



NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# ESPRESSO



December 2014

## **From the Director's Desk**

Dear Parents,

I know it's been a while since I got in touch. It always gives me immense pleasure to write to you all. Alas! We come to the end of yet another very productive first term of a new academic year. I cannot thank you enough for being with us on this journey. Whether you are with us for a short stay or the long haul, all I can say is that we are grateful that you chose us. It is my hope and belief that you do not regret your choice one bit and that you are being served and treated right.

Mr. Song'e, our new Head of School has settled in very well. He seems to be giving the task his all. The happy faces of our children when I visit all the three campuses, tell me that everything is fine and that there is absolutely no cause for concern or alarm.

There is one very important item of news that I would like to share with you though. Mrs. Reena Varma, Head of our Prep School, has been forced by some unfortunate personal issues and circumstances to take a year off work. I can't go into details here. However, you are free to get in touch with Mrs. Varma through telephone or on her email [reena.varma@nis.ac.ke](mailto:reena.varma@nis.ac.ke) anytime and she can explain to you why this decision had to be made by her. To say that we are going to miss her presence very much would be an under- statement. In her absence, the school management has decided to request Mrs. Angela Omboga to be the "Acting Head" and hold fort until such a time when Mrs. Varma feels okay to return. Let me assure you that Mrs. Omboga will continue working closely with Mrs. Varma (from behind the scenes) on almost everything pertaining to the Prep School. Moreover Mr. Song'e and I, are still around to guide her if need be.

As we close school for the festive season, I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and A Prosperous New Year! It is my prayer that God Almighty keeps you safe and happy wherever you may be...

Until we meet again in 2015

I remain,

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Lee.

# KINDERGARTEN

We have come to the end of yet another busy but fantastic term! We have settled comfortably in our new Kindergarten premises and have had a blast these past 14 weeks.

We've had some great activities this term:

**FIELD TRIPS:** This term we visited the Animal Orphanage in Lang'ata. The children got to see and learn about all sorts of different animals. The children enjoyed the entire trip from the exciting bus ride, the picnic at the KWS gardens, to all the animals.



**FUN DAY:** On a day when the sun really favored us, we had our fun day. We put up 2 bouncing castles, had a face-painting stall, a henna stall, horse riding and various games and toys. The children had a fabulous time and it was a great way to end the first half of the term. The money collected on this day went to CATSI, a cancer charity supported by NIS.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** We had very successful Christmas concert. The children and



teachers worked extremely hard throughout the term to rehearse the plays and songs. They poured their hearts into their performance and we are very proud of each and every one of them.

The children have also enjoyed, participating in their various club activities across this term.

We also were very excited and looked forward to our end of term parties and the visit from Santa. We thank all the parents for supporting us in bringing presents for their children.

Thank you for your continuous support throughout this term. We wish you a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

**Happy Holidays!!**

Rahima Surderji

# JUNIOR SCHOOL

This was a busy and successful first term for the academic session 2014-15. Various events and activities kept the teachers and students busy throughout the term. A number of new students joined in different year groups and settled in well.

**The Friday Class Assemblies** were well organized and presented effectively by the students.

The attendance by the parents was very encouraging in every assembly. Children presented what they had been learning during their lessons. Some of the themes were Prayers, Modesty and Appreciation. Others shared interesting facts that they learnt during their Science, History, Numeracy and Literacy lessons.



## Class Trips

The Years 5 & 6 students attended the **Story Moja Festival in September**. They had the opportunity to attend these sessions:

- drama presentation
- story telling session
- etiquette session

The sessions enriched aspects of their current Literacy and PSHE curriculum. The students had a lovely time and were a very active and interactive audience. They did us proud. In addition, they had a tour of the snake park.



This term the **Year 2s** had a chance to visit Tropical Heat Industries in Nairobi to learn more about the manufacturing of different foods. Tropical Heat Industries is one of the largest manufacturers of potato snacks in Kenya, including Crisps, Chevda and Sticks. The children visited the information section where they were told all about how the products are made and packaged. The children were then asked to put on the white coats and hair nets and were split into smaller groups to take an interactive tour of the factory. After the tour the children were given samples to try and a goodie bag to take home.

