether the commu-

nity noticed our help to them. What I cared about was the feelings and emotions that I got in exchange which were of total bliss.

I couldn't help but admit that I wished I had the potential to save the lives of all the sick people in this great universe, but that one life that I helped save by restoring back joy and hope really meant a lot to me. I wish you could see the love in the children's eyes and truly if you never had the passion to help, I bet that day would have made a difference in your thoughts and changed you. I was also delighted to

know that even after doing all that God sees all and rewards us. I know that He will inspire lots of people to help.

We worked together as a team and cooperated in doing the best we could to create a positive impact on the children. We also learnt that once you help you should not expect anything in return but instead you should do whatever it is that you are doing with a lot of passion.

Truly that day was a learning experience.

By Maryann Ngina -1 Swara

IMPORTANCE OF WORKING AS A TEAM

A team is a group of people who work together! Depending on each other in cooperation in order to achieve a common goal. Student teams generate positive synergy through coordinated effort. When a person has not performed well, the group work they work in may lead to a great success. Team work needs people to come together so as to be able to contribute to coming up with a solution.

Teamwork is all about caring for each other and achieving a proposed common outcome. Teamwork has an important place in our professional and personal lives. Working in teams is probably an inevitable life experience, even for people who prefer to work alone. Teams are everywhere. There are always student teams, tasks forces, and neighborhood associations in addition to all of the workplace demands of working in a team.

A team generates positive attitudes towards other people. This individual effort results in a level of performance of a hardworking person. We as the students of Mpesa Foundation Academy need to work as a team so as to achieve whatever brought us here.

You may find that someone cannot be able to understand a concept unless through further discussion with a team. I encourage every member of the Academy to work hard as a team and remember that hard work does not go unrewarded. Work together because you achieve more than you would have as an individual. **WORK SMART.**

By Isaac Kibet Serem - 1 Kifaru

Visit by MPESA Holdings Chairman



MPesa Holdings Chairman, David Wormold is taken through a practical lesson on how the Academy integrates Technology in Learning through the LMS platform by the academy staff Robert Muthomi (Teacher).



Mr. David Wormold is taken through the students enterprises which include a barber business, crafts and decorative services, catering services, hair dressing, mart making and shoe repair by the enterprise supervising staff John Shivisi (Teacher) and Leonard Matolo (HOD Finance)



David Wormold with Academy Director Teaching and Learning Dr. Stephen Walker and Leonard during the enterprise exhibition



Former Chairman Safaricom Foundation, Micheal Joseph together with M-Pesa foundation Academy CEO, Les Baillie during the visit at the academy



Tree planting at the Academy in honor of the visit by David Wormold.



Visit by Guests from KCB foundation to the Academy on 14 September 2017.



Visit by delegates from Standard Bank wealth Warriors Key Immersion, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Launch of the Safaricom sustainability report



Ivy as she mastered the ceremony



Ivy with Bob Collymore (Safaricom CEO) & students from Bahati Girls and Nyeri High.



Ivy Waikwa (Academy Student) poses for photo with students from Bahati Girls High school after the launch event.



Safaricom Chairman, Nicholas Nganga and Safaricom CEO, Bob Collymore mark the launch of the Safaricom Sustainability Report 2017 at Safaricom Headquarters in Westlands Nairobi where the event was emceed by our student Ivy Waikwa (R). Looking on is the UN Resident coordinator and UNDP resident Representative, Siddarth Chatterjee (L).



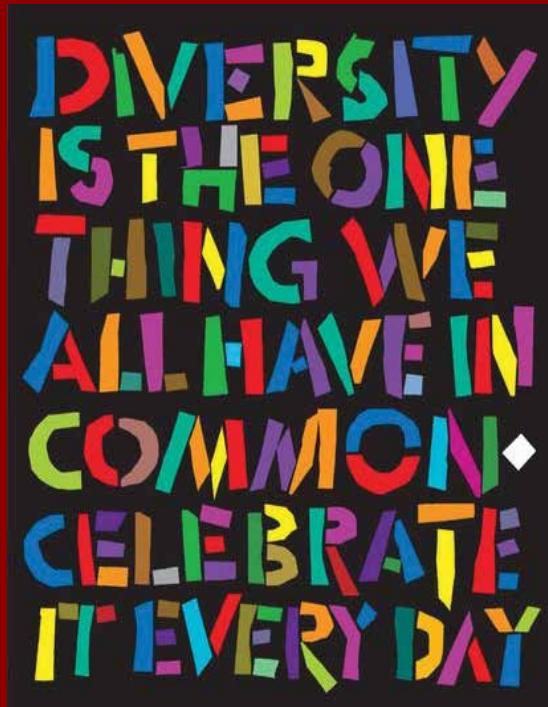
*Visit by senior staff
from Vodafone
Greece, UK, Italy,
Germany, India, Ghana,
Egypt, Ireland, Turkey,
Australia, Spain and
Romania.*



