

GOLDEN VOICES

Celebrating our power to tell stories



Featuring: Humor, Opinion, Golden Memories, Cartoons, Arts & Culture, Sports, Jokes, Straight Talk, Pictorials, and many more!

MESSAGE FROM OUR ROLE MODEL

It is with immense pride that I present the second edition of our school magazine. This publication is a testament to the importance of students owning their narratives and having a platform to share their unique perspectives.

In a world where young voices often go unheard or are overshadowed by adults, it is crucial that we provide our students with opportunities to speak out. The stories and articles herein provide valuable insights into the lives and thoughts of our students, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of their worldview.

At Kakenya's Dream, we also believe in the power of storytelling to inspire change. Our students' stories are not just about their personal experiences; they are about their courage to express themselves, to question the status quo, and to envision a better future. By sharing their narratives, they are challenging us to see the world through their eyes and to rethink our own opinions, assumptions, and biases.



We are incredibly proud that our students feel empowered to share their voices with the world through this publication, and we hope that sense of safety and empowerment speaks to the supportive and nurturing environment we strive to create at Kakenya's Dream.

Happy reading, and may these stories inspire you as much as they have inspired us.

Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya
Founder and President
Kakenya's Dream

MESSAGE FROM OUR JOURNALISM CLUB EDITOR

Niaje! I'm so glad to share with you our 2024 magazine, which is focused on celebrating our milestones. This year has brought immense progress to our campus: from the new dining hall to the health and wellness clinic and the introduction of faster internet through Starlink, we have all we need to be grateful.

You will also read Sharon's inspiring story. The ninth-grader's story resonates with many of us, the girls from humble upbringings who found hope owing to the support of Kakenya's Dream.

Other stories include journalistic coverage of events around the school and artistic/creative showcasing from our fellow students.

Enjoy reading!

Rachael Nasieku
Journalism Club Editor
Kakenya Girls High School



Beyond classroom: Read about our Taarab Music Group and other entertainment stories in the Arts and Culture pages



MR. MURKUK, THE TAPPER DANCE AND WHAT STUDENTS THINK OF HIM

By Nancy Mbiti & Naserian Siparo

Every student knows Mr. Murkuk as a no-nonsense Chemistry and Biology teacher, but he has a funny side. I don't know if you remember the 2023 prayer day at our school. Well, that is when Mr. Murkuk's funny side came public. It is customary that during prayer days, the 12th grade class teacher leads his students to the prayer venue. It follows that the 2023 prayer day pushed Mr. Murkuk into unfamiliar territory.

There he was, in a strange element, dancing off rhythm and inventing a new dance style. The dance moves proved too much for him. When the candidates' feet moved forward, Murkuk's feet were seen jerking backward and vice versa. It was like watching a simulation of a clash of two generations as the students appeared too fast for the teacher. Students laughed and kept tapping each other on the shoulders while pointing fingers at the new version of Mr. Murkuk. He sustained the dance to the stage where he unleashed another technique: the tapper-style dance. It involves lifting up one foot at a time, interchangeably, a foot high and letting it fall to the ground.

Donning a new maroon jacket, a cream shirt neatly tucked in and fastened with a brown Maasai leather belt, and matching brown leather shoes, Mr. Murkuk shyly danced to the tune. Some observed that he danced like a man stepping on red ants. Others said he looked like a man stamping out a wildfire. As his feet did their piston tricks, as some physics students described, Mr. Murkuk stretched out his hands and kept them in an almost immobile position as if holding on to a sizable object. Some said he was the image of a driver holding a steering wheel. Another student said he looked like a weary man scaling a mountain.

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Devout Christian, Clumsy Dancer

The tune went on, "Ni kwa neema tu, na rehemaa... (It's by grace and mercies...)" Mr. Murkuk, a devout Christian worshipping at Maranatha Faith Church in Ildolisho, tapped his feet as he led the students, some board members, teachers, and guests to the stage. At some point, the song, by Edson Mwasabwite, ended abruptly before the dance crew reached its destination. As the amateur DJs, Madam Joyce Kilusu and Madam Bibianna Chimoli, who had been carried away by the dance, struggled with technology to track the song to its start, Mr. Murkuk looked bewildered assuming a statue-like posture. When the song restarted, he hesitated before restarting the dance moves. He tapped the ground more as the tune entranced him. He occasionally wore a smile that dimmed out and resurfaced rhythmically.

Mr. Murkuk plays a father figure to many students and pays attention to students as they present their issues. He believes in an ideal society that conforms to the traditional culture of decency, respect, and unity.



Mr. Murkuk (right) and Madam Dorcas lead the 2023 candidates in the dance during the prayer day

Dutiful Father

As far as we can remember, he was the first male teacher to bring his kids to school on Sunday for a Christian service. You must have seen his beautiful daughter, Nempiris, and probably received greetings from his son, Kishoyian. Mr. Murkuk speaks passionately about his family, urging students to grow into responsible adults.

Passionate Science Club Patron

If you are a member of the Science Club, you must be more acquainted with him, considering that he is the club patron. You might remember the day he officially launched the club.

“We need to raise children to grow into responsible adults. We should never lower the benchmark when it comes to promoting good values in our society.”
- Mr. Murkuk

He herded all the club members to a fruit and tree garden behind the staff living quarters for a quick photo session. When in a rush, Murkuk’s walking style changes: he seems to push his unwilling body forward and sometimes appears to be swinging from side to side as he walks.

Strict and Devoted Teacher

Mr. Murkuk will not tolerate students sleeping during his lessons. Unlike many typical men, he can multitask: writing on the wall while looking back at the class, focusing on the sleepy student. As the teacher in charge of entertainment, Mr. Murkuk will not allow students to watch a movie without his approval. He prefers educational Nigerian movies and would frown at any attempt to listen or dance to secular music. When he is on duty, you need to be very neat. If you are a prefect, also prepare to attend frequent meetings with him throughout the week.

For nearly all students, Mr. Murkuk is one of their favorite teachers. He plays a father figure to many students and pays attention to students as they present their issues. He believes in an ideal society that conforms to the traditional culture of decency, respect, and unity.

How a Call from Kakenya's Dream Became my Guiding Light

While other ninth graders across the country joined various high schools in January, Sharon remained home for two months with no hope of any breakthrough. Her parents, small-scale farmers in the Nyangusu area in Kisii County, could not afford the school fees for their daughter. Sharon shared her story with **Faith Moraa**, about how at her lowest moment, a phone call from Kakenya's Dream to her father rekindled her hope of going to high school.



