

# School Magazine

Issue 9 March

2019



“Success is the sum of Small Efforts, repeated day in and day out.” – Robert Collier

# table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Editorial.....                             | 1  |
| Word from the CEO.....                     | 2  |
| Word from the CEO.....                     | 3  |
| Form 1 Admission Day .....                 | 4  |
| Form 1 Welcoming Ceremony.....             | 5  |
| Music in my Soul .....                     | 6  |
| Scouts Camp Report.....                    | 7  |
| Scouts Camp Report.....                    | 8  |
| Adopting New Teaching Methods.....         | 9  |
| STEAM Competition.....                     | 10 |
| Feature.....                               | 11 |
| Libraries; Safe Spaces for Learners.....   | 12 |
| Libraries; Safe Spaces for Learners.....   | 13 |
| German Fun Day.....                        | 14 |
| Poetry.....                                | 15 |
| Shairi; Mradi Wa MPESA.....                | 16 |
| Gallery.....                               | 17 |
| Gallery.....                               | 18 |
| Perfoming Arts.....                        | 19 |
| The Road not Taken.....                    | 20 |
| Poem.....                                  | 21 |
| Jokes.....                                 | 22 |
| Feature.....                               | 23 |
| Faeature.....                              | 24 |
| Form 3 Coast Trip.....                     | 25 |
| Art Corner.....                            | 26 |
| The Pencil and the Manufacturer.....       | 27 |
| Tuzo la Rais.....                          | 28 |
| Journalism Club.....                       | 29 |
| Journalism Club.....                       | 30 |
| Inspiration Speech.....                    | 31 |
| In my skin.....                            | 32 |
| St John’s Ambulance.....                   | 33 |
| Mentorship.....                            | 34 |
| Book Review.....                           | 35 |
| Kenya Science Engineering Competition..... | 36 |



## **From the Editor,**

Writing creates an infinite world of possibilities with no boundaries or walls for the writer. Through the pen and paper, the writer's voice is captured not in the norm of spoken communication rather in an indelible way that cannot be forgotten, for when you write, you create a history that will forever be. It is a skill that is encouraged and harnessed in our learners, and they have undoubtedly grown in its mastery as seen in their use of the English language to express what is in their minds within the various genres of articles represented here.

Every day, we get great ideas that can have an impact in the world, even when we are asleep, but the difference between being ordinary and making history through innovation and success comes when you write down your thoughts, no matter how meaningless they seem. A pen and paper should be our greatest ally, always available wherever you go and next to your bed at night. Keep a journal, as the years' pass; it is from what is written down that you may discover your purpose.

The articles written by our students here at the academy will always be a part of their experiences that cannot be erased. One day, when they become the thinkers, doers and leaders that the academy is mounding them to be, they can then look back at their works and see just where greatness began. We hope that enjoy reading as they take you through the beautiful journey of their first term of the year 2019. It is a year of quite a few firsts for the academy; our first year after the official launch of the institution in October last year by the president of the Republic of Kenya Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta as well as the year we are having our first candidates sitting for the KCSE exams.

*Welcome*  
*Miriam Kimani*



## Word From the CEO -Mr. Les Baillie

**“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.”**  
-Chinese proverb

Unfortunately, the Academy only opened its doors in 2016 so we were unable to plant a tree twenty years ago, so we will continue to plant each year until our forest grows and matures.

As we enter our fourth year we should take some time to reflect on our achievements. The pinnacle of our first three years was the official opening of the Academy by our President, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta on 24th October 2018, accompanied by the CS Education, Ambassador Amina Mohammed, His Excellency spent several hours touring the facility and speaking with some of our learners. For most of them this was the first time they had met the President and will be remembered for many years to come.

The construction of the Academy is now complete and the learners are able to benefit from the facilities that we now have. Last term we inaugurated the Auditorium, a multi-purpose, world class theatre, cinema, lecture hall and concert hall. Fully equipped with the very latest audio, video and lighting it is a truly magnificent asset, unlike anything else in the wider region. Our weekly assembly now takes place there and the choir and orchestra now benefit from the amazing acoustics of the interior.

In January 2019 our fourth intake of learners commenced, bringing the total number to 672. They had the immense benefit of having three forms above them to help them settle into the new environment. We have seen some of the remark-

able talent that they have brought with them in sports, music, art as well as academics and I wish them all a very happy and successful time at the Academy.

As we develop the sports facilities we have made remarkable progress in sports competitions both in the local area and the county in general. Despite having had very little or no exposure to some sports, the learners have excelled in hockey, football, rugby, basketball, athletics, tennis, golf and volleyball. With the opening of the swimming pools last year the swimmers are starting to make a significant mark in competitions. We have commenced elite academies in rugby, football, golf and performing arts and we aim to have a basketball academy later this year. Some of the successes this term have been;

### Athletics

Three students qualified to the Kenya Secondary Schools Sports National Championship that will be held in Mombasa from 7 to 14 April 2019. They include:

| Name            | Class | Position | Event                         |
|-----------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Ricky Ruto      | 4N    | 1        | 400M                          |
| Nelson Luseno   | 3C    | 2        | 200M                          |
| Edward Chirchir | 1C    | 1        | Triple<br>Jump & Long<br>Jump |

### Hockey

Hockey Boys qualified to the Kenya Secondary Schools Sports National Championship that will be held in Mombasa from 7 to 14 April 2019,

## Word From the CEO (Continuation)-*Mr.Les Baillie*

after attaining position 1 in Central Region.

Hockey girls made it to the Regional Zonals.

