

Newsletter

APRIL
2023



Interview with the Principal.

Yanza: What were some of the memorable moments that took place this term?

Mr. Muthee: Yes. Some pretty memorable occasions have taken place. I will start with academics; we have done our Pre-Mocks, Mocks and Post-Mocks, and it was amazing to see the students' progress in those three sets of exams. We have prepared well for the forthcoming checkpoints and look forward to achieving positive results in June.

We also took our time to call in particular people to guide our candidates as they chose the subjects or approached their examinations.

We had a Coastal Trip for the Humanities Students in Years 10 and 11 for four days, which was very successful and very much aligned with the subjects that they do.

Our hockey team was number 3 in the PIPSSA hockey tournament at the School of Nations. This was our first time participating in a hockey tournament, and the future is promising in that sport.

We also had an outstanding performance in the Kasarani PIPSSA athletic championship. Our boys emerged second; our girls were number 1; overall, Woodcreek was first.

It is the second year running that we are taking the shield home, which is something to be proud of.

With these, I am happy at the level of engagement our learners have shown, and we look forward to another active final term of this academic year.

Yanza: Have we hosted any inter-school activities?

Mr. Muthee: Our students have not just been travelling for events and competitions. We have had the chance to host other schools as well.

We have had friendlies, many of them in basketball. We have not lost a match to any school, and we are delighted that both groups, whether seniors or juniors are doing well.

We have also had The Southampton League. This league has seen our boys either travel out for a fixture or in school, hosting another school. Given that it's only this year that we started doing competitive football, we have seen some good progress in that area. We also had the privilege of hosting The PIPSSA football tournament for girls the under 11, 9 and 7, and one of our teams was position three.

The most recent event was "Let's Share Day" for the differently abled students, which happened on 21st March, and we had panellists and schools coming to share.

This kind of integration with the rest of the school is widening the network, expanding the exposure of our learners to various activities and having them understand what is happening elsewhere because they are part of a global society.

Yanza: Finally, as a principal, what are your plans for the school, especially for the students?

Mr. Muthee: Great plans; we intend to expand the options for our students at the Sixth Form level. We plan to introduce three additional BTEC courses: Music, Sports and Art. This will see us have a broader capacity to admit more into the areas they are interested in; this comes up in September.

We have several academic plans to improve the results our students get. With the current Year 11 class, we have taken a lot of time to prepare them from January all through so that we get the best results as per individual. As a result, this year's preparation time has been more than any other year we have presented students for the examinations.

We also have a larger A-Level group which is a good sign that is causing us to expand the space. We have more freedom in terms of rooms within the school, now looking into how we can have specialised rooms in academics, like a Languages Room, Humanities Room or Mathematics Room that they can use for group sessions.

Yanza: Are there any plans outside the ones you have touched on that you are looking forward to implementing?

Mr. Muthee: We are looking at a wide area of improvement. We have started gradually having a uniform way of doing things. What can we improve in our dress code? We are looking at how we can harmonise our culture; for instance, if we have visitors, can they see our school and notice this is a formal day at Woodcreek?

This is all to move towards academic accreditation by some International bodies so that our standards also reflect externally. We can focus on many bodies depending on what we want; one would be The Council of International Schools. That is the most common, and that is what we have gotten in touch with.

Yanza: That would be my final question; thank you for your time.

Deputy Principal remarks

It's been over a month since I took over the position of Academic Deputy Principal in the acting capacity.

I have worked with my colleagues to ensure the continuity and progression of some projects and great ideas; which my predecessor had put in place.

During this second half of the term, we had the Science Department at the focal point of the STEAM activities. This year's theme was 'Empowering the 21st Century learner to break the barriers of inequality through innovation.' Indeed, the barriers were broken as we saw our young and old students actively participating in STEAM projects and presentations. Our students also enjoyed interacting with key speakers from various professional backgrounds to discuss further breaking barriers.

As a school, we pride ourselves on partnering with our students and their parents as they prepare to transition to the next academic level. As a result, we had a successful Year 6 and 9 and Sixth Form transitional meeting.

Our students were enthusiastic about participating in the World Scholars Cup tournament. This was yet another opportunity for them to interact with scholars from other schools, learn and have fun as they deliberated on the theme 'Reconstructing the Past'.