Like any other eighth grader, I looked forward to joining high school in January after the release of the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) results. Before sitting for the examinations, I worked hard in my former primary school, hoping to secure marks that would enable me to compete with other students for scholarships from institutions and organizations willing to support bright and needy students. I consulted my teachers and utilized revision materials available in our school. At home, I could hardly sleep as my determination to pass the test pressured me to stay awake for many hours to revise.

When the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) announced the results, I had done well, scoring 378 marks out of 500. I was happy, but uncertain about my future. My parents did not know whether to celebrate my victory or lament their inability to sponsor my education. They were struggling to pay the fees for my elder siblings who are also in various high schools. I have four siblings and three stepsisters.

Immediately when results were out, we started the process of applying for scholarships. The competition was intense as there were many other needy and bright students seeking the same scarce opportunities. When January elapsed, it became clear to me that there was no chance of joining high school. My parents appealed to churches and well-wishers to intervene. Many other parents and guardians were also making similar appeals, making it overwhelming to well-wishers. One by one, my former classmates who had delayed enrolling in secondary schools got opportunities, leaving me alone to stay at home. I became desperate, hopeless, and stressed.

One day, a group of strangers posing as well-wishers seeking to help us publicize my plight visited our home. They recorded our details and promised to help raise funds for my education. Several days later, we learnt that many kind people sent their money to the group, but the collected funds were not given to my parents. They were conmen posing as well-wishers. I became more stressed as I was the only one in my village who had not joined high school.



Sharon performs Kakenya's Dream's signature "flying girl" symbol at KCE II



Sharon and her father when she reported at KCE II

In February, a journalist visited my home. He took a photo of me and interviewed me and my parents. He said he would do his best to make my plight known through radio. I did not know whether to believe him, but I was hopeful. We later saw my story circulating on social media. Shortly thereafter, a miracle happened. My father received a call from Daniel Korinko, the director of programs at Kakenya's Dream. My father was at the farm on a Friday when he got the call. He rushed home to share the news with me. I could not believe it when my father said I had secured admission at Kakenya Girls High School! I hardly slept that weekend while waiting for admission.

At the beginning of March, I reported to campus. I could not believe my eyes at the attractive look of the school.

I concealed my tears of joy as we were warmly welcomed by the school principal, Madam Dorcas Simaloi. I bid my father goodbye and selected students came to help me get my items to the dormitory room and settle. I was excited. Without the intervention of Kakenya's Dream, it would have been impossible for me to enroll in high school.

At KCE, I receive everything I need, including personal effects, uniforms, and study materials like books. I enjoy reading novels, using computers, and playing different sporting activities at school.

Forging ahead, I'm determined to excel in my studies and join a Kenyan or international university to pursue a course in medicine. I will take advantage of the scholarship opportunity and work hard. I want to become a neurosurgeon in the future.



Top: Kakenya's Dream Director of Programs, Daniel Korinko, engages Sharon and her father during Sharon's belated admission. On the side and below: Sharon poses for photos at KCE II

Teacher Showered with Accolades as she Retires from KCE

Selina Naiyoma is among the pioneer teachers at Kakenya's Dream's first school, KCE I. She joined the school in May of 2010, barely a year after Kakenya's Dream was established. Nancy Mbiti, Irene Sanayo, and Ruth Naserian, former students at KCE I, reminisce about the moments they shared with the former deputy head teacher of the center.



Devoted Teacher

Madam Selina Naiyoma has been part of our journey since we joined KCE I. She taught many graduates from the center English, as well as other subjects. We remember her as one of the most dedicated teachers who spent all her energy to ensure her students excelled in school.

Among the memorable moments we had with Selina include her approach to improving reading and writing skills among students. She instilled discipline among students, especially when it came to writing essays. She often gave us topics to write on and during submission, we would take them to her house where she would quickly skim through them and provide further instructions. If your essay did not meet her expectations, she would ask you to sit down and rewrite it outside her house. Through her approach, we became meticulous and nurtured the art of good essay writing. A significant improvement received acknowledgment from Selina.

Fair Disciplinarian

Selina's position as a deputy head teacher demanded that she become a tough disciplinarian. During school reopening, she ensured no student was late. Anyone who arrived late would need to give an elaborate explanation. In many cases, she would call our parents/guardians to confirm if we were telling the truth before punishing us with chores such as collecting litter around the school.

When cases were brought to her office, Selina patiently listened to the involved parties before judging. Before any punishment, Selina would take time to counsel students. Her common statement was, "Relieve this school compound of all the litter as you rid yourself of the indiscipline you've demonstrated."

A Sense of Humor

Selina had a sense of humor, especially while she interacted with students. We remember her for slanging students, earning herself nicknames from the words, kwera (slang word for dismissing someone) and kosengeng' (slang word for calling on someone who seems idle). We came to understand her form of communication.

She was full of fun and laughter and such informal utterances enabled us to connect with her. If we did not hear one of the words around the school, we knew Selina was unhappy, a rare mood for our beloved teacher.

Professional Journey

Selina told us she started her teaching career in 1987 when Kenya introduced a new educational system, the 8-4-4. She retired this year when the country replaced that system with the new Competency-Based Curriculum, 2-6-3-3.

She shared during her farewell party that she joined Kakenya's Dream when the community started realizing the value of educating a girl. Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya, the founder of Kakenya's Dream, had arrived back from the United States where she had furthered her studies after completing high school. Dr. Kakenya had come home with the dream of promoting girls' education and fighting retrogressive cultural practices undermining girls' progress, including child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). Having started the new school, in partnership with the government, the organization needed passionate teachers to support Kakenya's Dream.



Photos:
Madam Selina Naiyoma during her farewell party at KCE I. She was in the company of her grand daughter (in a blue dress) and daughter



Selina came in handy as one of the female teachers who understood the empowering nature of education for girls.

“It was not just about teaching, but transforming girls' lives in the community. My dream has always been to see girls prosper and make a difference in society. I exit the stage a happy woman, having transformed the lives of many girls from the community,” Selina said during the party.

Selina is proud to be associated with her former students, saying that the success of the pioneer students makes her feel content with her teaching career. “I chose the best profession. I always wanted to be part of change in the community. Teaching is a thing that made me a game-changer. I am excited to see a community transformed through education, by instilling knowledge and building skills in the young people thus bringing a difference in the world,” she said.