Diversity, Religion and Inclusion within the Academy

The community of Mpesa foundation Academy is indeed a diverse one. The Academy is made up of staff, teachers and students from all the 47 counties and tribes of Kenya all working and co-existing together as one. Diversity is what makes the academy unique and strong. We interact with people from different areas daily and learn from their diverse and rich cultures. Having interacted with for instance a Kikuyu was such a great experience. I never knew they were polite as opposed to what people think and say, back in my community.

Getting to know, understand and respect other people's culture has been very important to me and has helped change a lot of the perceived mindsets that I had acquired from hearsay, have learnt to respect all other peoples cultures, beliefs and ways of life. For example, getting to learn that the word {papa} still meant the same thing in french language was such a happy moment. Religion was another key factor to note in the Academy.



Christianity and Islam being the two main types of religion in the Academy, has brought about unity and development. Coming together and interacting with Muslims for those who are Christians and vice versa is such a great experience. I really cannot stop thanking the Academy for its decision of bringing together young but different Kenyans to be transformational leaders. At the Academy we have those people who are physically disadvantaged but no one would dare to mistreat them or look down upon them, we are all treated equally despite our age, gender and tribes. There is profound respect to all, with students referring to staff as Sir or Ms. At the Academy we count ourselves us brothers and sisters. Diversity

does not separate us but it acts as a stepping-stone for our unity. Even the food served at the Academy is like going on a cruise around Kenya, since all the counties cuisines are offered from githeri, to tilapia and ugali. Both boys and girls respect each other's personal space. We have no problem with early negative relationships since we are taught the dangers of engaging in early relationships. We see each other as brothers and sisters. Respect in the Academy is a two way traffic and always expected everywhere you go. If ever there was a place that all Kenyans could come and see the true meaning of unity and inclusion, it would be the Academy. I wish that one day, one time, in one way or the other we will have a country free from tribalism and discrimination.

*By Godfrey Khadima
1 Kifaru*

How to make friends

Quoting Edna Buchanan's famous quote "friends are the only family we choose for ourselves" by the end of this article I will have shown you the best hacks of making friends.

Participate in social activities or join a club

Joining a club gives you a chance to find people with same interests as yours and this may help you in your way to making friends.

Avail yourself every time

Sitting alone and locking yourself in a house won't enable you to find friends. You have to sit in a place with other people, it doesn't mean you go to an overcrowded area but six to eight people can do. Obviously you can't expect friends to come knocking your door and bringing an application letter of friendship.

Enjoy talking to people

You might have found a club, gone outside but you won't make friends if you don't talk to people. Anytime you talk to somebody you stand a better chance of making friends. On your journey back home talk to the person sitting next to you in the bus because most kids will be going home at that time.



Smile at people and make eye contact

If you have an unfriendly look on your face whenever you talk to someone you are less likely to become friends. Look directly in their eyes when talking to people and don't appear bored since it will appear like you are disinterested in the conversation.

Choose a topic of starting a conversation

Once you identify a person you're interested in becoming friends with, initiate a conversation. You can begin by commenting about the situation at that point eg The weather is hot today or your perfume smells amazing and immediately ask a relat-

ing question for example, which perfume brand do you use, is it Limara or Fa?

Introduce yourself at the end of the conversation and if possible exchange contacts

You can end the conversation by introducing yourself or organizing a getaway to pursue your common interests eg if you are taking instruments you can organize time to showcase your skills.

Remember, making friends is one task and maintaining them is another you should always be loyal to each other and always be in touch.