Our candidates also wrote their Mocks and Post-mock exams. Good progress was evident from one series of exams to the other. We eagerly look forward to presenting them to external exams (Cambridge Assessment International Examination) from April through June for Years 6/9/10/11/12. To stand in solidarity with our candidates, we had a 'Candidates Prayer Morning' on 5th April 2023.

We continue wishing them success in their exams and a happy Easter holiday!!!

*Salome Kamau
Deputy Principal - Academics.*

Key Stage 2 Coordinators remarks

As the new Key-Stage Two coordinator, I plan to focus on our school culture.

I want our culture to emulate the school vision by ensuring students can express themselves respectfully, engage in a conversation properly and earn respect within the community. I look forward to ensuring that each student gains rich values that they can practice daily and grow to become transforming societal agents.

I am honoured to be appointed as the new Key-Stage Two coordinator . It is a tremendous opportunity for me in my career, and I am excited to learn and grow as I work with my colleagues to improve the school.

Miss Rehab



Examination Preparations.

I will begin with the quote, "Exams remain the fairest way of assessment." After the Mock Exams, we wanted to sustain the revision tempo of our candidates. We wanted them to stay on their toes preparing for their final Checkpoints, IGCSE and A Level exam.

This informed the need for the Post Mock Exams.

The idea paid off as the candidates went ahead to post significant improvement (each of them) in their performance in these exams compared to the Mocks.

This affirmed our decision for the Post Mocks. We achieved what we envisioned from the Exams Office.

We later organised a prayer morning for the candidate classes.

The students were joined by their parents and teachers. The prayer morning was preceded by Pastor Elijah Wanje, who encouraged and prayed for our learners.

Finally, I would like to remind the candidates to be SMART in their revision and utilise their time well.

You can only be a candidate at a given level once!
All the best.

Elijah Ondigi - Exams Officer



MOCKS

Year 6

I was very nervous when the exams started.

It was only after I sat for my Mathematics paper that everything settled for me. I had prepared well for the paper, so that helped me.

My confidence grew significantly after my second exam, and I knew immediately that I should not have panicked from day one.

I eventually posted excellent grades in the subjects and am optimistic about the upcoming Checkpoint Exams.

Maynard Macahria - Year 6 Chui.

Year 9 Post Mock Exams

The Year 9 Post-Mock Exams were like a rollercoaster; the joy when we passed and the terrifying papers that reminded us that we had a long way to go.

Of course, we all had different experiences, but the post-mocks were like rubbing salt in the wound - thinking we'd do better but still not reach our targets in some subjects.

However, the mock exams helped reshape our thinking and showed us how much we need to focus and study to do well in the main Checkpoint Exams.

Wega Nduati - Year 9

Navigating Post Mock 2 In Year 11.

The Post Mock exams were tricky, especially for my classmates and me.

This was the first time we had to work under the same conditions as in the final exam since the Mocks.

The revision process was tiring since it kept us on our feet, always studying unless you're in an exam.

However, these exams helped shed light on the expectations of the real exam. The exercise was challenging but worth it because now we know the areas that need polishing before our final exams.

Kenny Gatubu - Year 11

Navigating Post Mock 2 In Year 12.

The post-mock exams were challenging for all of us, but a good challenge. The exams once again immersed us in the exam environment, helped us test our exam techniques and kept us constantly studying.

My performance in the post-mocks was good, but it can be improved.

Thanks to the exams, my classmates and I can now work on our weak areas and exam technique to prepare for the finals.

Lissa Kimani - Year 12

Sixth Form Transitional Meeting.

As expected, going into Key Stage 5 has many questions and concerns. However, the transitioning talk guided by the teachers gave me a sense of clarity and direction regarding how the next phase of my academic journey would look like.

I am now sure about how I will navigate the next stage; I know what I need to do to set a good foundation for my degree in Law.

Kristina Kamuiru - Year 11



Steam Week

This year's STEAM Innovation Week was incredible.

Our students participated in many exciting activities that saw them engage with their Crawford and Arya Vedic Academy peers. In addition, they were joined by industry experts, innovators and mentors from various fields who covered multiple topics in the panel discussions and one-on-one engagements with the learners.

The students also presented awe-inspiring projects that addressed topics like food insecurity, energy crisis, water, housing, and climate change.

This was not all; the girls in Prep School were also taken through a workshop by a team from Mastercard who covered topics like online fraud detection, encryption and all things digital.