She attributes her achievements and career growth to the path she underwent teaching away from home. She said it energized her and enabled her to build social confidence. She explained, “Teaching in different parts of the country, across different cultural setups, shaped me into who I have become in my 38 years as a teacher. I have learned many cultures, connected with different people, and created a chain of networks.”

Selina has a heart for girls and every class she stepped into saw every girl listen to her. Her voice was loud enough to be heard and soft to be understood. She said, “I encourage girls to get proper education so that they can prosper and have beautiful lives. Empowered girls have changed the world and that is so evident. Dr. Kakenya is one of the women who are the face of change. Every girl should have a vision and a plan to reach their goals.” Selina was brought up in Enosaen and Kilgoris by her uncle after her mother's death.

She was lucky to have gone to school. She encountered fee challenges after high school, and well-wishers, including mission sisters, came to her rescue securing her a scholarship. She received support until she graduated with a certificate in primary teacher education from Egoji Teachers College. As she retires after 38 years in the teaching profession, Selina is readying herself to practice her passion and commercialize it. If she had not become a teacher, she would be a cook. She explained, “If I were not a teacher, I would be one of the best cooks. I have always cooked even when I was a teacher. I like cooking different kinds of food and on top of that I would be a business lady.”

To Selina, we love you. May you continue smiling into your retirement.

“I exit the stage a happy woman, having transformed the lives of many girls from the community.”

Sanitary Pads Should be Free and Accessible to all Women and Girls

By Nancy Mbiti



Does it bother you that girls and women struggle to access sanitary pads? Does it concern you that you find condom dispensers in hospitals and public toilets, yet there is hardly a single sanitary pads dispenser anywhere? Let's face it. Why should a condom be freely available when people choose whether to have sex or not, yet as women and girls, we do not have control over our periods?

We had this conversation with my fellow students sometime back at the dormitory as we were preparing to sleep. One of my roommates talked about her experience sharing some of the pads she received from Kakenya's Dream with her neighbor who was in need. My roommate was bothered that many girls, especially in slums and rural areas, were forced to repurpose rags and other materials as pads because they could not afford to purchase menstrual products from shops. Well, sometimes the government provides sanitary pads to girls in school, but the supplies are hardly enough. At the same time, as girls in school get the pads, young women at home who may not have money to buy the items are deprived of this very basic commodity. The supplies that reach schools may also be unfairly distributed. We have heard of cases of students reporting that the pads would be left in the school storage while many girls are desperately in need of them.

In other cases, the government-supplied products find their way into shop shelves where they are sold to unsuspecting buyers. How do we address the issue? Several stakeholders can help us address the matter. We expect political leaders, especially members of parliament, to create a law that provides free access to sanitary pads to women and girls throughout the country. If pads are provided for free, there will be no need for rogue teachers to sneak the items into shops. It will also mean that girls who trade sex for money for pads will be protected from having to resort to that. As a result, we shall have reduced cases of teenage/unplanned pregnancies.

Considering that health is a function overseen by county governments, it should be every county's priority to supply free sanitary pads at all health facilities. The facilities should set up dispensers so that girls and women can collect them at will. This approach should be normalized so that as men access condoms, women and girls also have the products they need.

Non-state agencies, community-based organizations, and philanthropists should also follow the footsteps of Kakenya's Dream by donating and distributing sanitary pads across the country. The initiative by Kakenya's Dream is a good example of how interventions by different sectors can promote menstrual hygiene.

As women and girls, we should continue with our calls to promote menstrual hygiene. Let us not shy away from speaking openly about the fact that we are menstruating. It is a natural experience that we should openly discuss and condemn silence on the matter. It is our right to access sanitary products and the matter should not be commercialized.

From a Mabati Structure to Enchanting Buildings: KCE II's Transformational Journey

Daniel Mpilei serves as a security officer at KCE II. He joined in 2017. He is among the pioneer staff at Kakenya's Dream's second school and has been part of the school's transformation from a corrugated iron structure to an institution with state-of-the-art facilities. Daniel shared his journey at the school with Princess Rachna and Tiana Tiandezi.



The old and the new KCE II

Tell us about your journey of becoming the first security guard at our school. What drew you to this position?

Initially, I was hired as a groundman. I also joined a team of construction workers to help in making bricks for the school's construction. In 2017, when school was about to start enrolling students, a position of a security officer was advertised. I did not go through formal education, but I was lucky enough to be considered. I started working on May 5, 2018. I was motivated by the desire to serve my community, as the school is near my home where I was born and raised.

What were your initial impressions of the school when you first started working here?

The school started from a humble beginning.

We had iron-made walls and roofing as classroom, staff room, kitchen, and dormitory. There was a lot going on, including the making of bricks which I was a part of, and from the activities, I could foresee that we were destined to have a big school.

Can you share any heartwarming stories or positive experiences you've had while working at our school?

I've always enjoyed school events like thanksgiving and prayer days. The school includes security officers in these celebrations, and we often receive gifts, which makes me feel appreciated. Honestly, I feel blessed to be doing this job. I'm not planning on leaving it anytime soon because it brings me great pride, especially working for a school like Kakenya Girls High School.

Can you describe a typical day in your life as a security officer at our school?

My day begins with signing in to mark the start of my shift. I then patrol the school to check on the properties, ensuring everything is in place. If anything is missing or misplaced, I report to the school principal. I can be on a day or night shift for about a week, then we switch with another officer before taking a one-week break.

In your opinion, what makes our school unique in terms of security measures or protocols?

The installation of CCTV cameras has been a game-changer, making our school stand out in comparison to others in the area. Additionally, the school treats security officers well, which helps build loyalty and ensures we take our jobs seriously.

Empowering Students Through Taarab Music

By Faith Nabulu



Taarab Music Group in action during a rehearsal at KCE II

For the second consecutive year since its inception in 2023, the Taarab Music Group at Kakenya Girls' School delivered an outstanding performance at the 2024 Music Festival in Narok County. Taarab is a music genre popular in Tanzania and the coastal region of Kenya. Our lead trainer has been Madam Bibiana Chimoli, who introduced the idea of Taarab. Her passion for Taarab, a unique genre within Narok County, inspired her to train the students.

