



25th September 2015

Dear Parents,

The last three weeks have been very busy for us in the Senior School. As you are aware, we hosted the Great Debaters Contest and we presented two teams who took the first two positions in the Coast region. We are proud of their performance and high level of debating skills. The two teams comprised of Ashley Mutei, Raghuveer Vyas, Bevertone Anyonga and Yohan Mutta for Team 1, while Team 2 comprised of Chizi Gakuo, Raj Birgi, Saad Ladhani and Drusilla Talawa. We congratulate both teams for their hard work and effort and commend Team 1, as they will represent the region in the national rounds in November.

We also celebrated World Peace Day on 21st September, which was also the second anniversary of the West Gate Mall attack. Students engaged in workshops focused on understanding peace. DP1 students led the workshops for Years 6 to 8, giving them an opportunity to take the lead in such an important topic.

This week, a team from the Academies Unit, led by the Director Salim Bhatia, visited the Academy for the Annual Review Meetings with the Senior Leadership Team. They had the opportunity to spend the first lessons on Wednesday and Thursday in classes where they experienced teaching and learning in action. In addition, they participated in the presentations of DP2 students regarding their summer internships with the Aga Khan Foundation. They were impressed by the impact these experiences had on the students and their ability to articulate their learning.

A settling-in report for all new students (Year 6, DP1 and new students in other year groups) and those who were below threshold in Semester 2 2014-15 academic year, will be released through Managebac on Monday 28th September. This will outline how they are adjusting to all their subjects and mentor groups.

There are two main events on the calendar that are coming up soon. First, the ISA tests are taking place on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th September for Years 6 to 10. Information has been sent to students and they are aware of the requirements for the tests. Just like the previous years, these tests do not require any prior revision for they are skills-focused. However, the Mathematics and English departments will share sample questions with the students.

The second event is the Parent-Teacher Conference taking place on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th October 2015. The invitation letter for the event is attached to this newsletter. This is followed immediately by the October break. It is important for parents to meet with the teachers who teach their children and know how they are settling in the new academic year. The students will be making appointments on behalf of their parents on either the 8th or the 9th, or on both days depending on the available slots.

For residential students, it is important for their parents to make it clear to the children early enough as to when they will be coming so that they can get appropriate appointments. Before leaving for the break, there is an elaborate process to ensure that students see all their teachers and mentors.

The Academy participated in the annual Maktaba Awards and on 29th September, and we have been invited for the Gala Night when the awards will be given. We hope to do well at the awards, and will keep you informed on the outcomes.

We have also been invited for the Presidential Awards (PA) scheme Gold Awards at the State House in Nairobi. Two of our students are expected to receive the Gold Award, and will be among the first students to achieve it through an online system.

Student Life

It has now been six exciting weeks into the semester and we are proud of what the students have achieved in this short period of time. The following are some of the events that your children have attended or facilitated in the residences;

- Bonding pool parties
- DP's Barbeque evening
- Beach trip excursion
- Butterfly pavilion bicycle rides
- Dessert night visit to Nyali City Mall
- "AKAM's got Talent" evening show, an MYP student's Personal Project
- Visit to Jumba Ruins, a historical site in Mtwapa



In leadership, several students in the MYP came forth to run for Year Level Representative positions at their respective year levels. They had an opportunity to campaign by presenting their manifestos to their peers and compete in the spirit of democracy. Similarly, it was also a time to elect House Captains for each House and this was an opportunity for DP1 students to become leaders. As a result of this, the entire SRC team has been constituted and will be attending a leadership retreat in Sun N Sand Beach Resort in Mombasa this weekend. Congratulations to all those elected!

Diploma Programme

The DP1 students have settled down to their final subject choices and levels, and have as a cohort begun to find their feet in the programme and its rigorous requirements. They have done their CEM test, which is a predictive cognitive ability test. When the results arrive in a month, we will have an idea as to where they stand as a cohort and as individuals in terms of their DP scoring probabilities.

The DP1 students are now also gearing up to execute the DP Annual Production. This time the thrust is more on a full-fledged play over a musical. The final choice of play is yet to be arrived at but it seems to be a toss-up between a modern parody of Romeo and Juliet and a comedy about the generation gap between parents and children. We will keep you posted on that front.

Twenty-four of our DP2 students presented their summer internship experiences on the afternoon of 23rd September, which hugely benefitted the DP1 and Year 10 students who will soon follow suit. Members of AU (Academies Unit of the AKDN network) who were here for a conference also attended, and were very effusive in their praise. All DP2 students have now been registered for their subjects with the IBO for exams, signaling that the final lap of their DP journey has truly begun. They are now in that extremely busy zone where most of their Internal Assessment deadlines for final submissions are arriving.

In spite of the rigorous programme, the DP students still found a way to unwind and bond at the DP Barbeque on September 19th. They gathered at the poolside, where every DP2 student was paired up with DP1 students as mentors and buddies. The larger aim of this exercise was to help the juniors imbibe skills and strategies from their seniors and form lasting and productive relationships. In essence, all is well.

On Tuesday 22nd September, over 5 DP1 and DP2 students went for the UK University Fair, where they were able to gain insights into what is expected of them and opportunities they have in the UK. This also gave the DP1 students an opportunity to clarify on the careers they are thinking of pursuing.

Middle Years Programme



The students have settled well into the programme and are getting into the rigor of it with assessments round the corner. The Year 6 students have integrated into the Senior School very well and are now able to move around the various classes. This week, they went for their first Humanities trip, where they visited a mosque, a temple and a church to learn about religious identity, local history and pluralism in Mombasa. They enjoyed the experience and benefited from experiential learning.

Our MYP graduate, Zuhali Suhrob in DP1, worked at the University of Central Asia during the summer after being recommended by the MYP Vice President. We have received a recommendation letter from the University with very encouraging statements such as “*During the short period Zuhali demonstrated her dedication to UCA and she was highly respected for her willingness to help the teachers/students of UCA*”, and “*... she prepared lesson plans, various activities, used visual aids, prepared slide shows and other related activities to make her lessons effective. Despite the fact that she is much younger than the teachers and has less experience in the field of teaching, due to her positive personality such as tolerance and her attitude towards her responsibilities, she was able to work with teachers in her harmony*”.

We are really proud of her and to see her practice the values we believe in within the community.

Upcoming events

25th September - Town Hall meeting with Senior Leadership Team organized by SRC

26th September - SRC retreat

28th September – Settling in reports for all new students are released

29th and 30th September – ISA tests for year 6 to 10

3rd October - Residential Talent night

7th October – Presidential Awards Scheme, Gold Awards at State House Nairobi

8th and 9th October - Parent Teacher Conferences (PTC)

8th October during PTC – Blood drive by a CAS group in conjunction with the Red Cross

10th - 20th October – Half-term break

Please note we have an external coach who is offering Taekwondo as an enrichment activity at cost of Ksh.3000 per month on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 3 and 4pm. To sign up your child, pay to the School Bursar and show the receipt to the coach.

Have an enjoyable weekend!



Kind regards,
Francis Kariuki
Principal, Senior School