



NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ESPRESSO

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Where Tomorrow Begins

Dear All,

Welcome to our new academic year which is all marked out to be one with a difference. The first two big events this term were the opening of the Junior School on the 15th of September which coincided with the celebration of N.I.S' 4th birthday so to speak. The anniversary was marked with the cutting and sharing of four huge black-forest cakes and a few words from Mrs. Lee reminiscing on how far we have come. Many teachers and students who pioneered the school could not help recalling the first solemn assembly of just 34 students in 2008 . . . now we have a student body of over 250 and still counting! That definitely is a sign that we must be doing something right and we truly are grateful to God for that. The inaugural ceremony for the Junior School was graced by Advocate Sharad Rao as the guest of Honor and several staff from both the junior and senior school and of course friends of N.I.S. One thing that would definitely strike anybody visiting the junior school is the interior design. It is simply . . . magical and enchanting with each class having a different theme all based on nature's diversity. It's not something that can be described in writing, one has to see it to fully appreciate the uniqueness of it all! It would leave anybody adults and children alike envious of the little munchkins who have the privilege of schooling there! It goes without saying that they simply love it there.



We would like to thank all parents and friends of the school for their never ending support and for entrusting their little ones to us. .One thing that is becoming apparently clear by the day is that there is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come



On Academic Matters: our last year's candidates did a commendable job with a good number of the year 11's pulling some pleasant surprises. We would like to congratulate all the students who put in their best effort and thank their parents and teachers for encouraging and supporting

The following students deserve special mention:

At IGCSE Level: Antoninah Obiero ,Angela Etale, Intisar Anwar, Anthony Mukuria, Sharon Wamae, Jesse Wamae,

At AS Level: Jeffery Mbugua and Hiba Harris

At A2 Level:ThendupTsering, Robert Boinett, Margaret Lowilla and NaimaSalim

On Progress Reports: it has been noted in the past that many students do not collect their mid-term and end term reports. In many cases the reports remain in school through out the holidays and into the next term. This is a matter of great concern because we expect parents to be very keen on monitoring their children's progress. We fully appreciate the fact that parents have got very busy schedules but if for any reason you cannot get a hard copy of the report please check your mail because we do email the reports. We would also be glad if you acknowledged receipt

On Careers: The Year 13's have already attended two U.K University Fairs at Hillcrest and the Parklands Sports Club. They also attended two talks by the University of Western Australian and University of Sidney hosted at N.IS.

On Disciplinary Matters: In our efforts to improve on the standards of discipline, the school has come up with a new code of conduct which clearly defines what is expected from the students and the consequences of ignoring or breaking the rules. By now parents and their children are expected to have gone through this very important document together, understood it, signed and returned the commitment forms. A few students have not returned this form so we are kindly requesting parents of those who have not signed, to do so immediately. Please note that this is a binding document and your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

We have also unrolled our **Mentorship Program** which is designed to open up communication channels between students and teachers at an individual level on issues such as handling emotions, dealing with conflict and other difficulties, developing communication techniques, complaining constructively amongst other things. We hope that this program will enable us to mould and guide our students into the best students that they can be.

On Community Service, which is tailored to teach our children how to reach out to the wider



community and to make a difference in other people's lives, we have had two trips so far. On 17th September and 1st October, the Years 7 to 9 and 10 respectively armed with their donations visited the Pediatric Oncology (cancer) Ward at the Kenyatta National Hospital. They were quite anxious as they did not know what to expect and for many of them hospital visits are new to them and especially the idea of visiting people they do not know. The visits were an eye opener for many and

“This experience was a blessing to many of us because we know that we were able to touch hearts and make the children smile. We would really like to urge our schoolmates never be afraid to give back to the less fortunate and to be grateful for what they have, be it good health or material possessions. We have one life to live, so make the most out of it and appreciate whatever comes your way. Real joy comes from making a difference in other people's



We would like to thank all the parents who allowed their children to visit and provided them with very generous donations.

