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***“To truly know the world, look deeply within your own being; to truly know yourself, take real interest in the world”.***

***Rudolf Steiner***



**Our orange harvest**

# ***RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL MBAGATHI***

***KENYA JUNE 2018***

## ***Welcome message from the School Leader***

Welcome to our Newsletter 2018. The rainy season is reaching its end; this year brought heavier rains than have been seen for years. The thunder cracks and rivers swell up at a frightening speed - bringing an element of destruction and danger. Children had to return home early to ensure they reached home safely. But our land is green, flowers are blossoming and the bees and butterflies are busy.

The farm has taken advantage of this unusual rainfall and we are relishing this burst of growth. Despite this we continue to struggle to meet the long term needs of providing food for our children.

The children are mid-way through their school year and they look forward to their half term break. There are two special events that the children look forward to this term, this is Fun Day and Sports Day. Excitement builds up for these two days and the compound bursts with happiness.

The school is striving to raise standards in all areas: in the office, the classrooms, the farm and compound as a whole. The staff are working as a team and this bears fruits for the children. Through a generous donation the boys' boarding has had its floors upgraded as well at the toilets. It is magnificent. Paths will be extended around the school in August. More work needs to be done and it is in progress.

All this is possible through our wider school community, but what is special to this school is all its friends who keep us in their thoughts and support us when called upon to do so. The school has embarked on finding more sponsors to ensure that we can continue to offer a sound education, a safe and healthy meal and environment for the children. Therefore please help us find one more sponsor.

Next year we are planning a conference and festival to celebrate 100 years of Waldorf education and our school reaching 30 years. The event will take place from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019. All are welcome to this important event.

We thank you all for your continuous and dedicated support. Many children are being relieved from difficult situations and are finding peace and space to be themselves.

**Judith Brown**

## Washing Time

I think that putting up the washing area was one of the best ideas ever. Before we had a hard time while washing our clothes especially when it rained, because the washing area would become too muddy with pools of water everywhere. But now the story is different. I really thank those who supported us in building the washing area.

**Christine Nyamboke - Class 9**



## What a Surprise

At first I could not believe what I had seen. The dormitory looked amazing. The tiles were beautiful. The seats were cushioned making them comfortable. There were also new mosquito nets that give us a good night's sleep. The toilets were also repaired. We are really grateful.

**Victor Kiarie-Class 7**



## Farm Products: Maize



This season the rain has been sufficient and we have had a good harvest of maize and beans alongside a wide variety of vegetables normally grown in the farm. In the past few weeks, we have managed to feed our children on maize instead of buns on Friday. They have really enjoyed the change in diet and in taste. We also have harvested beans from the farm which they are enjoying with rice. Maize and beans is a staple food here in Kenya.

**Francis Kilonzo - Farm Manager**



## Class 9 Trip to Magadi

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March we were lined up excited and impatient to start our long journey to Magadi. After a short prayer we took off. As I sat back, I tried to imagine how Lake Magadi looked like. As we approached the Ngong Hills, everyone was busy looking at the beautiful scenery of the green hills. We were impatient but we reached our first destination Olorgasale pre-historic site. The white skulls of the early men and tools were so authentic. After all this bringing in of knowledge, we had our juice and buns. Up into the bus and we continued with the journey. The hot journey made us sweat, but we finally arrived to our last destination. Magadi was amazing, the lake, the township, and the factory itself. The journey back was long but this was a journey to remember. **Karl Manu - Class 9.**



## Welcome to our family

*"It has been fulfilling and gratifying being part of the growth of this school hopefully transforming it to better".*

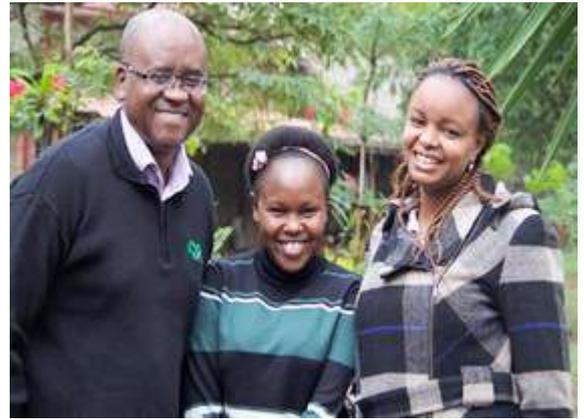
**Henry Onyango - Manager of Finance and Administration.**