### **Karate**

The Karate team attained position 3 during the Kenya Open Junior Karate Championship that was held on 9 & 10 March 2019 at Mount Kenya University. The team won 2 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze medals.

### **Swimming**

Abiud Limo 4T was position 3 in 100M Butterfly and 4x50M Individual Medley during Central Region Secondary Schools Swimming competition.

As an Academy we encourage as many of our learners as possible to participate in the President's Award Scheme. Our current form 4 commenced their journey in 2017 when they commenced the bronze award. Since then they have progressed to the gold award and on 20th March 2019, ninety of our learners were extremely excited to attend the award ceremony at State House where they received their gold awards from the President. Our form 3 have now achieved the silver award and form 2 the bronze award and we look forward to them moving on to achieve the gold award as well.

2019 will see our first sitting for the KCSE and our form 4 are working diligently to ensure success for themselves. One of the questions I am frequently asked is "What happens to me after KCSE?" As part of the overall plan for the Academy we have built and fully equipped a leavers centre, the Uongozi Centre, which will allow up to 96 learners to stay on for a fifth year to continue their education, but at a higher level. Whether they are applying to University in Kenya or overseas, or want to build a career as entrepreneurs and starting their own business, they will have the opportunity to spend up to 10 months in the centre developing their skills before going out into the big

wide world.

The Academy aims to develop leaders, leaders who have values, ethics, empathy and are responsible. I would therefore end on a quote from Abraham Lincoln

"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next."





## Form One 2019 Admissions Day

By Micaiah Amani Form 1

The journey to Mpesa Foundation Academy was full of excitement. I don't usually get the opportunity to travel outside my county let alone my village a lot, and so everything on the way arose within me feelings of jubilation. The dusty murram roads in the village gave way to the neat tarmac roads and tall buildings. The bustling numbers of passersby entrenched in their usual daily routines reminded me of the colony of ants that we would play with as they made their way across the field, it was always interesting trying to disrupt their straight lines that headed to a hole on the ground, perhaps a gateway to their nest.

I was lucky enough to be among the students that were to report to the Academy on the first day as the one hundred and ninety-two students reporting were divided into two groups that would report to the institution on 7th and 8th of January 2019. The 3D writings at the walls of the gate of the academy quickly captured your attention once you alighted from the matatu. I could already tell that this was a great place to study and the prestige of the buildings could be seen as we signed in at the gate. The walk to the admissions desks was too short for my liking as I wanted to take in the scenery, the roofs looked like a birds' wings as it set to fly off from the highest tree in the forest; to call this place beautiful was an understatement of the actual sight.

We were warmly welcomed by the academy's staff who wore branded uniforms and we were ushered to a waiting area. Within a few minutes, we were seated at one of the many admissions' desks and were taken through the various documents that needed the consent and signature of both my guardians and mine.

The steps that followed at the sports hall was transformational as we were fitted up with

everything we needed from full uniforms, to brand new shoes, you could hardly tell who we were with them on. We also got the chance to dine with our parents and guardians with ten o'clock tea being provided for those who were around at the time and even lunch.

After the various stops that included the marking of the uniforms with our admissions number, we were taken in groups together with our parents to the residences where we would be sleeping.

My guardians were astonished by the beauty of the place, a thick mattress, clean sheets and even a duvet. The brief tour ended our time together, now I was under the custody of the academy, and it was time to bid them goodbye, sad as it was, I was really looking forward to being at the academy, I wanted to experience the thinkers, leaders' and doers drive, this time as part of the team.





## Welcoming Ceremony for the 2019

### Form One's

by Kennedy Mugwimi

According to the African traditions, when a child was born he/she was welcomed through song and dance, and MPESA Foundation Academy being an African based school could not be left behind.

On 18th of January, two weeks after the birth (admissions) of form ones, they were warmly welcomed into the CLAIRE family through the performance of various traditional songs and dances derived from the different communities in Kenya. This was the most enjoyable moment for all of us since the beginning of the term and most especially for the form ones who had just joined us.

Coming from various parts of Kenya and Africa, they were welcomed with an assortment of various pieces that were performed by form two, three and four students. Our staff members also were not left behind as they joined in on stage.

The pieces were presented according to categorised regions as highlighted below;

Northern region - Turkana, West Pokot, Teso

Western - Busia, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Trans-Nzoia

Eastern 1 - Meru, Embu, Isiolo, Tharaka-Nithi

Eastern 2 - Kitui, Machakos, Makueni

Rift Valley 1 - Narok, Samburu, Kajiado

N. Eastern - Marsabit, Garissa, Mandera, Wajir

Coast - Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Lamu, Taita Taveta, Tana River

Nyanza 1- Kisii, Nyamira

Nyanza 2 - Kisumu, Migori, Homa Bay

Central - Kiambu, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Nyandarua, Murang'a, Laikipia, Nakuru

Rift Valley 2 – Nandi, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Bomet, Kericho International - S. Sudan, Sudan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (and other international countries represented in the school)

“I wish this would be happening every Friday.” Our CEO said as he congratulated everyone who had contributed in making the day a success. It was such a fun Friday.





## Music in my soul

by Glein Mahera Makhola

Learning to play an instrument is an experience that helps to enhance skills needed for education and social interaction. This opportunity was given to me when I joined the Academy and it has been a beautiful experience that has helped me in different ways. Playing the clarinet has helped better my manners and has helped me in becoming a team player. By understanding scales, and rhythm I have been able to learn how to divide, create fractions and recognise patterns. I have also mastered coordination and motor skills through the constant activity of playing the instrument. Music has helped me build my social skills. This is because in group practices you require communication, peer interaction and teamwork. It is also essential to know the individual parts to bring out your music well which is necessary for the overall harmony of the whole group's performance. Playing an instrument needs discipline and patience; one has to persevere through hours and months of practice to be able to perform within the orchestra or even to memorise a solo piece. Lastly, music as a whole has enabled me to learn about new cultures, by familiarising me to the classical style of music such as the jazz style which originated from South America.