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 **the Year 3s** had a golden opportunity of going to the 'Brown's Cheese Factory' which is located in Limuru, in the outskirts of Nairobi. On arrival, they were well received with a glass of fresh juice. After that, they were shown how cheese is made and then followed the process of pizza making, where all of them participated. Some rolled dough, others grated cheese, others applied the tomato base, oh; it was a bee hive of activity! Once the pizzas were put in the oven, the pupils got a chance to play in the compound and the laughter and shouts were evidence of a nice time out if the usual classroom walls. They were then called in, where they were served with the pizzas they had baked, and juice. They were all smiles. Thereafter, they were shown round the farm where they had a chance of seeing farm animals like hens, chicks, turkeys, pigs and the climax was, milking a cow! When it was finally time to come back, they felt sad to leave this thrilling farm, and all agreed that they looked forward to coming back another time.



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In line with their recycling topic in Geography, **the Year 4** students had an opportunity to visit Premier Industries, which deals with the production of recycled plastic waste. They were able to learn how recycling is done. It was a great learning experience for them.



### **Bake Sale**

Our annual Bake Sale was a great success. The support from our parents was overwhelming as they sent an amazing variety of cakes, cookies and other goodies. Children enjoyed buying these goodies. We were able to raise over 40,000/- which will go towards the school's CATSI project. A big Asante Sana to all our parents for their support!



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### **Grammar Competition**

Students from Years 5 & 6 participated in the inter-school grammar competition that was held at Light Academy, Karen, on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2014. The competition was a great exposure for children to improve on their literacy skills. The questions they were asked were based on what they were taught in class while others were general knowledge questions. The children did very well and were at their best behavior. They managed to be on position 4 out of 8 participating schools. Well done to all the participants.

### **Inter-House Spelling Bee Competition**

Our first Inter-House Spelling Bee Competition was organized successfully on 13<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 2014. The Competition was organized among all the 4 Houses in each year group. It was a challenging time for the participants who had to spell various words. The competition was won by Donatello House and the best spellers won trophies. Congratulations to all the participants. They all did very well and were awarded with participation certificates.

## Sports

This term a total of 21 matches spread through 11 fixture days and 1 Tournament in our sports calendar.

There were mixed results in all competitions but the common pattern was a general sign of growth in confidence and performance from all teams that participated.

The following students showed exceptional performance on the pitch during matches and were also good ambassadors for the school when out, in the way they conducted themselves. Their shining performances were only possible because of the collective responsibility taken by all team members.

- Purav Acharya – U11 and U9 Boys' Football
- Adyan Daruwala – U9 Boys' Football
- Ayan Dave – U9 Boys' Football
- Amani Ligale – U9 Boys' Football
- Ahmedrahim Asundah – U9 Boys' Football
- Artaj Lochab – U11 Boys' Football
- Marvin – U11 Boys' Football
- Keegan Chinyenze – U11 Boys' Football
- Nella Waiyaki – U9 Girls' Football
- Shani Owino – U9 Girls' Football



We look forward to an equally progressive and successful sporting experience next term.

We ended this term with celebrations for the festive season. Our Christmas Concert is the highlight of this term where the Prep students joined in with the KGs in singing carols and other performances.

School ended on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> of December with a final assembly and class parties.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2015!!!!!!

Mrs. Reena Varma

Head of Prep School.



# SENIOR SCHOOL

One of the first major events this term was the celebration of **N.I.S' 7th Anniversary** on 20th September which doubled up as welcome party for the new parents from the Kindergarten, Prep and Senior school. The event was well attended and culminated in short a speech by Mrs. Lee. N.I.S really has come a long way since its inception thanks to Mrs. Lee's unwavering faith, strength and support from our parents and the dedicated staff.



Our **Annual Prize Giving Day** was held on 4th October and was graced by Andy Hill as Guest of Honor. In his speech he encouraged students to always work hard, set targets, work towards achieving them, make the most of their school time and always strive to make a positive contribution. He also dwelt on the importance of technology on taking education to the next level. The occasion also saw the Teacher of the Year, Ms. Christa Ombeta from the Humanities Department and also Head of Careers presented with a token of appreciation for her good work. Brian Waihiga, our I.T Assistant was also presented with the Administrative Staff of the Year Award. Our sub-staff were not also left behind and Evens Muhanji and Patrick Atambo won themselves tokens of appreciation. Well done to all the students and staff for their hard work and thank you to the parents for the encouragement and support that you give to your children and to the school.