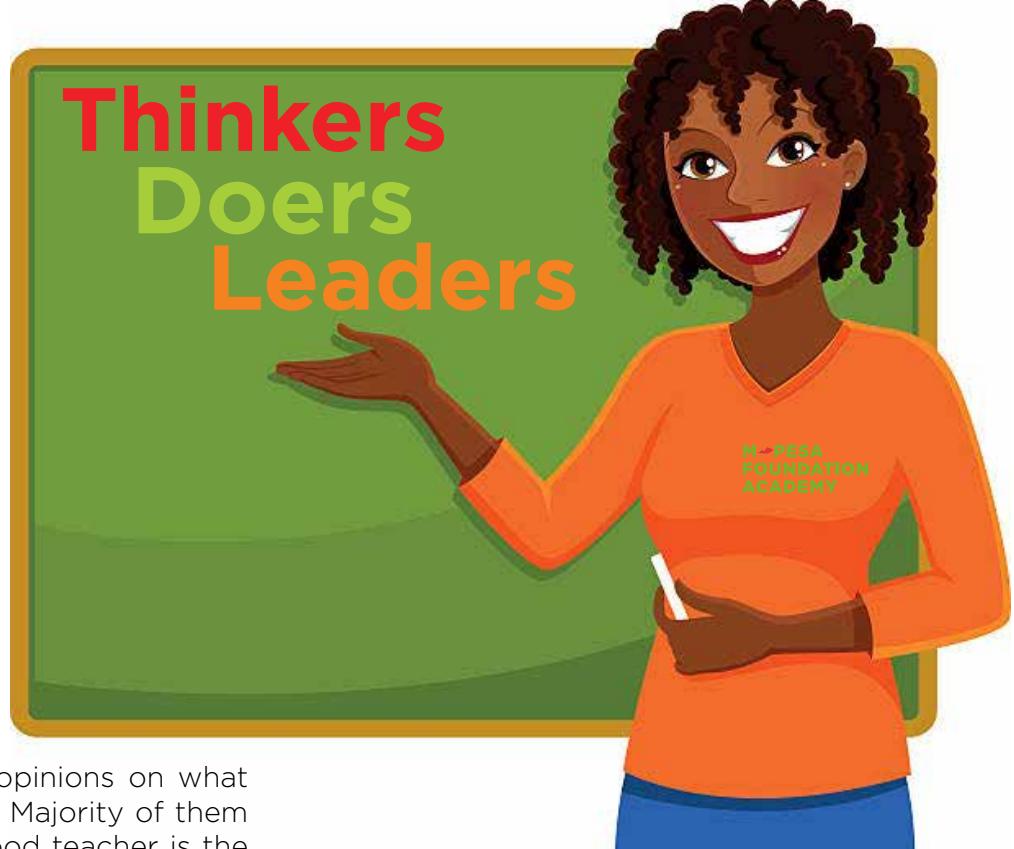
*by Derick Amuyunzu
1 Kifaru*

Life is the art of drawing without an eraser.
John W. Gardner



A Good teacher

O P I N I O N C O R N E R



All students have their opinions on what makes a good teacher. Majority of them tend to think that a good teacher is the one who does not correct them when they are wrong, does not bother to check the class assignments and does many different things to impress them. What we as students forget is that all those things that we want the teachers to do have consequences.

I believe that a good teacher is the one who guides and moulds students' thoughts positively, shares in their achievements and advises on their faults. They not only educate their minds but also touch their hearts. Good teachers have feelings of warm affection towards their students and a genuine desire to impart them with what they believe to be of value. A good teacher knows that a student can teach and a teacher can learn. They integrate themselves into the learning environment and show students where to look but not what to see.

Furthermore they inspire hope, ignite imaginations and instill a love of learning from heart as well as books. A good teacher knows to bring out the best in his/her students, understands and instills moral values in their students while teaching them to be resilient, to never give up no matter how hard the situation may be. A good teacher takes a student's hand, opens a

mind and touches a heart making sure that he/she discovers their natural gifts and liberates them by the stimulating influence of inspiration. A good teacher makes a poor student good and a good student even better ensuring he/she secures the students heart and makes them feel equally treated.

What makes a good teacher is the quality of having self-discipline and being organized in order to act as a good role model to students and also others. A good teacher is an enthusiast in teaching and therefore encourages students to be enthusiasts in learning. Good teachers correct without offending and they are approachable both inside and outside the class. They appreciate and commend their students whenever they succeed and encourage the ones who don't achieve their goal. They are also masters of their subject matter and set high expectations for all students in order to make them strive for great things in their lives. Most importantly a good teacher is like a candle, consumed to light the way for others.