# Scout Report Camp Report



By; Kennedy Mugwimi

Nahum Jepkemboi



Alex Omunje



Scouting or the Scout Movement is a voluntary, non-political, educational movement open for young people without distinction origin, race or gender, and gender aims to support young people in their physical, mental and spiritual development, that they may play constructive roles in society, with a strong focus on the outdoors and survival skills. It started on January 24th 1908 in England by Lord Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell and his wife Olave St Clair Baden-Powell who were born on 22nd February 1857 and 22 February 1889 respectively.

Our objectives as scouts are to contribute to the education of young people through values system based on the scout promise and law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society. It also helps young people to realise full potential as they move into their future.

On the 22nd February 2019, a group consisting of forty-four scout members left for their weekend camp in Dedan Kimanhi University of Technology, Nyeri County. This was a founder camp that is celebrated annually by all scouts and girl guides worldwide to celebrate the birthday of the scout founders. We arrived there at 2 o'clock, and both boys and girls were shown their respective campsite. It is at this point that our first lesson on



the importance's of teamwork and unity was actioned as different patrols were given a specific task to tackle. Others pitched the tents, and others offloaded the bus while others started preparing the evening's meal. By exercising the value of responsible citizenship, one of the core values of the academy, we kept our campsite clean and orderly. After freshening up, we attended the coke studio Africa concert which was held in University's stadium and enjoyed an entertaining evening.

## *Scout Report Camp Report(Cont.)*

On the morning of Saturday 23rd February, we woke up anxious for the much-anticipated days' events and after having our breakfast, we left for St. Peter's Cemetery in Nyeri town. This is where the body of the scout founder was laid. The celebration was set to take place here. On arrival, some of us were chosen to participate in the guard of honour which was inspected by Nyeri Governor Hon. Mutahi Kahiga and the Kenya Scout Chief Commissioner Mr Victor Radido. After the celebrations, we went back to the campsite where we worked as a team to pitch up our tents again after they had been "blown away" by heavy rain which had come pouring down while we were at the celebrations.

That evening, students preparing for investiture went for their training which was being facilitated by scout leaders. They took us through scouting history, and this was followed by a question and answer session where no answer was wrong; instead it was more like a discussion where we all gained new knowledge and insights into the scouting movement. Everyone had a chance to contribute to the class that consisted of thirty-three participants. Learning needed to be intertwined with games to create a more significant impact, and though the night was approaching, we danced and played games as were being suggested by different members of the team. We even held a competition, and even though it was tough and interesting it provided a light note for the ending of a superb evening.

Investiture is a ceremony that entails admitting of recruits to the worldwide scout movement. After investiture, on Sunday, we started packing our luggage's back to the academy. We had great memories of the three days to take with us as well as new badges for our scouts' uniforms and as Mwamba motto states; **LOOK WIDE & HAVE FUN.**





## Adopting New Teaching Methods To Actualize Life Long Sustainable Goals.

*By Ashley Chepkorir*

The paradigm shift from 8-4-4 school curriculum to 2-6-3-3-3 competency-based curriculum will no doubt offer unlimited opportunities to learners! When the 8-4-4 education system was proposed, and introduced by the Mackey Commission in 1985, education experts anticipated that the curriculum would equip learners with excellent skills to the labour market or for self-employment. However, it is discouraging to note that the objectives of the 8-4-4 system have been overtaken by the ever-changing societal and rapidly changing labour market. The piloting and implementation of the Competency-Based Education is not only welcoming but offers an excellent chance for the post-millennial scholars to innovate, think and create solutions to the problems that abound in their socio-economic and political surrounding. This should be a wake-up call to teachers, curriculum developers, parents and all educational stakeholders to be cognizant of the fact that change is inevitable and must be embraced.



The young generation deserves to enjoy their learning as well as benefit from it. With the new curriculum, this is achievable.



## STEAM Competition in

By Kerry Otieno

The abbreviation STEAM means Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics. On 3rd of February 2019, we got a chance to go to Brook House for First Lego League competition (FLL) where you're given some challenges, and you have to come up with the solutions to those challenges using your Everobot. This year's theme was "To the Orbit" where we had to come up with solutions facing space expeditions and every group was to have a maximum of five members and a group leader.

We began our preparations for the competition two weeks before, and we divided ourselves so that everyone had a chance to do what they do best, the challenges were very tough, but with the help of Mr Ronoh and the STEAM facilitators we were up to the task.

When the competition day, arrived we travelled to Brook House School in Runda and on our arrival, we went to their sports hall where the competitions were to be held. Everything started on schedule. When our turn came, we were to present our core values and also finish the challenges within two minutes for two rounds with the best mark from the two rounds being recorded as our final mark. Our group which we had named Mpesa Legends was the best in the core values category, and as the day ended, it was the best experience ever for each student who participated, which could be noticed by the smiles in their faces.





To Teach is to  
Touch a  
Life  
FOREVER.