Our **Examinations results** were also very encouraging. At **I.G.C.S.E Level**, Darryl Ursin was the best performer in Sciences and the best overall student. Best 'AS' Level result was posted by Gurvir Singh .Patience Nasieku was the best performer in 'A' Level Humanities ,Ayen Kuol -best 'A' Level Sciences and the best overall performer. Other students who deserve mention include Tugi Waiyaki, Soumedh Trivedi, Mariam Malik, Katha Onkolobo and Eric Cauri. Congratulations are in order to all the students who did their very best.



On **Extra- Curricular Activities**, the **Inter - House Verse Recital Competition** took place on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of September and the results were as follows:

- Middle School Category — Jovana Denny-Year7- Michelangelo
- I.G.C.S.E Category —Ivy Omboga- Year 11-Rapahel
- A Level Category – Valerie Mores-Year 13-Raphael
- Overall Winning House – Raphael

This was followed by the **Inter-House Public Speaking Competition** on 31<sup>st</sup> of October and the results were as follows:

- Middle school category –Harjap Channa –Year 7 –Raphael
- I.G.C.S.E Category – Ivy Omboga –Year 11 – Raphael
- A Level Category – Valerie Mores –Year 13 –Raphael
- Overall winning house - Raphael

Thank you to all the students for their participation, to the house teachers for training and encouraging the students and to the judges for gracing the occasion. To the winners in various categories and the winning house, well done!

The **Halloween party** organized by the prefect body was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October . Judging from the turn out it was clearly a big hit. Many arrived disguised in indescribable ways. Some of the disguise was so good and so creative we could not identify the students!



There was a lot of good music ,food and soft drinks and party they did as the teachers stood watching nostalgically remembering the good ol' days when they too had all the energy . All the students who attended the party deserve a pat on the back for their excellent behavior. Way to go . . . having responsible fun!



### School Musical “House of Pharaoh”

The budding stars of **Nairobi International School**, presented our annual musical “**House of Pharaoh**”, based on the DreamWorks Production, **Prince of Egypt**. This was held at the Oshwal Auditorium on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2014. This was built on the extraordinary story of two brothers; Moses and Ramses, one born of royal blood, and the other an orphan with a hidden past. Growing up as best of friends, they shared a strong bond of free-spirited youth and good-natured enmity. However, the truth ultimately set them at odds, as one became Pharaoh of the most powerful empire on earth, and the other became the chosen leader of his people! Moses found himself being called upon by God... The final confrontation between the brothers, did, forever change their lives.

Our excellent Performing Arts, Visual Arts and English departments came together to create this most brilliant performance including students from Years 7 through to 13. Time flew by in a jiff while the audience sat, mesmerized. Attendance from other schools included Brookhouse, Braeburn and Oshwal.



The greatest beauty of this production was the fact that whilst students were having fun performing, they were also contributing to the larger good in a big way as all proceeds from these performances went towards the school's cancer initiative CATSI (Cancer Awareness and Treatment Support Initiative) that works closely with Cancer Care Kenya in assisting with the ailing cancer victims from under privileged families. Participating students all deserve pats on their backs for their commitment and a job well done! Special thanks also go to the Director, Ms. Kavita Sharma for her role in organizing and coaching the students (it requires loads of patience!) , Mr. Julius Watatua for the beautiful musical performances, Ms. Mary Tuva for the magnificent props and Ms. Damaris Kimamo for her creativity and assistance in the costumes/backstage department.



### **Fusion Temptation**

Saturday 27 September 2014 marked a memorable date in the calendar of NIS.

Sabareesh Prabhaker, a mastermind of musical brilliance, performed live at the Middle/ Senior School Campus.

Sabareesh is a world famous violinist, with whom, our very own talented musicians of NIS, got a once in a lifetime opportunity, to perform with, and be inspired by. He has, previously, won various musical awards over the last few years.

The students performing, felt the glimmer, and glamour of this wonderful opportunity and the night's entertainment included an array of African Songs, Words of Wisdom, Traditional Dance, as well as an East meets West Fusion Dance.

The night was supported well with attendance from parents, students and supporters of Sabareesh.



### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD TRIP.**

Though this term's trip to Aberdares was exhausting ( because of loads and loads of trekking through mud and rain) , the participants found it pleasant and exciting. They ended the trip with a great sense of accomplishment and with a feeling that they can tackle anything that life will bring their way." Endurance" they learnt, was the name of the game! Special thanks to the teachers and assessors for not only making the trip enjoyable, but also for actually making it happen.

