



NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ESPRESSO



December 2013

It's that time of the year again when we come to the end of the first and longest term and usher in the festive season. It has been a long haul . . . fourteen weeks with lots of activities and many side shows- many good, some not so good and a few . . . well . . . But everything happens for a reason and what does not kill us strengthens us plus we have made it this far and that's all that matters .Following is the 'inside story' of what N.I.S Junior and Senior have been up to this term.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

We had an excellent start to the new academic year with a number of new students joining the NIS family. It was a busy and fruitful term as regards to the various activities that took place.

YEAR GROUP ASSEMBLIES



As part of our curriculum, the Friday assembly presentations this academic year were started off by the Year 6 students followed by the other year groups. All the groups and individual pupils got an opportunity to showcase their talents, share what they learnt in class and created awareness on various topics that involve them as young members of the society. Various topics were covered ranging from personal hygiene, healthy living and the environment, together with presentations from historical and geographical events.



Certificates were given out weekly to all those students who showed improvement in different subject areas.



Mufti Day was full of excitement and fun with all the students dressed up in Halloween costumes, which was the theme of the day. A contribution of 50/- was made by every student which went towards helping the needy.



Our Annual Bake Sale was once again, a huge success, thanks to all the children and parents. It was an exciting and fun filled day where the children played shop and sold goodies. More than 40,000/- was raised on this day and this will be given to charity. Asante Sana to our caring children and parents.



CLASS TRIPS

Rainbow-Jungle- Sea and Farm class went on a trip to Mamba village in Karen. The children learned about crocodiles and their habitats. We also saw and learned about geese and tortoises. The children ate snacks and came back to school after a good trip.

The Year 1's went for a Safari Walk. The children saw and learnt about certain animals in their natural habitat. They also got to visit their in - house animal museum which was interesting to the little ones. The trip ended with a fun picnic which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

The Year 2 and 3 students visited the Giraffe center and Mamba Village this term. They had a thrilling experience feeding the Giraffes with pellets. They then proceeded to the Mamba Village to see and learn about crocodiles, tortoises and ostriches. The tour gave the children the opportunity to interact and observe the animals in their natural habitat.

YEAR 4, 5 AND 6 TRIP TO STORY MOJA HAY FESTIVAL



The first half of term saw very excited Year 4's, 5's and 6's board the buses heading to the National Museum to attend the Story Moja Hay Festival. It was a great learning experience as they had a tour of the Museum and the Snake Park. This was followed by a book read from Atinuke, the author of the Anna Hibiscus series and the children watched a show, 'Star Bird'. NIS got an opportunity to practice breaking the world record for the highest number of people reading aloud. It was a rewarding experience as the children came back with a book each.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This was the highlight of the term when our children made us proud once again by an amazing display of talent and confidence despite the rains.

The KG & Year 1 students presented three musical plays. Their singing, acting and narrations were really impressive and justified the time and effort that went in the preparations, costumes and rehearsals. The Prep school joined in with powerful carols which were soul lifting. It was a full house with an audience of about 300!!



Congratulations and well done to all of them.

We ended the term on a high note with a talent show by the students and a visit from Santa Claus who distributed goodies to all the children.

SENIOR SCHOOL

One of the first major events this term was the celebration of **N.I.S' 6th Anniversary** which doubled up as welcome cocktail party for the new parents from both the Junior and Senior school. The event was well attended and culminated in short a speech by Mrs. Lee and the cutting and sharing of a huge cake. N.I.S really has come a long way since its inception thanks to Mrs. Lee's unwavering faith and strength ,the dedicated staff and the never ending support from our parents .



Our **Annual Prize Giving Day** themed "Academic Excellence" was held on 24th September and was graced by Mrs. Jacqueline Oduol as Guest of Honor. In her speech, Mrs. Oduol observed that most of the prize winners were girls and challenged the boys to give the ladies a run for their money. The occasion also saw the two best teachers of the year namely, Ms. Damaris Kimamo from the Linguistics Department and Mrs. Rasiya Ismael from the Mathematics Department presented with tokens of appreciation for their good work. Our sub-staff were not also left behind and Winnie and Paul also 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 and were the best results posted since the inception of the school so far. At **I.G.C.S.E level**, **Ritual Khanna** scored 8 straight A's followed by **Wanjiru Kinyua** with 6 A's and 2 B's. Other students who deserve mention include **Nyarow Agar Malik**, **Barbara Mukidza**, **Michelle Gichuki**, **Dikki Tsering**, **Gurvir Singh**, **Grace Awuor** and **Adam Desa**. At **AS Level** we also had some students display an exemplary performance namely: **Eric Cauri**, **Zaafir Charania** and **Ayien Kuol**. At **A2 Level** – **Munira Hussein**, **Riyaq Farah** and **Ruth Djirackor** performed very well. These were very encouraging results and congratulations are in order to all the students who did their very best. ;