We thank our panellists Amakove Wala, Joseph Nguthiru, Rosemary Koech, Ted Muganda, Josiah Muiya, Justus Nandwa and Levi Kones, and Our Guest Speaker, Isuzu MD, Rita Kavashe, for making time to come and share their experiences with our young innovators.

Article by who? Indicate name...



BTEC Trip

The trip was held on a Saturday when we went to a children's home and gave back to the community.

We raised Ksh. 53,000/= through a school fundraiser event and used the money to buy foodstuff and utilities for them. After that, we met with the children, and they showcased their talents to us. We enjoyed our afternoon with them.

Tyrese Theuri - Year 12

My Music Journey.

I learned a lot about the history and origin of Music this term. I also learnt how to compose Music, specifically with my piano instrument. I reached grade 5 in the ABRSM piano course.

Next time, I plan to polish my knowledge of Music History, concentrate mainly on the subject's composition and develop my pieces.

We had the chance to attend an event at Greensteds International School in Nakuru - The Lipala Arts Festival. Here, I gained quite a few skills, quickly prepared for performances, and was exposed to more skilled piano players.

To perform at this event, I had to practice at school and home and memorise my piano skills.

The trip was an enjoyable and beneficial experience for me as a Music enthusiast.

Trevor Wachira - Year 10

Another Breeze to Victory!

In February, students from Key Stages 2, 3, 4 and 5 went to Kasarani for the annual PIPSSA Athletics Championship.

The event lasted the entire day, and the athletes competed for the special badge in several categories. The competition was challenging, but we managed to come through with 2nd place for the boys and 1st place for the girls and overall, we managed to get 1st place for the win.

I had a personal best time of 11.07 Seconds in the 100 Metres race.

I also helped my team win the boy's relay race, which was much more competitive this year than last year.

Craig Ndundi - Year 12

Checkmate!

The game of chess has always fascinated me ever since I found out about it. The game of chess is based on tactics. Anyone can play many combinations and variations; each person has a unique playstyle. The school has implemented the idea of a chess club well. They have us working with professionals who know how to play to make us better players. I recommend chess as it is a form of stress relief that I use, and it has helped me better my mind in terms of thought processes and engagement in all aspects of my life.

Micah Kaboi - Year 10

My Experience on the Court!

As the basketball team captain, the second term has been excellent in basketball, especially at the beginning, where we had most of our matches against various schools, of which we won 2 friendly games and tied 1 with 0 losses. Later, during the term, we played in a U15 tournament and emerged 2nd overall. Still, with the help of our professional coaches, we are all improving significantly and doing our best to come first.

Alvin Musila Kimanzi - Year 10



My Footballing Journey.

The Southampton Football League we recently joined has been a new, bright experience for the football team. Entering a new, competitive league offered us a chance to learn and develop our football ability with the help of new coaches. So far, we are still building and improving collectively as a group, and we hope to get the best performances and finish with the highest league position possible.

Jeremy Richard - Year 10



PIPSSA Swimming Gala – Nanyuki.

The PIPSSA swimming gala was held at St Christopher's School - Nanyuki.

Our team left Nairobi on a Friday and arrived the same day in the evening.

We headed straight to the gala's venue with all the other teams and started our events immediately.

Some of us did not participate in the games on the first day, but our schoolmates recorded outstanding performances on the first day despite the fatigue.

We later proceeded to Warwick Hotel (where we put up for the night).

Our Saturday was busy as compared to Friday. We took part in several events which had been planned back to back. We had to put our best foot forward and ward off very stiff competition from our peers.

The whole event was excellent, and we look forward to many more. We came home with a total of 41 medals.

Ayana Okonji - Year 9





FRUITS AND BLANKETS.

What a great way to end the second term of this academic year. We call it fruits and blankets, and it's somewhat literal. The kindergarten team has made it a tradition to bond over fruits, Maasai shukas, music and fun. It's also held to help promote healthy eating habits in our young ones. This year the rain almost made it impossible for us to have volume 3 of the event, but we quickly devised a Plan B. There was music, dancing, games, bouncing castles and remembering the icing on the cake. The kids enjoyed the different learning experiences. The teachers also got to unwind with some music and dance. We are already looking forward to volume 4.