*"The diversity of work and the amazing culture has been tremendously great".*

**Jane Wathinja - Accountant.**

*"It has been a learning and humbling experience that gives a strong sense of fulfilment".*

**Mercy Njeri - Sponsorship officer.**



*Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi provides a good environment for new teachers and the institution is friendly and one can grow in all areas".*

**Felix Muthama - Music and subject teacher.**

*"It will always be a learning experience."*

**Keziah Maua - Class 8 teacher.**

*"Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi is a pillar of creativity and innovation; the sociable staff and jovial children make it special".*

**David Muema - Class 7 teacher.**



## Learning Through Play

*My name is **Abdullahi Ali** and I am in class 5. I love to play because it is fun and it makes me and my friends happy.*

*I love to play because it is fun. When I play, I get to know people and I make friends and I also learn how to become kind.*

**Sophie Marie Naisula—Class 5.**

*I love to play with my friends and I love my friends very much. They are like my brothers and sisters. If I get into trouble they are always there to help me.*

**Hellen Nyamwita - Class 5.**

*Playing is healthy and good. It is also fun and gives us energy. It is a way of expressing yourself to someone else.*

**Sheryl Kavaya - Class 5.**

*Playing is fun and healthy. Playing is a child's labour. It is also good for my energy.*

**Katelyn Amondi - Class 5.**



## Raining, It's pouring

The weather has been really awful. The rains started in March and they have been torrential. A number of people perished due to this heavy rains. Many houses have been submerged in water. Some dams and rivers have broken their banks causing severe flooding and flash floods. Many farmers have lost their crops and animals. Cars have been washed away and some were covered in mud. Some schools were closed due to flooding. Roads have also been destroyed and some families displaced. Fruits and vegetables are being sold at a higher price. The rain has also been good especially for people who have been experiencing drought but all in all we think that the rains have been both good and bad.

*Crystal Muthoni and Jasmine Zighe - Class 6.*

## My time at the Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi

It is very hard to write down all my experiences while living at the Rudolf Steiner School with a few words. I came without any expectations and I left with lots of new friends and a heart full of love for Kenya and the Rudolf Steiner School.

First I fell in love with all the children. They are just adorable and I could tell so many different, funny and lovely stories about them. Me, as a student who has never been to a Waldorf school it was very impressive to see how the children were sitting at their table and learnt voluntarily.

I really saw that the children have the will to learn and they know it is a privilege for them to be in this school. You couldn't see that most of them come from very poor backgrounds, where the fight for survival is always present. The school gives them a second home, or for some of them the only home.

The boarding parents, the teachers and the entire staff convey to me this feeling of being at home. Everybody, from the grounds man to the School Leader are passionate with their jobs and I could see that they love what they do. I loved to see the way the teachers were working and the passion they have, to give this special education to the children. Maybe they don't understand what amazing and important work they are doing. They are giving the children an opportunity to get out of the misery.

The people who have grown dearest to my heart are the boarding parents and my ladies from the office. It is because I spent most of the time with them. I helped in the office with the sponsorship program and in the evening I spent time with the children in the boarding and tried to help the boarding parents by doing some maths and reading with some boarding children. Through the students and the staff, the school exudes a warmth and joy of life. Always when I passed by somebody greeted me with a warm smile and a "habari yako" which means, "Hey how are you" in Kiswahili. And all of them were so helpful too. Every time when I needed something I knew I could just ask one of them and they would help me immediately regardless of whether it was a child, a teacher or someone else. I thank everybody again for this wonderful experience and hope to come back soon to my second home in Kenya- the Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi. **Sascha Braun**



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