"Since we began, it's not been an easy task. We recruited talented students excelling in different subjects, from Taarab to poems to speeches, both in English and Swahili. As a lead trainer, I am so excited about our progress. It's been a great experience," she said.

Beyond musical skills, the initiative has significantly improved the students' fluency in Swahili. In preparation for the 2024 Music Festival, Bibiana composed a Taarab song titled "Masomo" (education) to motivate learners to value their education for a brighter future.

Forging forward, Bibiana envisions the Kakenya Girls' Taarab Group becoming the top-performing team in national music festivals within the next five years. "In the future, our focus is to improve the learners' fluency and articulation in Swahili-related presentations, including poetry and public speaking, to increase the chances of our students going beyond the county level during music festivals," she explained.



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Celebrating the Rite of Passage, Manyatta and Age-Set in the Maasai Community

By Dorcas Kuriaie and Joy Sereu as described by Mr. Peter Kilusu



KCE I students adorned in Maasai attire entertaining guests during a past event

The manyatta remains a significant symbol of Maasai tradition, deeply rooted in its rich cultural practices. This traditional house, rectangular in shape, is constructed from wooden frames reinforced with either mud or cow dung. Its roof is often thatched with grass or cowhide and smeared with a layer of mud, creating a durable shelter for various cultural ceremonies.

The Role of the Manyatta in Maasai Initiation Ceremonies

One of the most vital uses of the manyatta is during the initiation ceremonies for boys, a rite of passage into adulthood. The boys, seated on a special stool called an olorika, are shaved by their mothers' using razors and milk, a symbolic act that marks the beginning of their journey into manhood.

Overseeing this ceremony is a revered Maasai prophet known as Oloiboni, who guides the community's future. Alongside him, the paramount chief, Olaigwanani, coordinates the various functions, ensuring that every aspect of the initiation runs smoothly. Another key figure is Olotuno, a spiritual leader tasked with sanctifying people and appeasing the spirits of the dead.



Before entering the manyatta, several important customs must be observed. Participants smear themselves with red ochre, a symbolic practice that signifies their readiness for the ceremony. They also dress in traditional Maasai attire, complete with an ostrich-feathered crown known as Emaupe, adding to the significance of the occasion.

After the initiation ceremony, the boys are divided into distinct age groups, each with its own role in the community's social structure. The youngest group is Ilmirisho, followed by Ilking'eru, Iltiyieki, Ilkisakara, Romboi, Irkabong', Ilkishili, and Ilnyangusi. The largest and most senior group is Iltwati, which holds the highest status in Maasai society.

The Restored Girl

A Poem by Dorcas Memusi

A little girl of young age
Born with silver spoon in her mouth
Proud of the life she lives
Not knowing it is her father's wealth.

She is given a bite of honey
To make her feel sweet in life
Keeping secrets like a pot full of potatoes
But her mind is affected secretly

She has a simple mind
She cannot think about her future
Men thought winning her was a hard nut to crack
But it was just a piece of cake

When they blink at her
She suddenly gives in
And in a spur of a moment...she is no more
She does what she never expected

But always in moments of desperation
Resolution comes since the father is always there
She changes her mind and becomes new again
Open to everybody she expresses her emotions
Only to realize she was through a hell
But now she is fully restored.



Girl Child The Backbone of the Nation

A Poem by Dorcas Memusi

We were born with enough imagination
To leap over the woes of schooling and culture
We feel it is unethical and inhumane
To hear inequality
Education for girls, education for all

From sunrise to sunset
A girl looks like a robot
Day and night she works
Toiling for the family
Serving masters and mistress
Forgetting she too needs education
Let the girl experience the significance of
education
Education for girls, education for all

Say no to child labour
Say no to girl school dropout
Let us be ladies of substance
And together we shall move the nation
Education for girls, education for all



For Laughs

Kuna day nilikuwa chuo ticha wa maths alikuja akaanza kucheck assignment, nikaona almost kila student amefanya ticha aliponifikia nikaenda mbele kupiga magoti. Ticha akaniuliza mbona unapiga magoti nikamwambia I have noticed that I am the only one who has not completed the assignment, so I have decided to punish myself, akaniambia take this bunsen burner and cane yourself nikasimama na nikamwambia i have forgiven myself.

Asante Kakenya

A spoken word poem by Brenda Koini

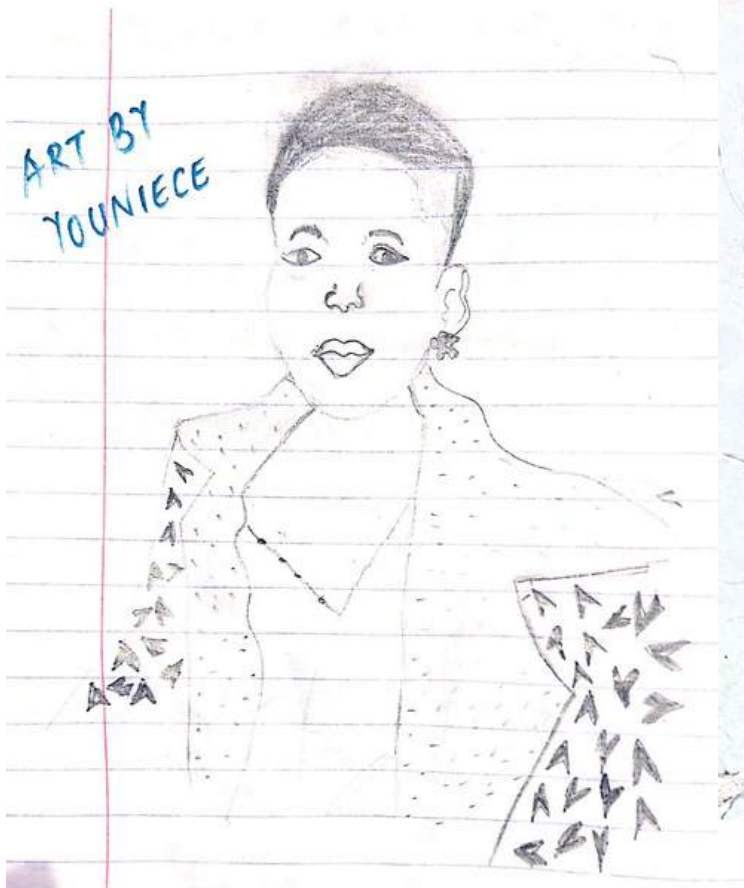
We thank doctor Kakenya for the big support
ametupea