By Barbara Mukidza, Ritual Khanna and Neeti Vyas.



From the sports desk.

Busy, does not do justice to the activity laden term we're in. There are boundless participation opportunities for all who want to be part of something.

Swimming has been revived with the improvement of the weather and of course a little push from the "office"..... and department. Our athletes posted commendable results at the Rosslyn Invitational Gala with Edward Ilako leading the medal foray followed by Alesa, Charlene, Angela, Diki, Chantal, Mary, Mark and Juhi. The team was ranked 5th out of fifteen.....need I say more?

Other competitions we intend to have representation in are the NASA "AA", "AAA" and the national age group championship to be held in Mombasa at the end of October.

Basketball girls have exemplified "renaissance" and have stopped being the "whipping boys" (can you say that?). The team has grown in confidence and stature, pipping stalwarts RVA and West Nairobi school in the league games an amazing turn around that leads us to believe "with Mania anything is possible", not taking any credit away from the girls.



The squad comprises of. Antoninah O, Sonia K, Nasra M, Mary K, Amina O, Ruth D, Ivy M. Ar-nald M Claudia K, Debbie M, Chanice and Vanessa C.

Well done girls keep shooting!

Q. What does a tooth pick have in common with our soccer team?

A. They both have two points.

On a more serious note, the Lavington Primary School field is being revamped for our field games i.e. football, netball, hockey and rounders etc.

Football remained the preferred choice for the boys. With numerous fixtures, during the course of the term, the teams are represented in the Under 17 and Under 19 age group categories. The former having already participated in the Rosslyn tourney where they were disqualified over a questionable technicality, during the semifinal game. The lads won their games against Hillcrest, ISK and Agakhan.

The team also went on to beat Rosslyn in a very exciting closely contested game.

Athletics. Grace Akumu and Abdikarim Yusuf blazed the field at the Oshwal Invitational Athletic meet when they both won the 400m race. Grace further went on to take second spot in Shot put, joined by Sarah Tshilombo who made up for her performance in the 800m contest by taking the 2nd position in javelin and Ali Kazimi who was first in the boys category of Javelin. Other participants were Remy Sheikh, Nanette Kilele, Thomas Conrad, Alesa Ilako (who, if you can excuse the pun was a fish out of water) and Wanjiru Kinyua, hats off to them for their great effort !There is still a whole load of sporting activity this term, so keep your eyes peeled for this column in the next edition.

Young Rethinkers

The NIS Kindergarten and Preparatory opened on the 30th of August, 2011 with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm from parents, students and the staff. We had an excellent start to our first term, with over 100 students reporting on the first day, a number that grew to 130 in the first month! We are happy to welcome new parents and students to the NIS family.

It has been a busy, yet exciting first half of the term, with a number of new activities being introduced and implemented. We started off with a Parents' Orientation for the Kindergarten in the second week, where parents were given guidelines about the curriculum so that they can work together with the class teacher towards the all-round development of the child.



This was followed by the Prep school Parents' Orientation on the 17th of September where we saw a good turnout of parents who perused through the curriculum documents for each year group and were given general information about the school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We have an excellent range of extracurricular activities on offer this term and these have been running successfully. These activities include Karate, Taekwondo, Ballet, LAMDA, Roller Skating and horse riding. Almost all the students are participating in one or more of these activities and are thoroughly enjoying them.



Clubs

The following clubs were introduced this term: Home Management, Cricket, Art & Craft, Computers and Drama club. Students have been involved in various activities during

clubs time, which is on every Wednesday afternoon. The Home Management club organized a cultural afternoon, where all students had the opportunity to take part in cultural dances.

An inter-house cricket tournament was organized by the Cricket club. This gave the students a chance to earn points and contribute towards their house in a competitive forum and therefore feel a sense of achievement.