I strongly believe that these are the virtues of teachers at 'the Academy' because they possess all these and more qualities.

By Betty Ethel - 1 Kifaru

Did You Know? (Sage X3)



It comes along with an array of modules which include;

- Finance - Sage X3 handles all our financial needs with ease it includes accounting and cash management functions, analytics, budgets and reporting.
- Inventory module in Sage X3 includes all the tools you need for location management, quality control, sampling and inventory replenishment. This way we are able to track stock levels in our stores.
- Sage X3 allows you to turn action into insight with built-in business intelligence tool, and offers a library of predefined reports that are centralized.

The ERP seeks to increase efficiency, transparency and creating a better and robust

The Academy has adopted a new enterprise resource management system.

SAGE X3 is an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) a new product in East Africa, commonly used in the US and in Europe.

The implementation of the ERP in the Academy began in 2016. Over the months it has taken shape to be a backbone of all the academy operations.

reporting system in the academy. But again it came along with its own unique challenges such as designing processes as per our requirements.

The system links up various departments within the academy such as Procurement, Human Resources, Farm, Catering and Faculty. It has ensured a seamless workflow.

At the academy, we believe in integrating technology and innovation into every sphere of the operations of the institution and the system is just one way that we are exploring betterment of our operations.

By Edward Kisaka (Staff)

Poetry

Education Is The Key Of Life

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the World.

The roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are sweet.

Knowledge is power.

Information is liberating.

Education is the premise of progress in every society, in every family.

You have to stay in school. You have to.
You have to go to College.
You have to get a degree.
Because the one thing people can't take away from you is your education

Truly education is the passport to the future for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

By Domina George
1 Kifaru.

Education

A sweet apple on a tree,
Education, the light of our life, a gift of academic life,
A key to a bright and rewarding future,
Education, a path to divine success, a smooth drive to our greatness,
A ladder that takes us to the height where we belong,
Education, mother of all profession, education is our right, For in it our future is bright.

by Elsie Kananu Mburugu - 1 Chui

Don't Quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road is rough and you are trudging seems all uphill,
When you keep on trying, but you can't just get it right,
And care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't quit until you reach your goal.

But remember, the road to success is not straight,
There is a curve called failure,
A loop called confusion,
Speed bumps called friends
Red lights called enemies

But if you have a spare called Determination
An engine called Perseverance and hard work
The silver lining of the clouds of doubt,
And you can never say how close you are to your goal, It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you are hardest hit.

by Salome Wangari - 1 Twiga

Wisdom

Wisdom, Wisdom
Before you speak, listen,
Before you write, think,
Before you spend, earn
Before you decide, investigate,
Before you criticize, wait,
Before you quit, try,
Before you retrieve, save,
Before you die, give
Lastly fly in the plane and you will land in the airport of success.

by Caren Cherotich Kikwai - 1 Kifaru

by Mercy Nyabii - 2 Nyati

Mpesa foundation academy,
In thee we put our trust
Coming together is a beginning,
Living together is our progress,
Working together is our success.

Mpesa the light of our life, a gift of academic rise,
Mpesa the key to a bright rewarding future,
a glue that joins our dreams like suture, a path to Devine success,
a smooth drive to our greatness,

Mpesa mother that gives our thinking a different appearance,
and helps drive away all our ignorance. Mpesa leads us to the path of prosperity,

And gives our tomorrow a sounding security Education,
the process of teaching and learning, which will help us in our future earning.
Mpesa foundation academy, shaping our true character is the motto,

Leading to a successful life it is the major factor Education,
The progressive discovery of our true self,
And exploitation of the potentials of oneself Education,
a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army,
A life boat that see us through our days of stormy Education,

A torch of academic brilliance
And backbone of inner resilience
Mpesa the key to unlock the golden door of freedom
And stage our rise to stardom

Education

A life sustaining material

Without it we can't lead a life which is congenial Education
not all about bookish knowledge

But it is also about practical knowledge

Education makes a person stand up on his on toes
And helps a person to fight with all his foes Education
A fundamental foundation Mpesa academy

For any country, state or nation

Mpesa Academy

A thick line between the current leaders and future leaders
A ladder that takes us to the height where we belong Education

Mother of all profession

That helps acquire all our possession

Education Is our right

For in it our future is bright.