Becoz in the past, watu hu-believe that girls
hawafai kusoma
But wakati alikam up na dream yetu
Girls walipata freedom ya kusoma
Kutofanya FGM
Kutoolewa

As we talk more, wengine wao ni graduates
Wengine wameenda overseas
Sisi huomba God every morning atu-bless na will
power ya Kakenya
Bcoz tunajua yeye is the only master key who can
unlock
The padlock which is our life

Some of us had dreams, wengine wanadai kuwa
doctors, lawyers, teachers
Tunaomba tu God atupe neema ya ku-achieve
dreams zetu
kama Doctor Kakenya

And so ile time nimespent ni timeless
Nimejua hii world ni drama
Kiswahili na English ni grammar
Na sheng ndio lugha ya mama
Na wakidhani mi wazimu like mother
Like daughter
Then God must be crazy



EDUCATION

A Poem by Leah Samuriah

Birds have nest, men have home
Lions have dens, Kakenya is my home
I lay my trust in you

No man chooses where to be born,
No plant chooses where to grow, but my school
God chose where to be set.
If I were asked to choose, I would choose Kakenya.

A school on a hilly ground, beneath there is a
valley of fresh air
If I were asked to choose a school, I would choose
Kakenya Girls
Shining every day because of success
Education is their key, their key to success.

What makes Kakenya girls shine?
Kakenya girls are always focused
What is education? Education is the key to success.



Ribs Cracked as Talents Came to Light during Performance Night

By Nabulu Leparkiras



Actors in action during the thrilling night when the audience and performers united for the entertainment

The room buzzed with energy as students sang and danced along to Wakadinali's hit song, Geri Inegi, as it was played at the multipurpose hall. Some girls danced enthusiastically, others swayed in slower moves, and a few sang along to every lyric. In one corner, a group of girls twisted their waists in choreographed motions, showing the dedication they'd put into preparing for the performance night.

It was 7:15 PM, barely an hour after dinner, when students began streaming into the newly built multipurpose hall for the first-ever talent show, organized by the language department to enhance students' language skills. The hall was packed, and as the random dancing subsided, everyone took their seats, ready for the show to begin. Teachers from different departments sat as panelists, eager to witness the array of talents. It was set to be an exciting evening, showcasing skills from poetry and rap to acting, dancing, and public speaking.

Rachel Nasieku was "The Disk Joker" for the night. She took to the stage with boundless energy. Akicheza kama yeye, as the Swahili slang goes—she was in her element.

She played a few minutes of Arbantone, which inspired Lilian Pereso to jump onto the stage and reveal her hidden dance talent. Arbantone is a new genre of Kenyan music that uses sheng lyrics. It is considered to have evolved from Gengetone, a genre popular in Kenyan urban spaces. To everyone's surprise, Lilian transitioned from odi dance to other styles with ease. The floor opened up, and students from grades seven and eight took to the stage with sweet melodies and a humorous skit about a failed witch doctor. Their creativity shone, leaving the audience laughing and entertained. Nelly Silanoi and Daith Lipayo then recited a humorous Swahili poem, Amelamba Sukari (he/she has tasted sugar), which had everyone in stitches. Daisy Nadupoi followed with her poem, Yummy Yogurt. The Taarab performers, not to be outdone, marched to the stage in style, twisting their waists to the rhythm of a coastal Swahili song. Their performance broke new ground in the music and dance category, earning them the overall award for the night. The evening's highlight came when the DJ played a popular song, and each class representative danced their way to the stage.

Leading the 12th graders, Juliet Naeku, Debbie Nailantei, Samurai, and Nancy Mbiti showed off their moves, energizing the crowd. Outstanding performances continued throughout the night. In public speaking, Venus Chebet from grade eight delivered an impressive speech, and Marion Chepng'eno gave a powerful hotuba (speech) on discipline. Top performers received awards: a geometry set and pen for first place, water bottles for second, and a notebook for third.

Leah Samurai also wowed the crowd with her presentation on the effects of social media, securing an award. Senior students Joy Sereu and Faith Nyerere followed with memorable speeches, while Dorcas Potishoi presented an insightful hotuba on environmental conservation.

The talent show was a huge success. Students had prepared independently, creating original songs, poems, dramas, and speeches. Each participant showcased their unique skills, with teachers assigned to evaluate performances in different categories. At the end of the night, the top performers in each category were awarded for their efforts. The students had a memorable night.

Performance Night in Pictures: Apart from the spectacular performances, there were also wild responses from the audience, laughing their lungs out



Poem Analyses by Angela Atieno and Marion Lei

They Ran out of Mud by Miriam Khamadi Were
 There is a little hut
 built across from here;
 they've mudded two walls
 and the rest stands unmade
 for they ran out of mud.

There is a deep gully
 running along the road;
 they have filled it halfway
 and the rest is still gaping
 for they ran out of mud.

There is a pot by the alter
 that they began to mold;
 they finished the base
 but the neck remains undone
 for they ran out of mud.

Mud! Mud!
 Who can find mud?
 Maybe if it were gold
 someone would.

Interpretation

“They ran out of mud” is a satirical poem exploring the theme of negligence. The poem criticizes people for complaining that they do not have adequate resources to complete a particular task, yet, ironically, the resources are readily available. In the poem, the persona points out an incomplete little hut, a deep gully waiting to be refilled with soil, and a pot waiting to be molded.

The persona sarcastically mocks people for sitting idle instead of finishing the work of molding a pot, plastering the hut, and refilling the gully when there is mud under their feet. The persona observes the irony of finding it hard to get mud saying that maybe if mud was as precious as gold, then people would struggle to get the material.



Streamside Exchange by John Pepper Clark

CHILD

River bird, river bird.
 Sitting all day long
 On hook over grass,
 River bird, river bird.
 Sing to me a song
 Of all that pass
 And say,
 Will mother come back today?

BIRD

You cannot know
 And should not bother;
 Tide and market come and go
 And so shall your mother.

Interpretation

“Streamside Exchange,” presents a theme of longing and the nature of life. In the poem, the child longs to meet her mother. River bird reminds the child that reuniting with her mother is impossible. Instead, she should accept the separation/loss.

By extension, the two poems make sense to us as students in school. Sometimes we are overtaken by negligence. We may be fond of complaining that we cannot finish homework, yet we have a library where we get all the textbooks and revision materials we need. We have computers and equipped science laboratories that we can use anytime to make our learning enjoyable and productive.