Friday Assemblies

The Friday Assemblies are something to look forward to every week. It is at this time that students from different year groups make a presentation in front of the whole school.

Year 5 students presented a hilarious mime during the first assembly which taught us that sometimes actions speak louder than words.

Year 6 students presented a modern day version of the well-known story of Cinderella and showed us what 'Ella' would do in the computer age.

Year 4s dressed up in all green for their assembly and recited an excellent rap poem that was about looking after the environment and made us aware of the 3 Rs –Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. This was very much in line with our school's 'Going Green' programme.

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Prefects

Our very first team of Prefects was selected unanimously by the teachers. Their names are as follows:

Head boy – Travis Gathinji Head Girl- Ayan Raghe

Prefects- Arthur Etale

Nathan Hoarou

Vanessa Githua

Monitors- Fiona Dlamini

Esha Dawoodia

Anurag Jadhav

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST TEAM OF PREFECTS AT NIS JUNIOR! We wish them all the best and hope to see excellent examples of teamwork and sense of responsibility.

The school participated in a Prep and Kindergarten Expo at the Splash Grounds. The staff exhibited excellent teamwork in putting up a very colorful and impressive stand that was admired and appreciated by all. The students helped by preparing beautiful pieces of artwork that was admired by all at the expo.

We have been working towards facing our challenges head on and have managed to overcome hurdles that any new school would face. We look forward to ending this term in a more exciting and fulfilling manner.

PRIZE GIVING DAY

This year's prize giving day which was held on the evening of 7th October was unlike any other from the start to the end. For starters, the Guest of Honor, who was none other than Jeff Koinange, (Yes! Jeff Koinange of K24), arrived at the appointed time! (Always punctual, all the time!) Now that was impressive and especially since he'd just arrived from the Hague on that same day, one would have expected that he would have delayed a little bit, but no! 6.45 p.m. on the dot, the Guest of Honor accompanied by Mrs. Lee was inspecting the Guard of Honor mounted by the Prefect Body and by 7.00 p.m. the event had kicked off. Other V.I.P's who graced the occasion were Francis Djirackor, Salim Sheikhan, David Ong'are, Nash Mbugua and Apar Deng.



The M.C for the evening was Mathew Wakhungu of Year 13 and he is a natural! He carried the day with his spontaneity and easy manner and in an uncanny sort of way Jeff and Mathew have the same style, sense of humor and if I may push it a bit, their voices have the same timbre. Anyway, the activities proceeded like clockwork. The entertainment was superb, hats off to the school choir which did their rendition of Michael Jackson's Earth Song and was so in line with the theme of the day which was **Going Green**.



We also took a few minutes to pay a glowing tribute to the late Wangari Maathai and this was done in style. Two big screens projected the life and times of Wangari and after that the M.C read out a tribute reminding everyone that we can all contribute to saving our planet in our own small way. Anyway, back to the entertainment . . . a standing ovation to our dancers, they did a fantastic job and boy did they dance! We could have watched them forever. They were electrifying in the real sense of the word! On a less electric note but entertaining all the same, were the poetry recitations presented by the Year 10's and 9's. All in all, it was wonderful seeing our kids up on stage entertaining the audience and enjoying themselves at the same time. That is a rare combination. One thing that's obvious is that N.I.S kids have got talent.



The serious part of the evening which was obviously the giving of prizes and the speeches was over before we knew it. Several students left the stage laden with several certificates and trophies for excellence and achievement in academics and sports and other special areas. The speeches by Mrs. Lee and Mr. Koinange were just beautiful . . . they kept them short and sweet! The Principal delivered her speech in a record seven minutes and Jeff Koinange . . . in a record five minutes! 9p.m sharp and it was all over.



Special thanks go out to the school management, teaching and support staff for organizing this event and to all the parents, students and friends of N.I.S who demonstrated their support for the school by attending this occasion. See you next year, same time. **Remember to go green . . . all the time!**