## Libraries; Safe Spaces for Learners During Holidays

*By Kevin Omollo Library Assistant*

The April holiday is here, and with the governments' ban on holiday tuition, learners will be home for about three to four weeks. This break from school is good for the learners, but how they spend it has a significant impact on their social as well as academic life. As usual, disagreements between the learners and their parents, on how the holiday will be spent are a norm, with some parents opting to send the learners upcountry, where they can spend time with their grandparents. Others will choose to hire personal tutors to coach the learners in areas they believe are wanting. On the other hand, learners would want to relax and have fun, travel for holiday camps, or stay glued to televisions and browse the internet. So how do you manage the learners holiday in a way that promotes growth and excellence? One way is to control the use of the internet, and how many hours they can access it through supervision and proper communication on how they can safely use the internet without falling victim to the harmful contents that abound in it, knowledge is power. The second is by regulating the hours they spend watching Television, and the third and best option is to encourage them to visit the local library near your area. Most towns have at least one public library that is run by the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS), and the access fee is just Kshs. 20 or free for members. At these libraries, the learners have the opportunity to access the various information resources, including books, reference materials such as dictionaries, reports and journals, or even audio-visual materials that are academically related. Other regions have community libraries where such services can be accessed. The advantage of enrolling children into these services is that it provides a good environment for study, and the learners access a wide range of books, which may not be available in many schools but more than that,

the libraries provide mentorship services. Libraries and resource centres provide sessions where educators come to mentor the young people about careers, innovation and technology, among other things. This boosts their morale and encourages them to put more effort in their studies.

A good example is Timothy Aleko, the Mathematicians Club Coordinator who holds talks in various forums, during books club activities or library mentorship programmes. Many organisations too have libraries and resource centres, with consideration given to the welfare of the staffs' family.



As a parent, you could ask about the availability of children reading services in your organisation. You may find a section in the library for children, or books that you could borrow for the children. Other reading habits that can be implemented include book clubs. Finding book clubs, they can join is also a great way of helping them spend their holidays. The clubs allow young people to develop a positive attitude towards reading through activities such as writing, drawing and poetry. As a parent, you can rally other parents and guardians to come together in your estates and form a book club for the learners. You can then rest assured that, the learner has a positive and rewarding experience. Enrol the children in reading services and give them the power to change the community.





## German Fun Day

By Jabu Issa Saidi

Hallo! Wie gehts. Ich heiße Jabu Issa. Actually never, I have had so much fun in German activities like I did on this day. It is a day that all German students will vividly embed in their minds. We rehearsed our preparations a day before the major event. Early the next morning, we were all good to go. We eagerly waited for the invited German students to arrive from their respective schools. A large SIE SIND WILKOMMEN (You are Welcomed) had been posted at the doors of the auditorium where the event was to take place. Miss Noel on that day, was as busy as a bee, being the teacher in charge, she could not rest. At around 8 a.m. students from invited schools started pouring in. This would be a great day for them all. It was a beautiful morning, giving a sneak peek to the wonderful and smooth day ahead. The students with their accompanying staff matched in the auditorium where they had the privilege of dancing and getting the warmest welcome.

With the help of some German students, we hoisted the German flag which we had gotten straight from Germany as a gift from one of our former interns Mareike Effinger. A large SIE SIN. I was privileged to be one of the moderators for the day and I found it more exciting since I had a specific role to play, though handling people wasn't as easy as it seemed. Especially when you have to ensure that their attentiveness is on you. Everyone had his own way of making their presence felt. Some shouted their school names, some their mottos and others gave attention seeking screams but all was well. We had the opportunity to introduce ourselves in German. Maureen, one of the German students had the privilege to introduce herself and we were all pleased since she was so fluent and represented us well. This is what she said:

“My Name is Maureen Waithira. Ich Komme aus Muranga. Ich bin in Form Zwei. Ich bin Sechzehn Jahre alt. Meine Deutsch lehrerin ist Frau Noel Tiyoy. Meine

Schule ist Mpesa Gemischt Schule. Meine Lieblingsfach is Chemie and Matematik.Meine Lieblings Freundin heist Jabu Issa. Das ist ales.” She was so fluent that other students were looking at her with admiration.

The afternoon part of the program was so sensational. We were really happy with the way Ms. Tiyoy conducted the event. She had really planned it so well. It was all entertainment in the afternoon with singing and dancing. We sang until our mouth could sing no more. Our voices were horse with laughter. Our ribs were also hurting from the laughter, surely people could crack jokes and the different and at times quaky dancing styles only increased the laughter and drained all the strength from us. All dancing styles were displayed.

As predicted, the German day turned out to be lots of fun. Many thanks to Miss Noel our German teacher, the German students and everyone else who contributed in one way or the other to the success of the day.





## Poetry

By Grace Joan

I believe I can be anything I want,  
Anyone I want to be,  
Whoever I purpose to be,  
Only if I believe in myself.

I believe I can walk over the mountains,  
Soar so high in the sky,  
Touch the clouds,  
Fly over seas and oceans,  
Make the sun my light and  
The moon my fan,  
Only if I believe in myself.

I believe I can achieve anything,  
Change an electron to a proton,  
Make the impossible possible,  
Tackle all the difficult issues in life,  
Only if I believe in myself.