### **From the sports desk:**

A busy term finally concluded as we all look forward to our holidays. Hats off, to our students, for putting their best foot forward and the parents for letting them participate in after school training and out of town fixtures, tournaments and overnight trips.

From week 2 of the term, the teams have stayed back for extra training which helped them register decent results

The just concluded terms sporting activities were;

U/15 girls' Rounders, U/19 girls' basketball, U/15 boys' football and U/19 boys' football, U/14 athletics, U/19 athletics and sports day.

With the worsening traffic situation it was a logistical challenge for the department every time we had an away game but nonetheless the teams' enthusiasm was never diminished.

### **AISK LEAGUE U/15 Football:**

The team participated in the Association of International Schools of Kenya (A.I.S.K) '**A' Football League** where they were pooled against Strathmore, Rosslyn Academy, St. Christopher's, Braeside, Brookhouse and Braeburn Garden Estates (B.G.E) and for the first time participated in the Martin Bentley Memorial Tournament at Greensteds International School.

#### Results:

Drew - Strathmore 1 – NIS 1.

Won - Rosslyn 1 – NIS 5.

Drew - St. Christopher's 3 – NIS 3.

From the above results we finished the league in fourth position out of six in our pool.

### **THE MARTIN BENTLEY MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT:**

Finally, for the first time, the U'15 team took part in the Martin Bentley Memorial Tournament at Greensteds International School. They were pooled in a tough pool with five other schools which they were position 3 out of 6 teams in that pool. Though they came out of the group stages, it was a totally new and good experience for the boys. The Football team started training from early September 2014. The training sessions were conducted on Mondays and Wednesdays after school (3:45 pm to 5:15 pm).

### **TEAM MEMBERS:**

Aarman Sohaili, David Lual Kok, Jack Murithi, Vincent Mutua, Meer Solanki, Guennadi Sikalov, Andre Etabale, Sonak Shah, Edward Biwott, Romi Deng, Emmanuel Garang'.

## **U/19 Football:**

The season began on the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school and it was encouraging to note that there was a lot of enthusiasm during the sessions. There was a good mix of personnel with some newly joined year 12s bringing some depth to the team. Training for the season separated the chaff from the grain as some guys realized that the team training wasn't everyone's cup of tea. The lads produced a formidable side and although they didn't win the leagues, their pedigree was evident.

Of the 12 games played they lost 3 drew 1 and won 8.

The boys were exceptional in the 7 a side tournaments. In the two tournaments, (Rosslyn academy and Martin Bentley memorial Greensteds) They managed to keep a clean slate all the way to the Finals beating Hillcrest, Brookhouse, Greensteds, Rosslyn, Aga Khan, Braeburn and others. On both occasions Remy Sheikh (yr. 12) was nominated as "man of the tournament" which is no mean feat, considering the fact that there were over 20 teams in each tournament. A special mention goes to our number 1 goal keeper Collins Muthiora, who was solid at the back.



### **The team comprised of:**

***Collins Muthiora, Neeve Mugisha, Bulisa Masiga, Curtis Hawi, Bob Onyango, George Ragui, Kiarie Nganga, Remy Sheikh, Mutuku Mutinda, Ngana Kaunda, Dekin Arop, Stephan Waigwa, Marlin Asamba, Curtis Kigera, Samuel Vidinyu and Leslie Zani.***

## **U19 Girls Basketball**

The girls' basketball team played a total of 10 matches in 2 different leagues. They lost 4 matches in the elite league and won 3 in the A league. It was evident that the team picked a bit late in the season.

The first loss was to RVA who were the eventual winners of the regular league. They recovered the loss and came out strong in their next 3 matches where they played well but lost narrowly to ISK and Rosslyn.

The team concluded the season winning the last 3 games with confidence and desire from every individual and had so much fun. They have improved in their skills and I was happy to see their efforts being rewarded.



### **The team comprised of:**

***Captain – Michelle Gichuki and Tugi Waiyaki  
Ritual Khanna, Debra Onzera, Lily Jahanshahi,  
Abygayl Malek, Alesa Ilako, Mariam Malik, Amina  
Asundah, Nanette Kilele, Jazmin Mzera, Naomi  
Griffiths, Lisa Salva, Mia Ayen, Sophie Salva.***



## Athletics

The Year 11 and Year 10 Physical Education students participated in a cross country championships which was held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Other schools that participated were Hillcrest, Brookhouse, Greensteds, Braeburn Schools, Peponi and ISK.