The start of the term saw the recruitment of several **new teachers**; a clear sign that we are expanding. We welcomed on board Mr. Josiah M'mbogori (French) Mr. Brian Macmbinji (P.E & Kiswahili). Mrs. Mary Kamau (Mathematics and Business Studies) and Ms. Pauline Munoru (P.E)

On a more somber note . . . during the **Westgate attack** we lost two students. One from the Junior School, Jen-nah Bawa and her mother and Pavraj Singh who was a former student of ours but still very much part of the N.I.S family, along with his grandmother. We would like to thank you all for standing with these families during these difficult times, for your support, prayers and for just being there. May they rest in eternal peace.





On **extra-curricular activities**, the **inter - house choral verse recital competition** took place on Friday the 8th of October and the results were as follows:

- Middle School category – Freedom song – **Donatello**
- I.G.C.S.E category – The six blind men and the elephant – **Raphael**
- A Level – The usual way – **Michelangelo**
- Overall winner - **Raphael**

Thank you to 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** held on 1st of Nov was a big hit mainly because it was the first of its kind , organized by the students spearheaded by Michelle Wangari and Magdalene Mutua of Yr. 13 . Judging from the turn out it was very clear that the students were really looking forward to it! Many arrived disguised in indescribable ways. Some of the disguise was so good and so creative we could not identify the students! If the best disguised student were to have been given a prize it would have gone to Gabriel Macharia who turned up as a clown! There was so much paint on his face that he could not move a muscle ,not even talk otherwise his face might have cracked into a million pieces ! Anyway , 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 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! The most hideously decorated class was Yr. 9A and their prize came in the form of another party during the 2nd last week of school. Thanks to the organizing committee led by Michelle and Magdalene . . . the occasion was a roaring success.



Our Christmas play, Uncle Scrooge, an adaptation from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", ran for two days and was aimed at reminding us what Christmas is all about. The play was peppered with humorous music and dances all designed to send the audience off into the holidays with light hearts. Students from across the board participated to make this play a success and they all deserve pats on their backs for their commitment and a job well done! Special thanks also go to the Director, Ms. Jessica Murotto for her role in organizing and training 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 outstanding creativity and assistance in the costumes department.



SPORTS

As usual the first term has been a demanding term with an unending string of fixtures, friendlies, galas and tournaments. There was an opportunity for every student to participate in some form of co-curricular activity.



Activities included: swimming, rounders, basketball and the ever so popular football which had under 15's, under 19's and fewer than 13's who did us proud in the Strathmore invitational football tournament.

Though not the most popular sport, the handful that participated did a commendable job at the galas, posting impressive results:



Swimming Gala Events:

NASA "A" GROUP EVENT AT AGA KHAN HIGH SCHOOL
Eesha Dawoodia was 3rd place (bronze medal) for 50m Breast stroke (Age group 10-11 years).

NASA "AA" GROUP EVENT AT AGA KHAN HIGH SCHOOL
Charlene Adede won 1st place (gold medal) for 50m Back stroke and 1st place for 50m Butterfly (gold medal) . (Age group 16 and over)

Juhi Dawoodia was 1st place (gold medal) for 100m Butterfly, 3rd place (bronze medal) for 100m Breast stroke.

OPEN AND AGE GROUP EVENT AT MOMBASA

Edward Ilako was 1st place (gold medal) for 100m Freestyle, 2nd place (silver medal) for 200m Freestyle, 2nd place (silver medal) for 50m Breast stroke, 3rd place (bronze medal) for 100IM and 1st place for 50m Freestyle. (All open events)

INVITATIONAL GALA AT KASARANI

Participants of the event were **Juhi Dawoodia** and **Edward Ilako**.

Swim Team Members: Charlene Adede, Eesha and Juhi Dawoodia, Alesa and Edward Ilako

U/15 football:



The Football team started training from early September 2013. The training sessions were conducted on Mondays and Wednesdays after school (3:45 pm to 5:15 pm).