Mpesa Foundation students

We are the light and the light is in us

We are the light.

THE 2017 ELECTIONS

It is indeed amazing to take a walk or pass near the children's playground and hear them talk of election, political parties and sing several political songs amidst their plays while shouting different Parties' slogans. Many a times, one will spot them discussing different politicians and you'll wonder if they really know what they are talking about. Such has become normal in Kenya especially during election year but to me this should not be the case.

Undoubtedly, these children represent the thoughts and views of their parents, guardians and communities in matters politics. We may presume this to be normal, and may even break into fights amongst themselves because of their different views on election matters but this is exactly what happens even among adults. They can and are ready to go to extremes even though majority of them do not understand even a single manifesto of the parties they support. It is sad that as country we have reached a place where the citizens vote for the candidate not based on leadership qualities but on tribal lines.

This is totally different in Mpesa Foundation Academy, seeking any elective post in the academy is similar to seeking a political seat in Kenya since the process is the same. There is a nomination process, campaigns and publishing of manifestos. I was of the view that when one is holding an elective position, then he has an upper hand when vying for the same post but I must say that, this is totally not the case in the Academy, when a sitting student president vies for the same post in the Academy, they have no real advantage over the other candidates vying for the same seat.



This is truly an institution of leaders with vast abilities in different fields, learners who are fast thinkers and view things with a unique eye and their rich personalities bring to the forefront great potential, integrity tactical and analytical skills..

Though I was the school president in the previous year of 2016, my re-election was by no means a walk in the park , more so because my competitors were as well equipped with leadership skills as I was.

The 2017 presidential election in the academy was certainly distinct with tough competition and no one was assure of being a direct winner. This is because students (electorates) are very keen on who they support and for what reason, they are not influenced by anything else apart from "potential" to work for them. Their level of maturity is such that you cannot easily know whether they are your supporters or the opponent's since they don't show nor discuss their choice or preferred candidate.

However despite being unsure whether I would emerge the winner, I soldiered on to the ballot which is normally conducted by the "IEBC". I felt a mixture of emotions after the entire election process upon the announcement that I the winner, I did not know whether to celebrate or to weep since the race was so tight. As a nation, as we aspire to grow, we should emulate the upcoming young leaders that are being nurtured in the academy so as to bring transformation to this great nation.

Je n'ai jamais vu une telle école dans la vie,
Oh mon Dieu au ciel,
Je crois et insiste,
Qu'il n'y a pas d'autre école comme
M-Pesa Foundation Academy!

C'est bien sûr le meilleur endroit à apprendre
Avec toutes les installations dont on a besoin,
Notre avenir repose là,
Il n'y a pas d'autre école comme M-Pesa Foundation Academy!
Les pages se tournent et les stylos écrivent,
Les examens que nous passons et laissons passer,
Pour chasser le succès qui revient avec du bonheur
Il n'y a pas d'autre école comme M-Pesa Foundation Academy!

Nous prions à Dieu,
Que notre Académie, Existent pour toujours,
LES PENSEURS, FAISEURS, DIRIGEANTS

*Edwin Omundi
Onyango -1 Duma*



MON ÉCOLE

Mon école s'appelle Mpesa Foundation Academy. Elle se trouve à Thika au Kenya. Mon école est internat donc je suis interne. Je suis en premier è année. Il y a cent filles et quarante-vingt quatorze garçons.

J'étudie beaucoup de matières par exemple les maths, l'anglais, le français, la physique, la chimie, la biologie, la technologie, la swahili, le commerce, la géographie, l'histoire et l'agriculture. J'adore le swahili et les maths parce que le prof est très gentil. Je déteste le commerce parce que le prof est trop sévère.

J'aime mon école parce que c'est fascinant. Nous faisons aussi de l'entrepreneuriat dans notre école. Nous avons une grande bibliothèque où l'on peut lire des romans de son choix. Également, les professeurs peuvent y tenir leurs cours temps en temps. Dans la bibliothèque même, on peut aussi tenir des discussions en groupe ou bien se détendre car il y a une ambiance magnifique.