From the second poem, some of us may have experienced some loss. Some may have lost their parents, family love, support from friends, and some opportunities. If we continue looking back at the loss, we lose a glimpse of what lies ahead. We need to accept the losses we have experienced and forge ahead.

What We Can Learn from the Story of Lazarus

By Abigael Chemutai

The 11th chapter of the Gospel of John found in the New Testament of the Bible documents the raising of Lazarus, a miracle performed by Jesus Christ on the man from Bethany. Lazarus' narrative starts with his sickness that prompted his sisters to send a word to Jesus, informing Him of the dire situation. Our focus in this message are the words of Lazarus' sister, Martha, when Jesus decided to go to Bethany to see the dead Lazarus. When Martha heard that Jesus was on his way to see Lazarus, she went to meet Him. John 11.17 reads, "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'"

Literarily, the scripture teaches us about the absence of Jesus in our lives. If we evaluate our lives, we'll realize that we have lost many opportunities because Jesus is not in our lives. When we choose to live against the word of God, we position ourselves to "die." When we embrace Jesus and pursue righteousness, we are saved from all the iniquities that may undermine our progress in life. For the mistakes that we have made in the past, let's correct them by receiving salvation.

Pomp and colour at 2024 prayer day



All that pertains life, including academics, relationships, family affairs, beliefs, politics, etc.

Dear Straight Talk,
My friends have boyfriends and they talk happily about their experiences. When they share their experiences, I feel left out. They will talk about it in the dormitory and when it is my time to share my story, I have nothing to say. They laugh at me and it makes me feel odd, stupid, and unwanted. I thought I should not accept a boyfriend because I'm told it might negatively affect my performance in academics. Please advise me.

Sincerely,
Anonymous



Dear Anonymous,

You have made the right decision by refusing to get into an intimate relationship with a boyfriend. Don't be a victim of peer influence. Make informed decisions and focus on your studies. There will be time for relationships in the future after high school. The risk of entering into a relationship with a man at your stage may lead to a possible decline in performance. Your friends can make fun of you, but stay focused and concentrate on your studies. It is wise to do the right thing at the right time. Be patient and wait for the right moment.

Sincerely,
Straight Talk

Recipe for a Healthy Relationship

By Purity Kuya

Ingredients

Love, loyalty, kindness, understanding, faith, friendship, hope, forgiveness, thoughtfulness, and laughter.

Procedure

1. Take love and loyalty and mix them thoroughly with faith.
2. Blend kindness and understanding
3. Add friendship and hope
4. Sprinkle abundantly with laughter
5. Decorate with forgiveness and thoughtfulness
6. Bake the mixture with sunshine
7. Serve daily with generous giving



How Starlink Network is Revolutionizing Education at our School

By Irene Sanayo, Moureene Chebet, and Nancy Sire

As the world embraces Starlink as a universal internet provider, KCE II has also ventured into the digital future. Less than a year after Starlink entered Kenya, we successfully installed high-speed internet service at our KCE I and KCE II campuses. This has greatly improved internet access, allowing our students to enjoy fast, reliable connectivity during computer classes, where they use the internet to enrich their learning experiences.

Starlink is playing a transformative role in bridging the digital connectivity gap in education, especially for schools like ours that are located in remote areas.

Impacts of Starlink on Education

1. Access to Educational Materials
 - Starlink provides students with high-speed internet access, allowing them to explore online lectures, course materials, and collaborative tools. This broadens their learning opportunities and enriches their understanding of various subjects.
2. Enhanced Virtual Learning Experiences
 - With Starlink, students can engage in immersive virtual reality learning experiences, offering a more dynamic and interactive way to grasp complex concepts.
3. Global Reach
 - Starlink's satellite constellation extends its coverage to even the most remote areas. This ensures that schools in underserved locations, like ours, can benefit from high-speed internet access, enabling equal learning opportunities.
4. Professional Development for Educators
 - Starlink also provides opportunities for professional development, allowing educators to access online training programs, webinars, and resources to enhance their teaching skills and keep up with global educational trends.



The Importance of Computers in Education at Kakenya's Dream

1. Enhancing Creativity and Innovation
 - With access to technology, students can use digital tools to express their creativity and foster innovation.
2. Personalized Learning
 - Computers allow for tailored learning experiences, encouraging individual students' progress at their own pace and style.
3. Improved Communication and Collaboration
 - Digital platforms make it easier for students to communicate and collaborate on projects, both within the classroom and beyond.
4. Responsibility and Digital Literacy
 - The use of computers instills students with crucial skills for the future, such as internet safety and information management.
5. Making Learning More Fun
 - Interactive software and online resources make lessons more engaging, increasing students' enthusiasm for learning.
6. Exploring New Subjects
 - Students can explore new topics and deepen their understanding of complex concepts through online resources and interactive educational tools.



From left: Irene Sanayo, Moureene Chebet, and Nancy Sire and below, Madam Victoria and Mr. Nyambok at the computer Lab



SHOUT-OUT

A big shout out to the American Friends of Kenya for their book donations. We are grateful for your support





A big shout-out to Pamela Reeves and her family for supporting construction of two dormitories at our school.

Through her support, our school can accommodate more students, and by extension promote girls' education.





A big shout-out to our mum, Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya for supporting our education. We love you mum!



FUN SPOT

Father: Nilettee soda
 Son: Gani fanta au coke
 Father: Fanta
 Son: Baridi au warm
 Father: Baridi
 Son: Nikuletee kwa chupa au glass
 Father: Chupa
 Son: Nikuletee straw?
 Father: Yaah
 Son: Ya Kenya au Tanzania
 Father: We mtoto unanisumbua, ntakuchapa
 Son :Na slipper au nyaunyo
 Father: Nita kumada xaxa
 Son: Na bunduki au kisu
 Father: Nilettee yoghurt
 Son: Yogoyogoyogo au daima
 Father: Ah! Nilettee chai
 Son: Ya maziwa au strong
 Father: Toka hapa!
 Son: Niende wapi?

JOKES

Team Matisi, hello! I am the whale, River. Hello madam Eng and Kiswahili. I'm Mr Histo. I'm feeling sick due to political failures. Ask Mr. Bio to arrange for my treatment. Mr Phy will manufacture medicine and by then from madam chem ensure that Bizaa has set affordable prices. Father medicine ensure that sister home science has prepared from madam Agri. Include prayer from madam CRE and I will be ok.

