



3rd ISSUE - JAN / FEB 2009

Where Tomorrow Begins



Espresso

WHAT WAS...?

Hey guys, welcome back to school, all who were here last term, and welcome to NIS to all new faces. Let me fill you in on the events that you missed out on last term, you'd probably think that because it is a new school that there wasn't much that you missed on. Well nope! This is a school on the move and you missed out on a lot!!!!

We started off the year with the introduction of a fortnightly session like no none other you will find in other schools-Reflections! This is an open forum between Mrs. Lee and the students, giving them an opportunity to have open dialogue with her on just about everything. Great initiative! She even let us come up with our own Code of Conduct!

The first out of school event had a futuristic aspect as the candidate classes were invited to Brookhouse for an Australian universities' fair followed shortly after by another fair by some of the world's best universities (Yale, Stanford, Princeton) as part of their CIS African tour. These gave great insight to the candidates into what university is all about and the various options to choose from.

Then the school held a Halloween Movie night, which was basically movies, meat, music and bundles of fun! The night started out with music and games around the campfire, while the PS champs went at it. This was followed by a feast prepared by our very own students then, movies and video games galore!

A few weeks after NIS hosted a cocktail party on campus which was graced by the crème de la crème of the society, this proved so successful that Mrs. Lee declared an all expenses paid school trip that went down during the last week of school. So after we were done with the first set of exams ever at NIS, we were off to Ngong for a day out and a shocking revelation . . . ! Teachers can actually be fun.

Finally the term ended with the 'Carols and Lessons' concert on closing day. A great start don't you say? Now let's move on to ...



WHAT IS.....

OPEN STAGE & MIC.

On the 7th of February 2009, Nairobi International School (N.I.S) organized a talent extravaganza dubbed OPEN STAGE & MIC. The aim of this talent extravaganza was to show case different talents from young people especially students who would not have a stage to do this. Sports and other activities have always taken centre stage in school and therefore N.I.S. gave a stage to these young artists. Among the talents showcased were bands from German school, N.I.S with Pavan Mehta (Y13) on the drums and Mr. Joe Kaara (music teacher) on the Keyboard, Sav Wav (our own Eddie and his gang), Madorique: dances from the group DICE, solo singing by , rap and poets from on various topics from the youth sponsored my AMREF.

We also had representative from N.I.S. who included Beverly Ochieng' (Y12) who danced with her father (literally) to the surprise of many, Nicole Malobe (Y10), Thendup Tsering (Y11) and Rushil Patel (Y11) who all presented solo songs. Karthik Ramalingam (Y13) who presented a dance. The other surprise of the afternoon was Mrs. Lee who did her rendition of the Beatles famous hit 'Yesterday'. The German school band rocked with their rock songs that were professionally done. The Wario brothers were the darlings of the teachers as they played the favorite oldies, which moved teachers to the dance floor.

All this would not have run smoothly without the help of one- Joseph O.Owour who helped in organizing the whole show. Students also helped in various ways including manning the gate and showing visitors to their seats. This included Robin Njenga (Y13) who did a great job as an M.C, Sanaa Mughal (Y12) who doubled as the comedian of the afternoon. Thendup Tsering (Y11), Catherine Malinda (Y12) was at the registration desk with Mr. Mulanda. Other students who helped were Rizwan Kassam (Y10), Killian Gwete (Y10), Daina Dale (Y10), Jilna Parmar (Y13), Yvonne Chogi (Y12), Raabia Bashir, Divya Sethumathavan (yr 10), Ali Ahmed Omar (Y12), Joseph Mwangi (yr 13) and Raabia Bashir (yr 12).

It was later suggested that this event should be held every term , which Mrs Lee said she would look into .

Compiled by Joe Kaara.



NIS SPONSORS BHARATHANATYAM!!!

NIS recently sponsored Bharathanatyam at the Indian High Commission!!!! Bharathanatyam is a traditional classical dance form from India. It originated in Tamil Nadu, a state in South India. Bharathanatyam, it is said, is the embodiment of music in visual form, a ceremony, and an act of devotion. Dance and music are inseparable forms; only with Sangeetam (words or syllables set to raga or melody) can dance be conceptualized.

On the 8th of February, I was given the chance to experience how Bharathanatyam is performed and I was blown away!!! It was in simple terms.... AMAZING!!!! One of the performers was Divya Ramalingam and her performance had me in awe!!! I don't think I have ever concentrated so much in my whole life. The grace of the dance, the facial expressions and little movements all seemed to be speaking, as though a story was being told.

It was an incredible experience and a definite must see!!!!!!