I believe I can make my dreams come true,  
I can become the great person I want to be,  
The great leader the world will look up to  
The great reconciler who will bring peace,  
Who I see every day when I look at the mirror

I believe I can change the world,  
Take it to a higher level,  
Transform people's lives,  
Bring the ancient garden of Eden back here on  
earth,  
Cause I see something special,  
A one of a kind in me,  
Yes, I believe in and see the genius in me





## **Shairi; Mradi Wa MPESA**

*Limetubgwa na Halima Sadia*

*Yalahi ya Rabana, twakumba ya Karimu  
Mfano wako hapana, wewe ndiye karimu  
Hakuna mnayefanana, peke yako ni hakimu  
Mradi wa Mpesa, Ndoto zetu tatimiza*

*Wanagenzi tulitaharuki, karo ikaadimu  
Tulianza kuungana, kutafuta ukarimu  
Shuleni hakukaliki, tulishinda kulalama  
Mradi wa Mpesa, Ndoto zetu tatimiza*

*Wasiwasi na wahaka, yote yalituandama  
Swali letu lilikuwa, nani tatusomesha  
Kwa bashasha tulijibiwa, Mpesa tukaalikwa  
Mradi wa Mpesa, Ndoto zetu tatimiza*

*Haki zetu kuzilinda, shuleni hata nyumbani  
Elimu yetu kuhakikisha, changamoto kuzikabili  
Ni nini tungewatuza, iwe ni yenu hidaya  
Mradi wa Mpesa, Ndoto zetu tatimiza*

*Pongezi na shukrani, Twazitoa kwa Mpesa  
Mradi thabiti kutuletea, ya uongozi kukuza  
Mazuri mengi kutufanyia, kung'arisha masomo yetu  
Mradi wa mpesa, Ndoto zetu tatimiza*

# Gallery



A Catchy Kikuyu Dance with Christopher Mwaniki as "Mashang'i"



CEO, Mr. Les Baillie assists Zennah Zawadi arrange her new School Uniform during the Form 1 Admission Day.



Debate club members as they receive the "MFA Debate Champion" Award



Cake Cutting during the Academy's 3rd Anniversary celebrations.



The Academy's Athletics Team pose for a photo just before a race.



Form 1 Student puts out a fire during the form 1 fire and safety training.

# Gallery



Miss Veronicah Sein and form 4 students in Taita Taveta, during the Presidential Awards Gold Excursion.



Victory Dance by the hockey boys' team as they qualified for Nationals.



The Academy's Golf team pose for a photo at the Magical Kenya Open golf tournament, held at the Karen Country Club with their coach Simon Ngige, who emerged as the top Kenyan at the tournament.



Light moment at the 3rd anniversary celebrations.



Joyce Nyawira Form 4, giving a speech at the presidential Award ceremony. She represented the Youth in the country at the ceremony.



Light moment at the 3rd anniversary celebrations.



## *Performing Arts*

*by Sophy Purity*

The performance art is a music program that was started by our able teachers Mr Watatua and Ms Judith at the academy. Last year during the December holidays, some of the students were left behind for the concert. We teamed up with the Ghetto Classics group which was quite a new experience for me.

There was a schedule that was made so that the correct activity would be happening.

On 26th Sunday, October 2018, we left the Academy for Korogocho in Nairobi to practice with the Ghetto Classics team. It was an excellent experience for everyone because I have never been to a musical performance practice with a well-known group like Ghetto Classics. Afterwards, we headed to the mall where we did some shopping before heading back to school.

On 27th Monday, October, we continued with the regular schedule. In the morning, we had a two-hour practice with Mr Watatua until eleven o'clock, but in the afternoon, we took rest. We enjoyed most of the evenings because we watched movies selected by Ms Judith and even had snacks.

On day three, the Ghetto Classics came to the Academy, and we heard a lovely day together. As we neared the start of the concert, we worked with zeal and zest to make the day a success. As the adage goes, a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Not a single day passed without practice.

Finally, the awaited day came, that Friday, guests from outside came to watch the concert which encouraged us. We all did our best and left the audience including the Academy's CEO amazed. He gave a speech in which he said that our performance was a dream come true.

I hope that more of such concert will be arranged and performed to change people's mind-sets about the beautiful world of music. Sometimes music is the only thing that gets one's mind off everything else, and it is also a universal language that transcends every barrier. Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything. One of the best things about music is when the notes hit you; you feel no pain.



## *The Road not Taken*

*By Teresa Rios*

*Two roads diverged in a yellow mood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And to be one traveller, long I stood  
And looked down to one as far as I could.*

*To where it bent in the undergrowth  
Then took the other, as just as fair  
And having perhaps the better claim  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear*

*Though as for that passing there  
Had worn them really about the same  
And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had to trodden black*

*Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing if I should ever come back  
I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence*

*Two roads diverge in a wood,  
And I took the one less travelled by  
And has made all the difference.*

**Choices have consequences! Make yours prudent**



## POEM

Sharon Kiptanui

### CORRUPTION

I sit down the tree,  
Thinking of corruption in Kenya,  
Organizations in Kenya are all crumpling due corruption,  
I wonder, when will this corruption end?

Times hitherto, there was no corruption,  
Outsiders admired the calm serenity,  
And we earned a lot of foreign exchange,  
Which we used in many other good ways.

But after independence, Kenya changed,  
We metamorphosed into a brutal monster,  
Over taxing people has become a norm,  
I wonder, will this corruption ever end?

I don't think so.

In the year 2013, the elections were postponed  
So that the IEBC could prepare well,  
And for that, many people were killed,  
Dear people, let's put heads together  
and think for the future of our country.

At the end of vision 2030,  
Everyone will be going home proud,  
Singing "my country, my pride"  
Living a happy life without discrimination,  
No exploitation, I look ahead for that day!

Countrymen! In whisper, I shout to you!  
Corruption does not start from Government,  
It starts with you, and you, and you!  
And then, spreads spontaneously,  
Kenyans! why do you like suffering  
Yet you have the power to bring solutions?