En effet, c'est si agréable et unique que je ne peux pas comparer avec d'autres. Je ne vais pas vous en parler plus de cette école de peur que je gâche sa beauté éclatante. C'est la meilleure école jamais.

Au revoir!

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Priscillah Nduku Irungu. Mon école s'appelle M-Pesa Foundation Academy. Elle se trouve à Thika au Kenya. Il y a deux cent quatre-vingt quatorze étudiants et trente sept professeurs.

Dans mon école, il y a des salles de classe. Il y a neuf salles de classe et six labos. Dans les salles de classe, il y a une porte, un bureau, une horloge, des pupitres, des étudiants, un professeur, des fenêtres, des chaises, des livres et une poubelle. Ma classe s'appelle 1 Twiga. On a trente deux étudiants et un professeur. Il s'appelle Monsieur Cyrus Meema.

Nous apprenons douze matières: la biologie, le français, les maths, la géographie, la chimie, la musique, la science domestique, l'anglais, le swahili, l'informatique et la physique. Nous faisons aussi l'eps, le badminton, le volley, le foot, le hockey, le basket et le netball. Mes matières préférées sont la biologie, les maths, la chimie, la géographie et le français.

Comme sport, je préfère le badminton mais je déteste le foot. Enfin, j'aime mon école. Au revoir!

*Priscillah Nduku Irungu
1 Twiga*

GERMAN POEM (DEUTSCH GEDICHTE)

DANIEL MWANZIA & BRIAN OCHIENG ODOYO - 1 NYATI

Die Liebe soll für Ewigkeit existieren, auch in
der aller schlimmsten Situationen

MEIN BLÜMLEIN

So weich,Klein und gellassen,
Steht als am zentralsten des Feldes,
Das Feld,das von der mengen Söhne
getrocknet hat,
Aber es in voller blüte immer steht.

Das starke, klein Blümlein,
Warum hast du kein durst?
Braucht du überhaupt kein Wasser,
Wie so bist du hitzebeständig?

Aaaah! ich weiß, ich beobachte ,
Ich bemeke dein heimliche Geheimns,
Von der Schwangershaft der dunklen Wolken,
Wartest du um Jahrhunderten besogt;
Um dich in diesem selten Wasser zu ertrinken.

Du bleibst immer so , ich weiss,
Deine Wurzel Schlagen im Erde Fest
Du kannst dich kaum abschieben
Niemand kann dich weder entwurzeln, noch
umziehen

Ich würde gerne, das kleine Blümlein dabei
haben,
Das Blümlein, das kaum geändert wird,
Wie ein ölgoze steht es unantastbar,
Unberührt würde es festestehen.

MEIN BLÜMLEIN!!!
Bleib immer unversehrt!!

Vielen danke!!!,

Ich heiße Korir Cherotich
Maureen und ich bin sechzehn
Jahre alt. Ich wohne in einen
kleinen Dorf im Kericho , die in
Kapsewa Bezirk liegt. dh Der
Westlichen des Kenia liegt. Ich
schätze diese Schule , weil es
mir verschiedenen
Gelegenheit geben. Als ich
Kind war , habe ich diese
Ressourcen nie gesehen oder
benutzt . Seit meinen Kindheit,
hätte ich einen wirklich große
Traüme, die Leute helfen.
Fast war ich in Klasse acht und
meine Hoffnung wurde verrin-
gert , denn ich konfrontiert mit
vielen Umstände. Trotzdem gab
Gott mir diese Gelegenheit,
damit ich meinen Traüme
erfüllen kann. Herzlichen Dank
zum allen die in
meinen Leistungen involviert
sein.Vielen Dank!.