ABIGAEL SAINAPEI

MCHONGOANO

By Marion Chepngeno
 1. Nasikia unapenda kuvaa suruali ya blada ndio ukinyamba iseme brededeng.
 2. Naskiawe ni mfupi mpaka unaendeshanga piriton kama tyre
 3. Naskia ulifukuzwa mbinguni juu ya kufunza malaika bend over
 4. Naskia shosh wako ni mzee badala aseme twenty six anasema twende sex.
 5. Naskia wewe ni mjinga hadi ukiambiwa andika twenty two unauliza uanze na two gani.
 6. Naskia unavaanga shirt ya sleeveless ndio uitwe Sylvia.

NOTICE! NOTICE!

Kuna ugonjwa umeingia especially kenya inaitwa locip yaony lack of redhoo in phone dalili zake ni *flashing* please call me

BREAKING NEWS!

Kuna day nilienda church pastor akasema our verse today comes from the book of Exodus mlevi akashout Yesu atakuja kama hamjamaliza syllabus?

JUST A JOKE

Hello students after closing school?
 Kukula 81% A
 Kudress 90% A
 Kusoma 07% E
 Kusaidia parents 20% D
 Kutembea 92%A
 Kuwatch movies 94% A
 Mushenee fb 98% A

BREAKING NEWS

This year akuna christmas mary amechoka kuzaa kila year. Dhis yes ameamua kuabort 24th Dec Ujingaa ni Kubeba bag yenye imeandikwa back to school yet ni closing day.

VICHEKESHO

By Naomi Nenkai

Teacher: Name any vertebrate that has has no complete teeth
 Student: My grandmother
 Teacher: Why are you giving the chicken boiled water
 Student: For them to lay boiled eggs.

JOKES NOMS

By Carolyn

Dad: Brayoo ni letee maji
 Brayoo: Ya kunywa au ya kuoga
 Dad: Ya kunywa
 Brayoo: Arm au baridi
 Dad: Sitaki tena maji nilettee soda
 Brayoo: Kok au fanta
 Dad: Kok
 Brayoo: Nilette na glass au chupa
 Dad: Brayoo toka hapa
 Brayoo: Na nisipotoka
 Dad: Nitakuchapa
 Brayoo: Na kiboko au sandals
 Dad: Nitakuuwa
 Brayoo: Na bunduki au kisu

WORD PLAY

by Elnorahh
 D-Decide yourself
 I-Involve reasoning in everything you do
 S-Strive for the best behavior
 C-Choose to do the right thing always
 I-Include positive behaviors
 P-Pick what is good from others
 L-Love and rationalize rules
 I-Intimate doing thing without being reminded
 N-Nurture self-drive
 E-Examine your conscience

QUOTES

By Abigael Sainapei

Imagine you are in a burning house and you were told to rescue only two things. What would u rescue?

- five-year-old child
- Ur mother
- 30 million shillings
- Bible
- Ur green card



Lilian Kintae: The Sports Star of the Year

By Everline Kaarie and Brenda Chebet



Lilian in action during a past athletics games

At 17, Lilian Kintae has left an indelible mark on the sports field, cutting a niche in track and field and soccer. Born and raised in the small village of Moita in Sonkono, Narok County, the 11th grade student at KCE II is excelling in academics and sports. Her passion for sports started as a student at Ntoluo Primary School. She explained, "It wasn't just something I did; it became a habit and my interest."

Since she ventured into sports, the triple jump became her specialty, but soccer was her true passion. At school, she always found time to practice on the football field, honing her skills. Despite her love for football, she made her mark in athletics when she first competed in the triple jump in the 10th grade, reaching the (Narok) county level.

Although she didn't qualify for the (Rift Valley) regional competition that year, it only fueled her determination. By 2024, Lilian had advanced to the county level in the triple jump, proving that dedication and hard work paid off. But Lilian is not just a jumper or a runner; she also excels in short and long relays and the 100-meter dash. She is a versatile athlete, ready to take on multiple challenges.

Soccer Success

What sets Lilian apart is her dual talent in both track and field events and soccer. As a footballer, she led Kakenya Girls High School's soccer team to the zonal level and even pushed the team to the sub-county competition finals during the second term ball games. Lilian's accomplishments stand out. She was the team's top scorer, a title that earned her the respect of her peers and coaches. Her dream is to represent her county and even her country in soccer, while also excelling in track and field.

Guided by Mentors

Lilian attributes much of her growth to the support she receives from Kakenya Girls High School. The encouragement from her games teacher, Mrs. Shila Kirui, and the backing of Kakenya's Dream have been instrumental in refining her talents.

"Ms. Shila has trained me not only in technique but in building the confidence I need to succeed. I get resources and opportunities to perfect her skills from the organization," she explained.

"I want to tell the stories of athletes and showcase how sports can transform lives."



Lilian is also motivated by the advice and mentorship she receives from her teachers. She says, "Our teachers engage with us, sharing not just tactics for the field but also life lessons that help us become better people." It's this holistic support that keeps her striving for more, whether on the field or in her studies.

Looking into the Future

Though sports take up much of her time, Lilian is also focused on her academics. Her favorite subject is English, and she aspires to pursue a career in sports journalism. "I want to tell the stories of athletes and showcase how sports can transform lives," she shares. She envisions herself not only competing in sports but also writing about it, a dream that blends her talents and passions. Lilian's story is one of hard work, resilience, and ambition. As she continues to train and prepare for future competitions, she remains an inspiration to her peers and a symbol of what can be achieved when talent meets opportunity.