## JOKES

By; Washington Were

**Student:** "Sir, can I ask a question?"

**Teacher:** "Yes!"

**Student:** "How do you put an elephant inside a fridge?"

**Teacher:** "I don't know."

**Student:** "It's easy, you just open the fridge and put it in. I have another question!"

**Teacher:** "Ok, ask."

**Student:** "How to put a donkey inside the fridge?"

**Teacher:** "It's easy, you just open the fridge and put it in."

**Student:** "No sir, you just open the fridge take out the elephant and put it in."

**Teacher:** "Ooh...ok!!"

**Student:** "Let me ask another one. If all the animals went to the lion's birthday party, and one animal went missing which one would it be?"

**Teacher:** "The lion of course! Because it would eat all the animals."

**Student:** "No sir, it is the donkey because it's still inside the fridge."

**Teacher:** "Are you kidding me?"

**Student:** "No sir, 1 last question."

**Teacher:** "Ok!"

**Student:** "If there's a river full of crocodiles and you wanted to cross, how would you?"

**Teacher:** "There's no way, I would need a boat to cross."

**Student:** "No sir, you just swim and cross it because all the animals went to the lion's birthday party..."

**Teacher:** "I have my own question, if all the students come to school except one person, who is the person..."

**Student:** "No idea sir..."

**Teacher:** "It's you because you are on two weeks' suspension."





It is a BEAUTIFUL  
thing  
when a Career and  
PASSION  
come together.

*Hospitality Department - There's more to celebrate.*



Hospitality exists when you believe that the other person is on your side.



# Form 3 Trip to the Coast Region *in a Nut Shell*



Shimoni Caves Tour



Moving to the beat of a catchy Giriama Dance



Gede Ruins Tour



Haller Park Visit



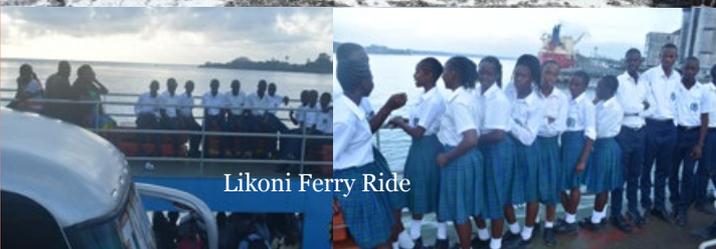
Rea Vipingo Visit



Fort Jesus Tour



Visiting one of Watamu's Beautiful Beaches



Likoni Ferry Ride

# Art Corner





## **The Pencil and the Manufacturer**

*By Julian Mueni Mutilu*

*The pencil maker once took the pencil aside, just before putting it into the box.*

*“There five things you need to know,” he told the pencil,  
“Before I send you out into the world, always remember them and never forget, and  
you will become the best pencil you can be.”*

*“ONE: You will be able to do great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in  
someone’s hand.”*

*“TWO: You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you will need it  
to be a better pencil.”*

*“THREE: You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.”*

*“FOUR: The most important part of you will be what’s inside you.”*

*“FIVE: On every surface, you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what  
condition, you must continue to write.”*

*Now replace yourself with the pencil and apply each advice to your life.  
Always remember them, and you will become the best person you can be.*

### **Works Cited**

Daily Dew. (2015, March 4). Parable of the Pencil. Retrieved from daily-dew.com:

<https://daily-dew.com/parable-of-the-pencil>

*“You will do great things only if you allow yourself to be corrected. You must undergo painful experiences to  
be the best.”*



**Tuzo la Rais**  
limetungwa na Andrew Munywa

*Naichukua Kalamu, kupa zangu shukurani  
Mwanzilishi mhitimu, wazo tuzo ikuluni  
Jambo hili muhimu, limeondoa tufani  
Tumenufaika sisi, zetu shukrani twatoa*

*Abadea tumepanda, jasho jasadini 'toka  
Mazoezi kuyaponda, mwili nao kuboreka  
Kwa ujenzi wa viwanda, sasa sisi tatumika  
Tumenufaika sisi, zetu shukrani twatoa*

*Kuhaha twaparamia, ujasiri katutwaa  
Kilomita kutembea, siha njema twapokea  
Jukumu la kukomboa, yetu nchi kwendelea  
Tumenufaika sisi, zetu shukrani twatoa*

*Kwa changu chanda kimoja, hawezi chawa vunjika  
Karibu kila mmoja, lijifunza hili fika  
Ufisadi ta uzika, kila mja akitaka  
Tumenufaika sisi, zetu shukrani twatoa*

*Thinia tano kilomita, waja hawa stahimili  
Uyabisi metufata, ila tukaukabili  
Kitutuma kwenye vita, ushindi tutahimili  
Tumenufaika sisi, zetu shukrani twatoa*

*Kila mja mesadiki, kauli za babu'etu  
Ukitaka la waridi, si jikunje kama chatu  
Likutana na visiki, vikahuni nafsi zetu  
Tumenufaika sisi, zetu shukrani twatoa*

*Hayatafutika kamwe, tena nasisitiza  
Wetu Mola atukuzwe, zetu ndia meongoza  
Taji leo tuezekwe, walo ogopa kuwabeza  
Tumenufaika sisi, zetu shukrani twatoa*

*Sendimbee nimegota, moja lengo mesalia  
Kiwaarifu walosuta, Alo Mola tujalia  
Yote tuloyasadiki, tuyatumie nyanjani  
Tumenufaika sisi, zetu shukrani twatoa*





## Journalism Club

By David Kariuki Kihara

Clubs and Societies are an essential part of life at M-PESA Foundation Academy. They form a big part of our extracurricular activities and provide us with opportunities for growth and learning outside the classroom. They allow us to discover hidden talents and also provide room to nurture and develop them.