Introduction of Pickleball in the Academy

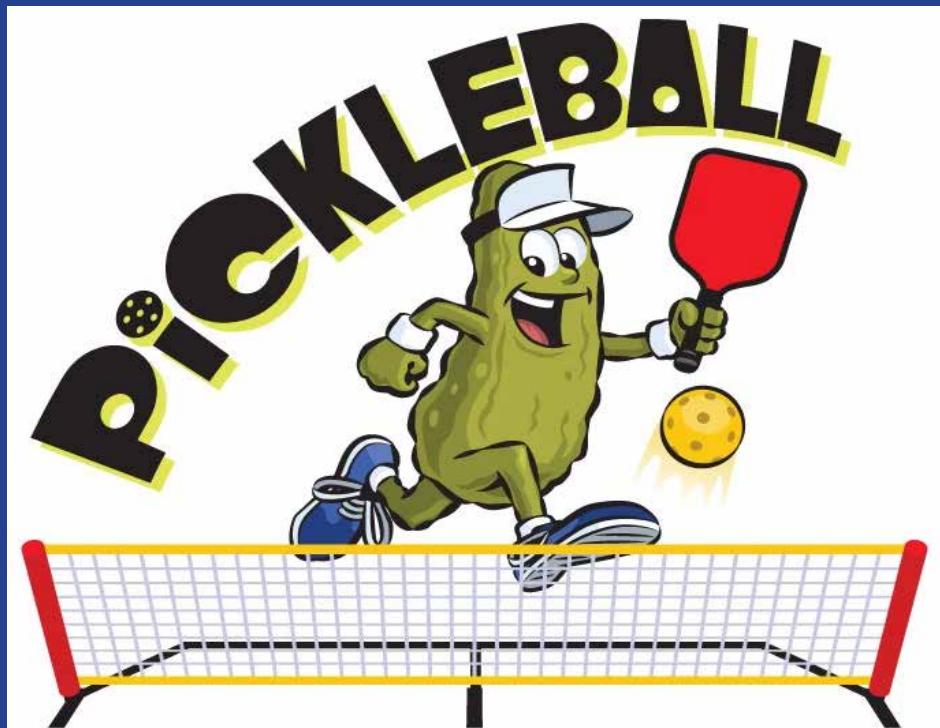
Pickleball was introduced in the academy on 30 September 2017 by Mr. Steve Kuhn from United State of America. It is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. The ball is served with an underhand stroke so that contact with the ball is made below waist level (waist here being the navel level) in an upward arc. The server hits from behind the baseline on one side of the center line and aims diagonally to the opponent's service zone. Only the serving side may score a point. Players earn a point when the opponent commits a fault.

Faults include:

- 1. Not hitting the serve into the opponent's diagonal service zone**
- 2. Not hitting the ball beyond the net**
- 3. Hitting the ball or not hitting after the 2nd bounce on one side of the net**
- 4. Hitting the ball out of bounds**
- 5. Volleying the ball on the service return**
- 6. Volleying the ball on the first return by the serving side**
- 7. Stepping into the non-volley zone (the first seven feet from the net, also known as the 'kitchen') in the act of volleying the ball.**

A player may enter the non-volley zone to play a ball that bounces and may stay there to play balls that bounce however the player must exit the non-volley zone before playing a volley.

The first side scoring 11 points with a lead of at least two points wins the game. If the two sides are tied at 10 points apiece, the side that scores ahead by two points thereafter wins the game.



Tournament games may be played between 15 or 21 points with players rotating sides at 8 or 11 total points respectively. The server and partner usually stay at the baseline until the first return has been hit back and bounced once.

At the beginning of a doubles game before any serving, the score is 0-0. Then the side serving first gets only one fault before their side is out, meaning that their opponents serve next. After the first fault each side gets 2 faults (one for each team member serving) before their side is "out".

In singles play, each side gets only one fault before a side out and the opponent then serves. The server's score will always be even (0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10...) when serving from the right side, and odd (1, 3, 5, 7, 9...) when serving from the left side (singles play only).

Rules for those in wheelchairs are similar to the standing rules with minor alternatives. The player's wheelchair is considered to be part of the player's body and all applicable rules that usually apply to the body will also apply to the player's wheelchair.

A pickleball player in a wheelchair is allowed two bounces instead of the one a standup player would receive. When a player in a wheelchair is serving the ball, they must be in a stationary position. They are then allowed one push before striking the ball for service. When the player strikes the ball, the wheels of the wheelchair shall not touch any baselines, sidelines, center lines or the extended center or sidelines. When there is a mixed game of those in wheelchairs and those standing, the applicable rules apply for those players respectively. Standing players will adhere to the standing pickleball rules and the wheelchair players will adhere to the wheelchair pickleball rules.

So far we are the only people playing the pickleball in this country and we look forward to starting the Kenya pickleball team. I thank the Academy for this chance and I'm also looking forward to be the coach of the first pickleball in Kenya in which we can compete internationally.

