

END OF TERM NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians

Once again the longest term of the school year comes to an end. In September, we all thought December would never arrive!

It has been a very busy term. Since half term external examinations have taken place and High School end of Term examinations. Prep School has been preparing for their Christmas production with enthusiasm. I am sure all of you who attended the performance enjoyed yourselves.

I have been meeting with the parents from each class finding out ways and means that I can try to improve the learning environment for your children. I hope that you have found this as helpful as I have. Please remember, my door is always open and I am usually available. Since half-term, we have experienced a teaching shortage due to the unexpected departure of Mr. Kamau in the High School. All classes have been taught by Mr. Mogere and myself so there have been minimal, if any, lessons lost.

With that note, we will say 'Kwaheri' to Mrs. Tanui and welcome Mr. D. Ndambuki who will teach Mathematics, ICT and Physics. Mrs. Mutonga, who will cease to be the Head of the Prep Section, will continue teaching Year 6 Mathematics and Science and add Y14 Statistics to her timetable.

We wish Mrs. Abranches all the best as she takes over the Prep Section. Mrs. Abranches will continue Literacy in Year 6 and as Class 3 teacher. She will also continue as the Houseparent together with her husband.

Once again I want to remind you of your Child's ID and Class Picture Package. We requested a local medical laboratory to ascertain your child's blood type in order that this could be included on the School ID Card. The package will be ready upon return in January for Kshs. 500/= only. So please send your child/children to school with this amount.

Next term, the High School will put on an International Night, after half-term. The Prep School have also expressed an interest in participating in this event. So please mark your calendars, Saturday, February 21st 2009.

SPORTS – Mr. K. Kipkoech

1. The school hosted a successful Under 15 Boys Soccer Tournament on Saturday, 4th October, 2008. The tournament attracted ten British Schools. Braeside earned the shield for the second year running. We want to thank Broadway for sponsoring this event.
2. Under 13 Rounders team were first runners up in the Premier Academy Tournament.
3. The Taekwondo team achieved remarkable success. In the Premier Academy Championship, three students won bronze medals, two silver and one gold medal.
4. The School Swimming team achieved a number of successes in swimming competitions. During the Central Province Swimming Association (CEPASA) the school team, boys and girls were overall winners sweeping more than thirty medals.
 - NASA 'AA' Championships two gold medals and three bronze medals were won.
 - NASA 'AAA' Our students won gold and were finalist in two events.
 - A number of swimming galas are lined up for next term with the whole school Inter-house Swimming Gala on Thursday 12th February, 2009.

5. Next term boys will play field hockey and basketball while girls will play field hockey. Students are encouraged to bring their own hockey sticks and protective devices – shin pads and mouth guards for safety.
6. We have entered into three tournaments this term plus holding our own. I would request that if your child has been chosen to play on the team that he also participate in these tournaments, please mark your calendars.

HIGH SCHOOL

The high school students have been fulfilling their syllabi with various day trips during the term. The latest was to Kiambere Geothermal Plant for Physics and Geography.

Below is a photo journal of the Year 8 Geography trip to Maasai Mara. We hope you enjoy seeing what your children experience on their trips.



The Year 9 and Year 10 will travel to the Maasai Mara/Tsavo in January also to fulfill the Geography syllabus. The Year 7's will venture out to Naivasha and stay at the Elsamere Conservation Centre in February. The Senior School will once again visit the Aids Orphans at Ol Donyo Sabuk and spend the day with them as part of our Community Service Programme.

MSMUN will take place from Tuesday 27th January 2009 to Friday 30th January 2009. EAMUN will take place from Monday 23rd February 2009 to 27th February 2009. The students have been preparing for this very rewarding experience with enthusiasm.

FRENCH – Mr. J. Wambeo

FRENCH VERSE SPEAKING COMPETITION at Nairobi Academy :

Two of our students, Arjun Mohindra and Chaand Shah participated in the Interschool French and German verse speaking competition held at the Nairobi Academy on 8th November 2008. There were 14 schools competing in the French language segment.