*A CLASSIC IN THE
MAKING.....
WINDCHASE!!!!*

You'll all be happy to know that our school play 'Wind chase' is finally on the go!!!! And like the title suggests... it's a classic in the making!!!! Okay, I don't want to give everything away but its basically a love story. Now, I know everyone is going to say it's a cliché but..... To be honest it's not!!! Everyone has been so busy concentrating on the fact that love stories are cliché, that they aren't cliché anymore but are becoming more and more rare!!! So basically its bringing love stories back.....

A little secret about wind chase is that it's actually an argument between Mr. Kara (director) and Sanaa (stage manager and script writer). The argument is about, what else? Love!!! The reason for the argument is that Mr. Kara does not believe that Love is a true emotion whilst Sanaa does!!! Mr. Kara claims the name is WIND CHASE because "falling in love is like chasing the wind... what's the point?!" and Sanaa claims that the name is WIND CHASE because " trying to not fall in love or trying to destroy it is like chasing the wind... there's no point because you cannot do it".

Watching the play start off is one of the most interesting things because of the fights that Sanaa and Mr. Kara have!!! 'Conflict of interest' is a soft way of putting it.....

But according to Mr. Kara that's what makes a great story!!!!

Anyway, rehearsals are just about to really take off and we wish the cast good luck!!!!



ALL ABOUT UNIVERSTIES

During week 3 we attended two university expos. The first expo came to us really, as we were visited by people from the Canadian University Applications board, who exposed and educated the grade 12s and 13s about what university life in Canada is all about. These ladies touched on all areas, from the VISA application process to college party-life, giving us guys all the reasons to study in Canada. Later on in the week we took a short trip to Hillcrest for the UK universities fair which was a bit different from the other fairs I've attended. It started off with faculties from various universities giving lectures on the major courses offered: from accounts to engineering to medicine and on things you need to know: prior to, during and after your application. This was then followed by the general exhibition at the stands. Quite informative I must say. I must also commend my fellow students as we emerged the most responsible and well behaved lot there! Good going guys!!

Robin Njenga.

NIS class of 09'



MSMUN news!

MSMUN began on the 27th of January and on the first day it was lobbying -that's basically going to other countries to ask them to support your resolution. It is very tiring (PS: to all you chicks out there DON'T WEAR HEELS! If you do you will be in sooooo much pain trust me I know!) The first day is when merged resolutions meetings took place, the opening statements and basically getting to know one another. The next day we had committee meetings occurring. The various committees include: Human Rights, Technology, Health and Ecology/Environment. There's also ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) and Security Council but they pertain to only specific countries. The second day was not that different from the first.

So the last day involved handing out of the best resolution awards to the various committees and the closing of the MSMUN session. Three resolution of ours (1 of Angola's and 2 of Benin) passed in the Human Rights committee which was definitely a cause for celebration and we did celebrate!!! We got our chance to celebrate at the MSMUN dance (WOOHOO!!). Ask anyone, we had a blast!!! and I feel sorry for whoever missed it. The only downside to this year's MSMUN conference was that some committees had to walk next door to the ICRAF building and when I say next door I don't mean it was close, most of the time I ended up walking bare foot cause of the pain (OUCH!!!!!!!!!!). Anyway I'm so looking forward to the next conference!!!!



EAMUN news!!

We are all glad to say that all our resolutions (that is 1 for Georgia, 1 for UAE and 2 for Somalia) all passed RAC (resolution assessment committee) and will be debated on when the conference begins on the 23rd!!!! Well done guys for the hard work and good luck for the more hard work that's on its way!!!! More congratulations to Sanaa Mughal who has become one of the Junior Chairs of EAMUN!!!!

The conference begins on the 23rd and all of our delegates are pretty excited about it!!!!



THE AUDACITY OF HOPE

"On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord....."

On the 21st of January 2009 at exactly 12 noon, Presidential elect, Barack Hussein Obama became The President of the United States of America.... The Land of the Free.

His inaugural speech is one that will be remembered through out history and will always be words of hope, faith and remembrance of a time when one man out of millions stood out to be one of the most watched and the most influential person in the world. A man who has made history... Our names last only till those who knew us last exist but... Barack Obama's name will forever be inscribed in history.

Millions of people watched as he became the 44th president of the United States and millions of people listened to his speech and hang onto every word he said. His speech was especially different from any that was given by his predecessor's in that it was short but to the point. The speech captured the essence of Obama himself and many could be seen dabbing at their tears.

In his speech he did not forget anybody; he talked about the workers, about the world and about America. He even mentioned the land of his forefathers, the tiny village from which his father hailed from . . . KOGELO ! BUT DO WE SAY ! KENYA IS EXPORTING PRESIDENTS AND YES WE CAN !!! For centuries, America has been known as one of the greatest countries, but this perspective faded when former president George Bush came to power. President Obama is the hope of the American people.... The hope that America will be a great and respected country again.