By Otieno Clifborn - 1 Twiga

Our Road to Destiny

Well, I guess I can figure out what you are all thinking but you got the wrong idea. I'm not talking about the romantic soap opera, oh no!

So this is what I really want to inform you my dear friends, don't yet give up hope, continue reading this for better understanding.

In order to fulfill our dreams we need to be strong and have the courage to pursue it no matter what comes against us. Believe down in your heart that you're destined to do great things.

Have the courage to stand up, the courage to follow your dreams, the courage to be a winner not a looser,

YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Never say you can't because I know you can do it. We were not born as losers.

We should set goals because a person without a goal is like a dead fish floating down the river at the mercy of currents.

We must set personal goals in order to succeed. We must be realistic and specific and be guided



Follow
your
dreams
they know
the way

by our values. We are destined to do great things and be great people; if the successful people did it then why not us?

My belief is that we are who we choose to be. Nobody is going to come and save you coz you've got to save yourself. Nobody is going to give you anything, you've got to go out and fight for it.

Nobody knows what you want except you, and nobody will be as sorry as you if you don't get it. So don't give up on your dreams yet because I know as long as we are together as one and God being our leader then nothing is ever impossible.

NEVER GIVE UP!

By Hannah Waithera - 1 Twiga

Celebrating the Girl child

This

October, 11 2017, we celebrated the international day of the girl child. As we indulged in the day and conversations of the meaning and importance of the day, I could not help it reflect on the world wide status of the girl child.

It is imperative that we acknowledge as a people that, no girls means no mothers and ultimately no life.

The fact is that a girl child is always considered to be a lesser child in many cultures and communities. This is purely a view that is unjust and warrants change. "Is it a boy or a girl?" is the first question most parents ask at the day of birth. This is where discrimination starts. The baby boy is celebrated, but not so if the baby is a girl, why not a baby girl.

Most cultures view girls as burdens that will only take and never give back to the family lineage as they will be married off. This distorted view leads to the abuse and misuse of the girl child within families and communities as well as locking the doors to potential equality of resources such as health and education. This abuse is everyone's business, but her health and safety starts at home with parents and caregivers.

With this view, a girl child is likely to undergo malnutrition, female genital mutilation, early marriages, sexual abuse and child labour. This is done because they are believed to be of no value. It is important as society to change this view after all educating a man is educating an individual but educating a woman is educating a society. A daughter is a wonderful blessing and treasure, she is laughter, warmth, special charm and brings joy. During the international day of a girl child we celebrate the potential of every girl, we celebrate the uniqueness of being a girl and the important place that every woman has within their communities and the world.

A girl child represents the happy memories of the past, the joyful moments of the present and the hope and promise of the future. As Harriet Beecher Stowe states, "Women are the real architects of society" we are a powerful force.

Remember;

Dare to dream and then live your dreams

Always believe in yourself, no one else will uncover what lies inside, you will not believe how much strength is hidden within.

Go the extra mile, persistency pays.

Have fun and be happy while at it.

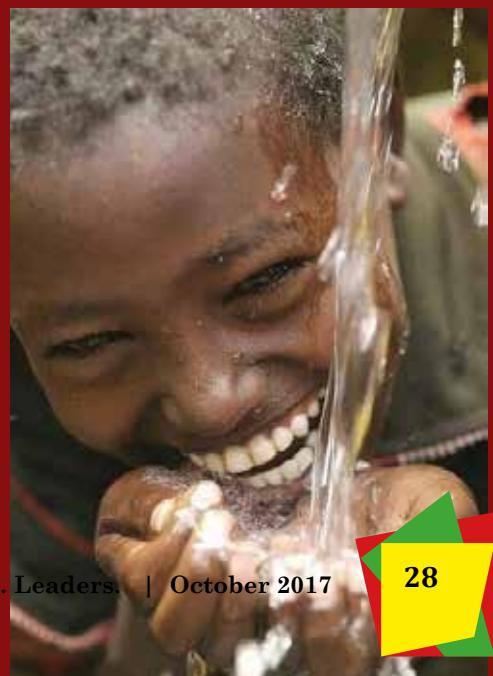
Treasure tiny miracles they are always happening all around you.

Embrace life and all its richness.

Reach for the stars, there is no limit to what you can accomplish.

By Lydia Bwari - 1 Swara

Thinkers. Doers. Leaders. | October 2017



Thinkers Doers Leaders

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