Hellen Halima - Kindergarten Teacher



PRESIDENTS AWARD TRIP

The President's Award-Kenya (PA-K) is an exciting self-development programme nationwide available to all young people. It equips them with positive life skills to make a difference for themselves, their communities, their country, and the world.

We at Woodcreek School also offer the chance to our students by helping them to learn more about teamwork, endurance, responsibility and creativity to solve various challenges.

From 6th to 8th April 2023, 27 students (Year 9 to Year 12) attended the Silver Expedition at Othaya in Nyeri County.

We departed from the school at 7.20 am, and a journey of three and half hours finally took us to the hilly and intermittent cool breezes of Aberdare forest. The students in their three teams picked everything they needed for the day from the buses and embarked on their journey one group after the other, following their navigator and team leader the last. Throughout the expedition, we had to navigate using a compass and a map provided; thanks to the navigators, the team was kept in sight. We went through several checkpoints during the expedition.

So many incredible memories were made on this trip, like putting up the tents, navigation, meal planning, working in teams and braving the cold weather together.

*Erasmus Murugi,
Sports and Business Studies Teacher.*



WORLD SCHOLARS CUP. T

I participated in my first-ever World Scholar's Cup this year. I was both excited and nervous about the competition.

My favourite challenge was Collaborative Writing; it was fun to see my teammates and I creatively navigate the writing task given. The Scholars Challenge was a struggle; everyone around me had difficulty putting me at ease.

Our team won all three debate contests we took part in. My teammate Rixen was so happy afterwards that he immediately called his parents. The Scholars' Bowl on the second day was fun and stressful. The team's arguments over the answers got heated while time was ticking, but everyone forgot their anger and celebrated when the answer was correct.

We finally got to the award ceremony, which was terrific. I was able to get a medal in each category. I got nine medals in total; I got the second place trophy in the writing challenge out of the hundreds of students in the junior division.

Our team was also in the top five teams and got a trophy. It was indeed a fantastic experience that couldn't have been possible without the school and my amazing teammates, Rixen and Tessie.

Marissa Thomas - Year 9





LET'S SHARE DAY/WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY.

We joined the world in celebrating World Down Syndrome Day. Woodcreek School is an inclusive school, and we, therefore, marked the day by having our learners in Primary School wear mismatched socks to support the T-21 Family Support Organisation.

We also had other schools join us in celebrating this day. The guest speakers and several university representatives took the learners in the Inclusion and Extension Department through some career choices available for differently-abled learners.

This year's theme, 'With Us Not For Us', is to help remind the world to treat differently-abled people fairly and accord them the same opportunities as everyone else in society and learning institutions to improve their lives.

Down Syndrome is a condition in which a person has an extra chromosome. Therefore, the 21st day of the 3rd month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the trisomy, the 21st chromosome which causes Down Syndrome.

The United Nations has officially observed the day since 2012.

Today, we can make a better change by wearing mismatched socks to represent the mismatched 21st chromosome. In addition, mismatched socks make people share and raise awareness about Down Syndrome.

*Susan Kirui,
HOD, Inclusion and Extension Department.*

DIAMOND TRIP - APOLLO PARK.

On the 24th of March 2023,

Children from the Diamond Stream and their teachers went to Apollo Science Park - Naivasha for an excursion.

We started with several Science experiments, a bouncing castle experience, plastered a Manyatta, visited a technology advancement Centre and a domesticated birds & animal farm.

The weather was favourable for the children to participate in the above-mentioned activities because it was warm and cloudy despite the rainy season.

The children had fun and enjoyed all the activities and learnt a lot from the adventure. They enjoyed little surprises like a drive through the escarpment and a picnic out of school.

Our excursion was successful because the children managed to understand and appreciate basic science principles, which inspired them to imagine the future, thus challenging them to go out and create it.

Ms. Caroline Ngata



Key Stage One Cultural Day

Indeed, the beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people, and we wanted to share that beauty with our young students.

Our Key-Stage One learners had a memorable experience during our cultural day. Every class picked a culture and researched more about it at home.

On the day, they came adorned in costumes, carrying artefacts from their respective cultures.

They had incredible cultural presentations like songs, dances and skits. One of our grandparents attended the event and taught our students about Kenyan culture. Cultural awareness is important for the young ones to promote peaceful coexistence.

Ms. LucyAnne Mbuki.







Cultural

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