As shown on the below picture, Chaand Shah emerged second overall in the Under 14 years Category while Arjun Mohindra was awarded a Certificate of Participation.



FRENCH PLAY AND EXHIBITION ON THE WORKINGS OF AN AEROPLANE at Alliance Francaise

French and Physics students went on a joint trip to the Alliance Francaise to attend an exhibition on aviation and to watch a French play entitled 'La tortue qui chante' and a cartoon movie 'Kirikou'.

The Physics students attended the Interactive Exhibition on the History, Science and Workings of Aircraft.

Through a simple, practical and hands-on approach, the Exhibition presented scientific and technical progress in the field of aeronautics, from the great men to the great moments that have marked its history.

They were also exposed, through specially designed simulators, to first-hand experience behind the controls and behind the scenes of both flying an aircraft and building an aircraft.

PREP SCHOOL – Mrs. M. Mutonga

Mid Year Exams – will be starting from 28th January 2009, as per the School Calendar. Kindly make sure your child revises all the work covered so that he/she may face the Examinations with confidence.

Parent/Teachers meeting. Please make sure you attend this important meeting to discuss your child's progress.

Educational outing: There will be an educational excursion to Fourteen Falls. The children in Year Five and Six have been learning about rivers and pollution.

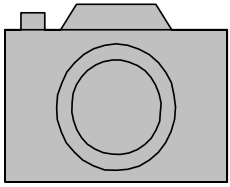
We are proud to successfully complete a very busy term. I believe every child has had enriching experiences academically, socially and emotionally.

I wish to thank you all for your role in ensuring that the children get to school on time and for promptly paying for all requirements.

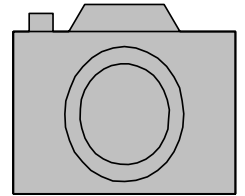
Our trip to Elsamere was an excellent exposure to all of us – the children learnt a lot, had fun and most of all, related with each other and the teachers in a very healthy way. It was amazing to see their level of independence and responsibility away from home. I hope you all managed to download the photos we e-mailed.

The Christmas play has also been a great experience for all children. Apart from the fact that it is a celebration on the festival of the season, its theme of "sharing with the less fortunate" is a Theme I'd wish that all children would identify with. It is my hope and prayer that we can bring up a generation of children who are sensitive to the needs of those around them so that they may appreciate what they have. Once again, thank you for helping us get the costumes and other props and adjusting your pick-up time to allow for practice. We were able to raise Kshs. 5,020/= as donations for the Thika Aids Orphans. Thank you for your generosity.

Finally, it has been my pleasure to head the Prep Section for the last year and a term. To all of you with whom I worked closely, please accept my heartfelt gratitude as our success in educating the children can never be complete without your input. It is my pleasure to carry on teaching Mathematics and Science in the section.



Pre-Prep in Photos Xmas Term 2008



KWS have made lots of improvements to Ol Donyo Sabuk Game Park and are promoting the Park to children. So, we felt it would be great fun to take our children on a 'recce to check it out' It was beautiful..... However, when we arrived at the Gate we felt that our children are too young—it is a 10kms walk through the bush to see the buffaloes with armed rangers. It will be a perfect trip for Prep Section and High School. We ended up at Fourteen Falls and had a picnic—the children loved it.....



As you have read, next term will also be very busy for your children. Busy children are happy children. We not only want your children to succeed within the classroom but also have memories of their activities outside of the academic sphere.

Boarding students are due back in school on Sunday 4th January before 5.00 p.m. Classes will begin on Monday 5th January 2009.

As we end Term 1 and Year 2008, I would like on behalf of the Staff and Administration to wish you a relaxing Holiday Season and also good wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2009.

Sincerely yours.

G. M. Wangia
Headmistress.