In Pictures



A glimpse of some of the sporting events this year



Uwoga got real as junior secondary students received their HPV vaccine



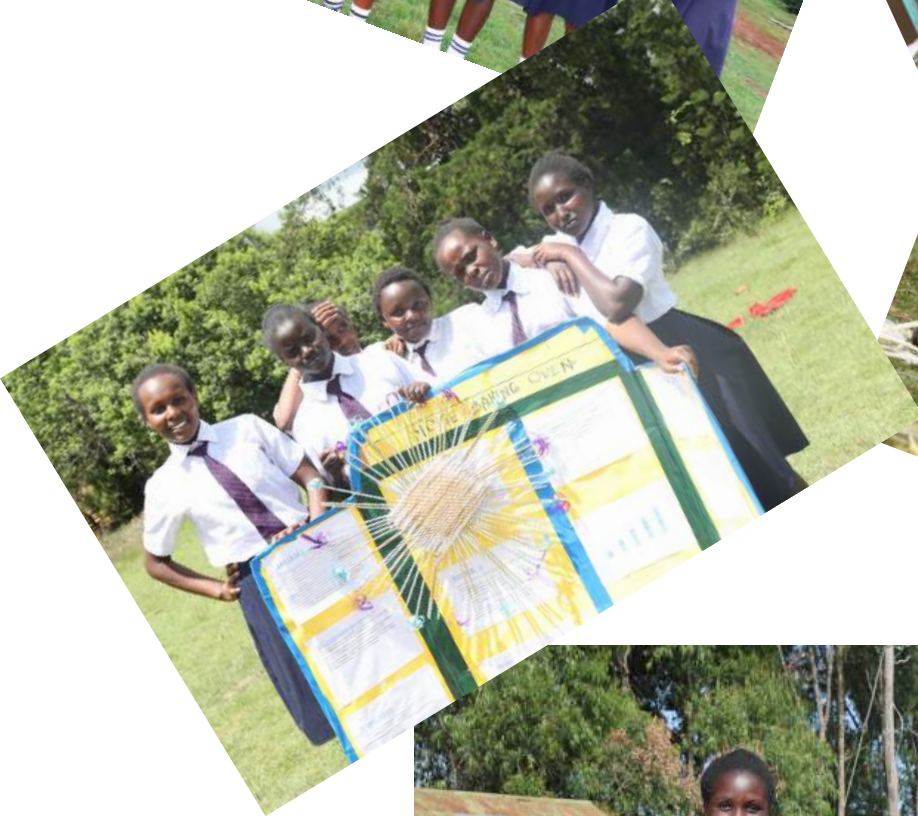
You can scratch your head or prop your chin but lazima mtihani ufanye



Scenes from a life skills training at KCE II



Success to the 2024 KCSE candidates



Special recognitions to our fellow students who represented us in various projects, including Science congress. Also, thumbs up to our junior secondary students for their amazing projects.

Recipe for Baking Cakes

By Chef Wamboi

Ingredients

- 3-4 cups of butter
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1-2 cups of milk
- 1-2 teaspoons of salt
- 2 cups of sugar
- 1-2 teaspoons of baking soda
- 3-4 teaspoons of baking powder

- I
STEP 1
1. Put the blue band and sugar salt inside a baking dish then stir
 2. Add the eggs, stir to make it one solution
 3. Add the two cups of milk
 4. Then add the flour, baking powder, and baking soda
 5. After stirring the mixture leave it for some time



- STEP 2
- Place the solution in an oven with a normal temperature Use a knife and dip it in and out, if the knife comes out clean the cake is ready to be consumed.



The new dining hall imeleta shangwe. The introduction of table-serving has internalized a sense of sharing, caring, responsibility and strengthened our relationships as a family





Madam Dorcas Simaloi-School Principal

“ If you believe in God, put all your trust in Him, you are destined for success because God opens all doors. He answers prayers and protects you from harm. Pursue righteousness and master the power of prayers. ”

Mr. Victor Nyambok- Deputy Principal

Dear students, as you embark on this pivotal phase of your educational journey, recognize that discipline is the bedrock upon which your future is constructed. Embrace the rigors of your studies and cultivate a steadfast commitment to your goals, for it is through disciplined effort that potential is transformed into achievement. Allow the reverence of God to imbue your actions with integrity and purpose, guiding your decisions each day. Together, confront challenges with resilience since they are opportunities for growth and uplift one another, for you are united in this endeavor. With unwavering discipline and a profound sense of faith, you are destined to forge extraordinary paths. Keep your aspirations high and let your brilliance light up the way! Nevertheless, always be prepared for the coming Kingdom of God for this world is not our permanent home (Philippians 3:20-21).



Mr. Victor Nyambok- Deputy Principal



Madam Bibiana Chimoli

“ If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way ”

“ A good teacher is like a candle—it consumes itself to light the way for others ”



Madam Joan Cheron



Mr. Moses Nyachae

As you go through school and life, remember: each challenge is an opportunity in disguise. Think of life like a game of chess—strategic, sometimes surprising, and always full of choices. Every setback is just a chance to rethink your next move. Embrace the chaos! It’s okay if you stumble; even the greatest philosophers tripped over their own ideas. Laugh at your mistakes—humor is the best friend on this journey. Knowing that you don’t have all the answers can be a powerful realization! So, as you work on your studies, follow your interests, and make friends (Connections), remember: it’s not just about the grades. It’s about building resilience, gaining wisdom, and enjoying the journey. Life is a mix of serious moments and fun; don’t forget to enjoy yourself responsibly along the way! Stay curious, keep pushing your limits, and remember that every day is a new chance to grow. Keep shining bright, Your Fellow Traveler.

MESSAGES FROM STAFF MEMBERS



"Education is the path to limitless possibilities."

Mr. Hillary Tesot



"Education is not just about going to school & getting a degree. It is about widening your knowledge & absorbing the truth about life."

Madam Joyce Kilusu



"Every lesson learned today shapes a brighter tomorrow."

Madam Faith



"No hard work goes unrewarded."

Madam Victoria Kaelo



"Curiosity is the key to unlocking the world."

Mr. Shylock Makori



"Learning is a journey we walk together, step by step."

Caro Ntialei



"Believe in yourself; knowledge is your greatest power."

Madam Doreen



"In every child, I see endless potential."

Madam Sheila Kirui



"Every hard work will be rewarded in the end."

Sarah Kilusu



"Every girl can dream and achieve everything they desire."

Daniel Mpilei



"Determination in life makes the impossible possible."

Ms. Leah Kilach



"Those who strongly believe in dreams coming true are protected and guided by God"

Sammy Mauti



"When the world conspires to help you reach your dreams, be ready to face and tackle obstacles along the way"

Reuben Nalisi



The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows. Education is not a preparation for life, education is life itself.

Jeremiah Koros



"The desire of every person is to achieve everything they want, and it comes through dedication to the goals."

Victor Konongoi



We were privileged to take a break by visiting various breathtaking destinations in places, including Naivasha, Nairobi, Kisumu, and the Maasai Mara National Reserve.