As part of these clubs, journalism club has been existing since the establishment of the school under Patron Miriam Nyokabi. In this club, we get to learn more and more each an everyday. As a matter of fact, in journalism which is under the field of Mass Communication, we get to learn communication skills which we are taught by professionals who have already ventured in the various areas of Mass Communication.

Communication is a crucial aspect of our life since we socialise with other people every day. Discussing politics, doing our businesses and other aspects of life all require communication. There can be no civilisations and societies without communication. At the academy, the club has been privileged with several chances to visit various Mass communication institutions such as The Standard Group which is comprised of **KTN news, KTN Home, Radio Maisha** among others.

Participating in journalism club gives you an entry platform into a range of careers where your creativity, writing, communication and research skills are invaluable.

### ***Some of these careers include:***

- Broadcast journalism*
- Editorial manager/assistant*
- Magazine features editor*
- Magazine journalism*
- Newspaper journalism and many others*
- news presentations at parade.*

This term, we also got the chance to learn basic news reporting skills through training that was facilitated by the renowned Citizen TV news reporter and News anchor, Mr Sam Gituku. We learnt that for one to be a news anchor he/she must



# Journalism Club

*By David Kariuki Kihara*

be a good news reporter and we also learnt that in this field of Mass communication you have to commit yourself so that you can be able to give people valid information without bias or malice anybody.

In gathering news, one gets to explore the world in a new way as well as frame the worlds' view since news sets the societies agenda, and also journalists get to travel overseas to cover sports, activities, politics, and currents happenings.

As I conclude, I would like to thank the Mpesa Foundation Academy for giving us this exclusive chance to explore our talents when we are still young.





## INSPIRATION SPEECH.

By Roony Sendwa Shisivuli

**EDUCATION** is the road to success. Without it everything is impossible. We should strive to be top achievers in school. Our main aim should be to achieve our goals. A learner who does not have a purpose in life is a failure. We should also wish to be the best, keeping in mind the desires of our heart.

Success never comes on a silver plate. We should be determined to work with zeal to be successful in our actions. Obedience, honesty and hard work are some of the values that are required to be achievers in life. Perseverance is also another value we should never lack.

In our success, GOD is inclusive. We should put GOD first in everything we do. At the same, time we should work hard as hard work pays. We should be courageous especially in facing ups and downs of the school life. Lets' all develop a positive mind in education. We should strive for excellence to pass. The huddles nor hardship do not measure success encountered; instead, it is measured by the achievement itself. Remember, if you want to go fast go alone but If you want to go far go as a group and together we can all make it.





## IN MY SKIN.

By Rachael Awinja

Living with albinism in many parts of Africa can be a dangerous existence, but I hold the strongest view that the Academy has created a safe haven and a conducive environment for students with albinism to thrive and optimise their potential despite the limitations they grapple with. The paradox is that many people are unfamiliar with the term ‘albinism’, but nearly everyone has heard of ‘albino’ which sounds not so good to my ears. This form just a tip of the iceberg on the many myths and misconceptions that shroud albinism.

Albinism is purely a genetic condition caused by the reduced amount of melanin in the skin, hair and eyes and it can affect both genders regardless of their ethnicity.

Growing up with albinism in a world largely uneducated about it both medically and socially is cumbersome. Beliefs continue to influence cultural myths making individuals with albinism vulnerable to many forms of violence and discrimination.

### Facts and Myths Around Albinism.

| MYTH   | FACT  |
|--|---|
| Albinism is a curse from God.                  | Albinism is a genetic condition.  |
| People with albinism see at night very well.   | People with albinism cannot see at night due to lack of light to reflect on their eyes for them to see. |
| People with albinism bring wealth to a “Boma”. | The naked truth is that wealth does not come from people with albinism but from the parent’s effort.    |
| Albinism is cures AIDS.                        | AIDS has no cure till date.   |





## St. Johns Ambulance Club

*By; Monica Njeri Maina*

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE CLUB is the name of a number of affiliated organisations in different countries, which teach and provide first aid and emergency medical interventions and is primarily staffed by volunteers. The first such organisation was founded in 1877 in England.

St. John Ambulance Kenya, introduced the first ambulance in 1939 and the first Council of the Order of St. John was established on 10th June 1953.

St. John is now a full-fledged club at Mpesa Foundation Academy. It was established in 2018 by the Patron, Ms Millicent Kirimi and a founding group of students who volunteered as St. John ambulance members.

Why is it important that members volunteer to be in St. John? the club is about giving back and we get to learn about providing life-saving skills such as first aid which we can apply in our communities, safety and we are also ambassadors who raise awareness of first aid and directly educate the public.

It's one of the most rewarding things you can do for yourself and help out in your community.

Our MOTTO is: For the faith, in the service of humanity.





## Mentorship Programs in The Academy

By Lydia Bwari

I can vividly remember the moment I started having a mentor like it was yesterday. It was the first time I have ever had someone who has more experience in life other than myself and who can guide since childhood. When you join the Academy, you can't help but be filled by the constant feeling that you can create your destiny and take control of your future, the environment exudes such confidence in you that you have to embrace it.

From the lunch mentorship programs in the Academy, I have been able to learn a lot. However, the biggest lesson is the vital role of women in society; if there is no girl, there will be no mothers and ultimately no life. The fact is that a girl child is always considered to be lesser, but without girls, this world has no future. Even at birth, the first consideration is the gender of the new-born baby, is it a boy or a girl? Here is where the discrimination starts, boys, of course, are seen as the better babies to have, and most homes are considered incomplete without one because of cultural beliefs and stereotypes. A baby boy is celebrated, but why not a baby girl? Because parents always think that a baby girl is an unnecessary burden that has arrived in their life, only good to be married off.