The team also participated in the Association of International Schools of Kenya (A.I.S.K) Football League. In preparation to play in the tough league, the team had two friendly matches. These matches were against Rusinga School and Rosslyn Academy.

In the first league game, N.I.S gave a strong show and won 4-2 against. This was a morale booster for the team. The lads went on to beat Rosslyn (4-2), Hillcrest (4-1), Nairobi Academy (4-2), Braeburn Garden Estate (1-0) to qualify for the league semi finals as pool winners, where the team went down fighting (2-0) to Braeburn Gitanga.

From the above league results, the N.I.S team were the pool winners in their group and this led to the qualification of the team to the Semi – Finals of the league.

In the Semi – Finals, N.I.S played against Braeburn Gitanga and lost the game with a margin of 2 goals to nil.

Team Members U/15:

Stephan Gichuki, Thomas Conrad, Dekin Arop, Abdulhakim Bille, Dennis Murenzi, Curtis Njenga, Abraham Changufu, Vincent Mutua, Sam Vidinyu, George Einsten, Francis Cavenaile, Saqib Madhany, Soumedh Trivedy and Aman Degon.



U/19 Boys Football:

Although the team started their campaign quite well, they did not make it through the group stages. Having registered wins against West Nairobi School 8-0 and Brookhouse 1-0, they drew against Rosslyn 1-1, and Braeside 1-1 losing to Hillcrest 2-1 which ended our hopes of qualifying for the semis. The lads however, made a great showing in the tournaments, playing in the finals of the ISK 7's losing in a scintillating game to Laiser hill. They also participated in the R.V.A 7's where they unfortunately went down in the finals to the host school. The team was eventually rewarded in the inaugural Martin bently memorial when they won the finals against a tough Greensteds team 1-0.



Under 19 Football team members:

Collins Muthiora, Ngana Kaunda, Eric Cauri, Shahbaaz Khamisa, Akim Deng, Guil Guet, Thor Guet, Ali Kazimi, Marlin Asamba, Joseph Oyola, Curtis Haavi, Davis Mwangemi, Remy Sheikh, Ayuel Kuol, Henry Zakayo, John Najoh, Lual Manut and Kennedy Kitua.



U17/19 GIRLS BASKETBALL:

This year we had 2 teams playing in the ISAK league. There was a determined to make it to the medals bracket which was evident during the training sessions. The U19 competition was very high but our girls put up a brilliant performance.

The U17 did not disappoint being led by their captain Ritual Khanna and the vice-captain Alesa Ilako, not forgetting Ayen Yalarus who was the top scorer in all the games. On their quest to the semis, they beat ISK, Aga Khan, Oshwal, Rusinga Braeburn Garden Estate and West Nairobi School to top their pool. The girls unfortunately chalked their only loss in the semi-finals, against RVA. This was a remarkable result on the team's debut.



The U17 team:

Ritual Khanna, Alesa Ilako, Nanette Kilele, Ayen Yalarus, Cynthia Wairimu, Claudia Deng, Lily Jahanshahi, Jazmin Mzera, Rachel Odur, Lina Achol, Kettie Sambu and Marlaine Muhorakeye.

The U19 team:

Nasra Mohamed (Capt), Charlene Adede, Donna Welch, Magdalene Mutua, Michelle Wangari, Michelle Gichuki, Ethar Sirelkhatim, Esther Amayo, Ayen Kuol and Joceolina Montenegro



Term 2 Fixtures:

Girls U/19 football, Boys' U/17 and U19 Basketball, Girls and Boys U/15 Hockey. This will evidently be a busy term for all, considering the mocks and the MUN conferences, not to mention our two school events i.e. NIS basketball tourney 8th February and Happy feet charity dance festival 8th March.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday.

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 , 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 . . . At this time of the year many of us look back at the start of the calendar year when we made all those resolutions with a lot of psyche but somehow our enthusiasm dwindled and by end of January the resolutions all forgotten! Fear not . . . you are only human. By all means plan ahead but remember you can only live one day at a time. You can't live the future in the present; that's an exercise in futility. Let's aspire to live one day at a time, perform each and every task no matter how humble it is to the best of our ability because it's the little successes that lead to the big successes. Remember being happy is decision you make . . . it comes from within, not without.

SO FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK IT'S . . .

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY AND A BLESSED AND HAPPY 2014!

