

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy start of 2017 with various activities taking place in both curricular and co-curricular fronts. Preparation for what is coming up soon such as the end of semester 1 has been going on and hence the writing of reports is taking place now. In addition, the school is preparing for the IB multi-programme evaluation visit which will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.

We also welcomed twelve new students to our school with majority joining year 6 while others joined year 7, 8 and 9. They have settled well in the school programme.



On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January, the Head of Academy, Mr. Raymond Zinsli signed a Memorandum of Understanding between our school, French Embassy and Alliance Francaise Mombasa as one of the six pilot schools in Mombasa that will benefit from support in accessing resources to enhance teaching and learning of French language. Signing on behalf of the French Embassy was new the Ambassador of France in Kenya, H.E. Antoine Sivan, together with the head of Alliance Françoise Mombasa. A document describing the support in the MOU is attached to the newsletter.

On 14<sup>th</sup> January, a group of diploma students organized and hosted the first ever Tedex event in Mombasa. Thirteen students were joined by five guest speakers in presenting Ted talks. It was a great opportunity for our students to express their ideas and we are proud of what they were able to accomplish. For details of the event, kindly find attached an article and information on the sponsors of the event.

In order to monitor the conduct of our students in a centralized way, we have started recording in ManageBac both commendable and inappropriate behaviour. This will be visible to parents in the student account under behaviour tab. If the behaviour needs your immediate attention, you will be notified via email once the record is made. Since this is new, it will take time for it to be fully operational and hence we request for your patience.

## Diploma Programme

The DP2 students started the new year with by reflecting on their performance of pre-mock examination whose results were released during the break. The purpose of this examination was to expose the students to more papers per subject so as gauge their consolidation of content covered so far. This has also helped to identify gaps in knowledge and understanding of concepts and this will enable support to be given to students in good time before mock examinations in February.

The results for Swahili B final examination which DP2 students sat for in November 2016 were released in December. The students performed very well with most students scoring 6s and 7s and a few 5s. We are proud of the achievement and look forward to the same in the other subjects. TOK course completion – DP2 students are coming to the end of their Theory of Knowledge journey, which will conclude with the submission of the final draft of their TOK Essay by the end of this month.

Extended Essay Fair – DP1 students attended the Extended Essay Fair conducted by Diploma subject experts on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017, where students visited subject specific stalls in 20 minute cycles and covered three subjects in the hour that was accorded to them for the purpose. Here they gained further information and insight into what taking up an Extended Essay in a particular subject domain entails. This understanding will now help them make informed choices when they finally submit their EE Proposals.

## Student Life

During the December holiday, three of our students were featured in the media for their involvement in enrichment activities that they are passionate about. Kindly find attached to this newsletter, an article featuring Josette Kiarie and her journey in triathlon. Also below is a link to video clip for a sports feature aired on Citizen TV covering Vivian Mung'aro and Phylister Nassora, sharing about their journey in sailing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ahrkJj2lxk>

We also celebrate the achievement of Aalin Thayani who managed to raise \$9020 for a children project in Syria through Focus Humanitarian Assistance Europe Foundation. Part of the letter from Focus read” *Aalin’s dedication, passion and drive over the past year to undertake a project on children in Syria who have been displaced due to civil war, to create awareness of this subject and to have raised donations in support of FOCUS’ work in Syria is truly inspiring and a very kind gesture which we remain most grateful for.*”

In the residential programme, we welcomed twelve new students, increasing the number in the residences to two hundred and seventy six students. In the last two and half weeks they have been able to settle down and integrate well into the programme with the support of other students and dorm parents.

The enrichment programme for term two has been running for one and half weeks and our students are involved in various activities in the three clusters of action, citizenship and expression. Each student is expected to select two activities from each cluster to meet the requirements for a whole academic year. So each term, they can choose whichever mix of cluster so long as they meet the requirements. Attached to this newsletter is the schedule of term two enrichment activities.

An update on the inter-school soccer league is attached where our teams have started the leagues with good performance and we wish them well in all their upcoming matches.

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January, the enrichment group Stand up Shout out (SUSO) successfully hosted students from other high schools in Mombasa in a workshop where they discussed the issue of rape. A guest speaker was invited to facilitate the students to engage with the topic effectively. We applaud the group for organizational and leadership skills demonstrated during the event.

## Middle Years Programme

This January, we have received twelve new admissions in Year 6 to 9. The students have settled down and are in the process of being inducted into the programme. On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, the students met with the VP MYP in order to be introduced to the programme in general. In the meeting, they were introduced to the MYP in general. They were also given a chance to ask

questions about issues that still puzzle them in the programme. It was also a good opportunity for them to bond with one another.

The Year 10 students handed in their final drafts of the Personal Projects on the 17th January 2017, after a gruelling 11 months of research, data collection, making a product and finally writing a report on their journey through the process. The students are now preparing for the final PP exhibition that will take place on 3rd February 2017. It has been a journey they have undertaken which will prepare them for Extended Essay writing in the diploma programme and other research exercises they will go through in future.

The Personal Project Coordinator took the Personal Project supervisors through a standardization practice exercise on 18th January 2017, in preparation for the actual scoring of students' reports. This is an important exercise that ensures that all supervisors understand the process of scoring and how to effectively award grades. The PP reports will then be sent to IB for moderation.

Year 9 students have been introduced to the personal project and will soon embark on the journey. An induction meeting for the year 9 parents is scheduled in February so that they can gain a better understanding of the project so as to support the students.



On Friday 13th January 2017 we held the fourth AKA, M Inventions Fair. The event kicked off with an emphatic keynote address by the curriculum manager of The Aga Khan Academies, Ms Alex Holland on “The Silk Road then and Now”. This helped the helped students understand how the global interactions happened during the times of the Silk Road and how these are happening now e.g. through the building of the Standard Gauge Railway line in Kenya.

Throughout the day, the students were engaged in looking at inventions that happened during the Silk Road including

Nilometers, Compass, Public Baths, Water Wheel and Map Making, just to name a few. Each group of student was given a different invention to work on, based on criteria that helped them re-create and uncover the purpose and the making of this invention. They were then required to make a presentation on where the invention was made and the significance of collaboration in the success of the invention and how they would develop the invention further, in keeping with the times.

This presentation had a unique audience in the year 4 PYP students who are currently focusing on a unit on inventions. This enabled both the sets of students to develop their confidence, communication and thinking skills and above all they became more knowledgeable about the inventions that have shaped human lives.

## Upcoming events

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Year 8 face-to faith video conferences

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January – MS MUN conference in Nairobi

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 parents meeting

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Inter-house Debate/Public speaking competition

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Semester 2 starts and Semester 1 reports are released

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Semester 1 awards ceremony

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Year 10 Final Personal Project exhibition

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Year 9 parents Personal Project meeting

Have an enjoyable week!



Kind regards,  
**Francis Kariuki**  
**Principal, Senior School**