The abuse of girls is everyone's business, and her health and safety should start at home with the care of loving parents and caregivers. A girl child faces many hurdles such as female genital mutilation, early marriages, powerlessness, poor health and being overworked. It is this perspective of visualising girls as lesser beings that must be stopped and for which I stand against for I know all too well that, educating a man is educating an individual but educating a woman is teaching a family and the nation at large, we must empower girls through education and equal opportunities in life.

A daughter is a beautiful blessing and treasure; she is laughter, warmth, a unique charm and brings joy. It was a great honour to see the girl child being celebrated at the Academy during the International Women's Day on the 8th of March 2019. We celebrate the potential of every young woman as a powerful voice in her community.

For the girls I challenge you to dare to dream, always believe in yourself, even when no one else will strive to uncover your hidden talents, they are the priceless gems that make you who you are, go on adventures and see the world, nothing binds you to where you are, have fun and be happy, it is the joy and laughter that keeps the candle aflame, treasure tiny miracles only you know their true worth, embrace life and reach for the stars there is no limitations to what you can achieve except if you put them yourself.



External Mentorship Session at the Academy.



**"A mentor is someone  
who allows you to  
see the hope  
inside yourself."  
— Oprah Winfrey**





**Book Review:**  
**Blossoms of the Savannah**  
By Gideon Simiyu

Blossoms of the Savannah by Henry Ole-Kulet is perhaps one of the best novels ever to be written in a post millennium era (2007 to be precise) as evidenced by the mention of Goldenberg scandal and intensified struggle against female genital mutilation (FGM).

Ole-Kulet aptly captures the emerging issue of the conflict between the obnoxious and retrogressed traditional archaic cultural practices vis a vis modernity as epitomised by Resian and Taiyo whose quest to pursue formal education and join Egerton University is un-compromised.

Through the lenses of Resian and Taiyo, a paradigm shift is created and change /transition is manifested but not without the struggle and plight of the protagonist-antagonist relationship whereby key characters are killed, tortured and subjected to the archaic retrogressed cultural rituals such as FGM. It is actually disheartening that Joseph Parmuat loses his life through the struggle.

It is however a catharsis and a great inspiration when our protagonists (Resian and Taiyo) emerged victorious at the end of the novel while the villains such as Oloisudori suffer the humiliation of defeat. The moral of this all is that cultural dynamism is inevitable and people ought to change with time.

It is hence without any loot of doubt that Henry

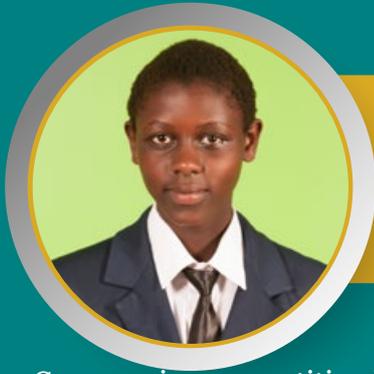
Ole-Kulet's novel, the Blossoms of the Savannah is ideal for the post 21st century African Society that still remains in the old order and has not embraced change. The world has quickly metamorphosis and women are now empowered to the conclusion of equal gender roles and opportunities.

### *Deconstruction*

Perhaps the only critical areas that the blossoms of the savannah might receive sharp criticism from the critics include :-

The premature killing of otherwise a good character like Joseph Parmuat  
Punishing Oloisudori lightly by just throwing his vehicles into flames which he could just buy easily since he was stinking rich





## Kenya Science & Engineering Competitions

*By Christabel Rina Achongo*

Science Congress is a competition held annually countrywide by young scientists who wish to find solutions to the ongoing problems that are facing our country and the world through innovation and development in technology. There are eleven categories for the competitions which are Biology and Biotechnology, Agriculture, Environmental Science, Technology, Energy, Engineering, Physics, Mathematics, Food Technology Chemistry, ICT as well as Social and Behavioural Sciences.

This year was the 57th edition of Science Congress, and the academy took 13 innovative projects from different categories for the competitions at sub-county level. Three projects proceeded; The first under technology dealt with innovating a new application to help reduce cases of exam cheating during KCPE and KCSE periods that was presented by Donald Tsuma and Amos Ayiecho. The second, under Social and behavioural science dealt with helping people who are addicted to drug abuse and have the side effects that was presented by Betty Chao and Stanley Koigi. The third, under Biology and biotechnology, dealt with making a drug that would help to reduce the rate of blood loss when one is cut or bruised in accidents or incidents that was presented by Rina Achongo and Caren Cherotich

Blood break under the Biology and biotechnology category will proceed to the regionals that will be held in Kiambu County at Thika High School later on and will then advance to the nationals at Nakuru in May of this year to meet their fellow scientists if they win. Position one at the national level will be sponsored by the government to attend the International Science Congress that will be held next year at Los Angeles, USA whereas the most innovative project presenters will get to go to Johannesburg in South Africa.





**Thank  
You**

*Special Thanks To Our Editors*

Noel Tiyoy  
Christostem Khatete  
Anthony Sifuna  
Winnie Makoha



 [www.mpesafoundationacademy.ac.ke](http://www.mpesafoundationacademy.ac.ke)

 M-PESA Foundation Academy

 mpesafdnacademy

 @MPESAFdnAcademy