Our students managed to complete the 6.5Km race with the highlights being:

### **Boys:**

**Stefan Gichuki** (Year 11) finishing his race 16<sup>th</sup> place overall out of 72 participants.

**Mutuku Mutinda** (Year 11) finishing his race 28<sup>th</sup> place overall out of 72 participants.

### **Girls:**

**Sophie Yaluris** (Year 10) finishing 26<sup>th</sup> place overall out of 45 participants

**Ayen Yaluris** (Year 11) finishing 35<sup>th</sup> place overall out of 45 participants.

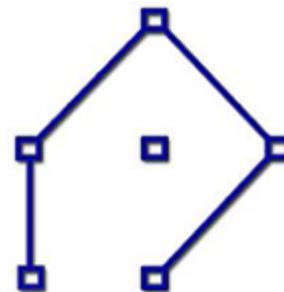


## UNDER 14 ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT OSHWAL HIGH SCHOOL

- Year 7 - **Nia Okoh** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Position (Silver)- 100m Girls.
- Year 8 - Guennadi Sikalov- 3<sup>rd</sup> Position (Bronze)- 800m Boys
- Year 9 - Aisha Khan- 3<sup>rd</sup> Position (Bronze)- 800m Girls
- Year 10 - Tevin Oyugi- 2<sup>nd</sup> Position (Silver)- 400m Boys

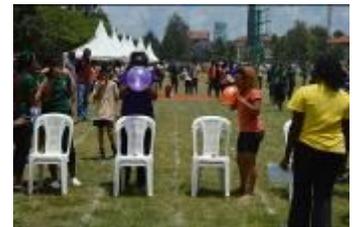
## UNDER 15 GIRLS ROUNDEES RESULTS

- Msongari 9 vs. NIS 12
- Brookhouse 5 vs. NIS 11
- Breaburn Gitanga 17 vs. NIS 10
- BGE 15 vs. NIS 10



## **SPORTS DAY:**

This was a highly competitive affair that was held at the Impala club. It was an event that was a mix of our traditional track and novelty events. Chants of Donatello, Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo reverberated around the track. The houses were represented in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories. The events included egg and spoon race, sack race, chair and obstacle race, sprints, middle distance and relays. The house spirit was evident as the participants went all out to earn their respective houses points. Team work and strategy was demonstrated by house captains and teachers. It was a close call in the end between Michelangelo, Raphael and Leonardo. We are all certainly looking forward to the next sports day.



## **RESULTS:**

**Leonardo – 166**

**Michelangelo – 153**

**Raphael – 144**

**Donatello – 109**

## **AOB**

Kindly ensure that your daughter/son has the correct gear for the activity they participate in.

## **PARENTS' CORNER- A MUST READ!**

New Year resolution suggestions for our parents . . .

- Making it a point to attend P.T.C's (especially the Senior school parents)
- Ensuring that your child is in the proper school uniform and that they are well groomed .The boys need to improve on combing their hair and the girls must wear the correct socks daily and avoid exaggerated hairstyles and jewelry/makeup. Just for your information, we have a uniform store on the premises. How very convenient!
- Teaching your child the importance of proper time management because this influences how they manage their academic routine which in turn determines how they perform.

## **REFLECTIONS FROM SIMBA'S DESK**

We have come to the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> term. It has been a long term filled with many activities but has been a special one for me as the new principal. I must say that the Director, the staff, parents and even the students (despite me coming down hard on them) have been a huge support for me all through. I have had to do a lot of listening and have gotten involved in the whole community. Many of the staff including senior teachers have been here for a long time, and they do challenge me, but at a great level. Their memories and their background provide a great strength for me and the school. When I first arrived here I wanted to know who we are and what good we are doing the school community. I wanted something new for us to work together on, to get on to the same page. So one of the things that has made the biggest difference is our work on the strategic plan. We narrowed down what we had to four key values: achievement, relationships, respect and responsibility. I talked to staff and the students about this when I first met with them. For me it was a big step. It has created a sense of identity, understanding and expectations across the whole school community. We know what N.I.S stands for and we want to make it the school of choice with your continued support.

As we get into the festive season, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2015. I look forward to seeing all the students back in school on 6th January.

God bless you all.

Simba Song'e