"For we know that our patchwork



heritage is our strength, not a weakness."

So let us mark this day with remembrance, of who we are and how far we have traveled. In the year of America's birth, in the coldest of months, a small band of patriots huddled by dying campfires on the shores of an icy river. The capital was abandoned. The enemy was advancing. The snow was stained with blood. At a moment when the outcome of our revolution was most in doubt, the father of our nation ordered these words be read to the people, "Let it be told to the future world ... that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive... that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it] America."

No one has said or will say that being the hope of all people will be easy. Nothing can be harder than trying to do the right thing and trying to please everyone.... It will be difficult and be sure that he will not please everyone but remember the fact that even if and when he disappoints you, just remember that the biggest lesson he's taught us is that anyone can be one in a million.... It just takes a bit of faith, hope, strength.... But to be a President, it takes a lot of courage to hold your own and enough strength to be self less.



SPORTS:

It has been a bit of a mixed bag of events this term, predominantly being, girls' soccer, swimming and boys' basketball.

SOCCER:

While there has been some enthusiasm in girls' soccer, with the team training at least twice a week after school, they have done fairly well in the U/15 category with a draw against Oshwal academy, a walkover against Patel Samaj and a loss to St Austin's but as we well know, a journey of a thousand miles.....

SWIMMING:

Although our swimming program has been overshadowed by many after school events we are on track to start serious training in preparation for the AAA gala on 28th February 2009 and the provincial championships later in the term. With the quality of the current swimmers, don't take your eyes off this space.

BASKETBALL:

NIS is rewriting sporting history as the team to beat in basketball. Standing head and shoulders above the competition and the scourge of all pretenders to the Nairobi Provincial basketball crown..... in our first season on the scene.

The team currently participates in the NSSSA league and is enjoying an unbeaten run with several tournament trophies under the belt.

Tournaments won include; Dettol cool sponsored Nairobi Secondary Schools Sports Association season opener with twenty five participating schools which NIS was privileged to host.

St Austin's' invitational tournament.



1st position.

Nazarene African university tournament 1st position.

Malezi International Olympic committee sponsored Presidents cup, 1st position.

Alliance Open tournament, 1st position

We commend our team for bringing pride and joy to our fraternity. Keep up the good work!!!!!!

We have been granted permission by the City council to use the Lavington primary grounds for our field games so hopefully with a bit of landscaping, our soccer, netball, athletics teams will have enough space to hone whatever skills they have been dying to show off.

Meanwhile we encourage maximum participation in all areas of physical development and press for our students to maximize on the utilization of the facilities on the campus,

Truly glad to see that the aerobic sessions are becoming very popular.

COMING SOON:

The school has been invited to attend the International Schools' summer games in Cleveland Ohio. Details will follow shortly.



TITBITS.....

•We had an awesome assembly on Friday the 6th!!! It included the national anthem, loyalty pledge and the school prayer!!! Hopefully it's a tradition that's starting !!!!!

•Mr. Bansal finished his Elephant drawing in the art room!!!! He is an amazing artist and it looks great!!!!

•Every student will be getting school ID's!!! So even if you're not 18 at least you can still feel good by having another ID!!!! With the ID's we'll be able to get certain discounts at certain places which is GREAT!!!!

•Also everyone will be getting their own Email Addresses!!! By everyone I mean Students, Teachers and Parents as well!!!! (parents are getting the email add's so that they can receive our reports directly..... YIKES!!!!!!)

•EDDIE MUTUA of the IT department can rap!!!!!! And he's pretty good..... Ladies and Gentlemen, we have the next Busta Rhymes at NIS!!!!!!

•In tiny news, Sanaa got new Glasses!!! And Raabia has decided to stop wearing her lenses and instead is wearing her glasses, earning the nick name (other than Rabz), GOGGLES!!!!!!

•Also WELL DONE to Ms. Winnie and Ms. Ombeta!!! An anonymous source tells us that they have been in the gym, working out every last lesson!!!! Way to prepare for Valentines!!!!

•Another teacher who is doing us proud is Mr. Odeka!!!! His new dance has given us all inspiration!!!!!!

•Also, we have 2 new members to



our NIS family!!! Mr. Abdalla Abdul who teaches Arabic and Ms. Catherine Nganga who teaches Math and Chem!!!

•Also, HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Russel!!!! (also known as Rushil Patel), who has turned..... 5!!!!!!!!!! Ha ha ha just kidding!!!! He's turned 16!!!!!!

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
EVERYBODY FROM THE
NIS FAMILY!!!!!!!!!!**



