



The Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, Newsletter

Dates to remember

- Zawadi Bazaar 10-4pm, Saturday 7 December, Commons
- Christmas tree lighting, 5.30pm, 9 December, Commons
- 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner, 6.30pm, 10 December, Commons
- Term ends 10 December

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November 2013

Ten Years Old

Dear Parents/Guardian

It is difficult to believe that ten long years have passed since the school opened, and that the campus has now graduated 239 students with the International Baccalaureate Diploma. It is time to celebrate all that has been achieved so far so we have lined up some events to ensure the anniversary is well celebrated: the Zawadi Bazaar, the Christmas Tree Lighting, the 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner and the inaugural Annual Giving Programme.

The Zawadi Bazaar will be held on Saturday 7 December starting at 10am. The bazaar is an annual event organised to raise funds used for service activities in the school. With our school championing service as a cornerstone of leadership development, this event is of special importance. It also provides an opportunity for the Year 10 Class to practise the Entrepreneurship module of their leadership course, with the students developing and putting into practice a business project to raise funds, even as they enjoy the day. We encourage all parents to promote it and be a part of this fun event in support of the school, while we also promise some excellent shopping opportunities and plenty of games for children.

The second event is the Christmas Tree Lighting that will take place on Monday 9 December at 5:30pm, in front of the Commons.

This is an event which celebrates the pluralistic attribute of our mission. It is an occasion to support both our renowned choir and orchestra ahead of the choir's performances later in the week at the Nakumatt Mall (on 4, 6, 7 December), as we enjoy singing well-known carols together.

The crowning of the celebrations will be the 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner which is being held on Tuesday 10 December. This is an event at which we expect to meet all parents, Alumni and parents of Alumni, to toast the ten years of growth and achievement at the school. We have scheduled the event right at the end of the term so that parents of residential students can attend when they come to pick up their children for the Christmas holiday. We know that this will be an occasion of much joy and remembrance as we dine together.

So far, 32% of our graduates have benefitted from financial aid. Nevertheless, there have been many able and needy students that we have been unable to support due to financial constraints. As part of the 10th Anniversary celebrations, we have launched the Annual Giving Programme which will help us support a larger number of students in need. Ultimately the Aga Khan Academy wishes to reach out and support any student deemed to be of promising leadership potential. So I have sent an invitation to you to approach me in person if you



Simon Otieno

would like to make a donation.

Thank you to all who have already been in touch—we hail your spirit of giving and concern for our school and the nation at large. Your donation will go a long way to help us realise what His Highness the Aga Khan said when he visited the school before its inaugural opening: "... Africa and the developing world can help create centres of educational excellence that will at the same time, be international and indigenous, and that will help mould young men and women from all walks of life and all parts of the world into the leaders of tomorrow."

We look forward to working with you as we fulfil our mission.

I also take the opportunity to wish you an enjoyable and relaxing holiday time over the Christmas break.

Simon Otieno
Head of Academy



Enos Kiforo

Staff News

Mr Enos Angondi Kiforo has joined our Strengthening Education Systems in East Africa (SESEA) project team as Master Trainer, Literacy. Enos has worked with the PDC since 2009 as a facilitator and Master Trainer on the Professional Learners Series Programme for Teachers of English. Previously he has taught at Allidina Visram High School and Changamwe Secondary School and has been the Changamwe District ICT Coordinator. Enos has conducted numerous workshops for teachers and has authored several papers in the area he has a passion for: the integration of ICT in teaching and learning.

Maureen Makachia may spend her days writing cheques for our suppliers, but in her leisure time she writes music. Maureen has a God-given talent – music! She has produced two CDs – the first *Chingula* in 2004 and the second *Mwana Wake Yesu* in 2012. You might be able to tell from the names of the CDs that Maureen’s passion is Gospel music but she doesn’t just sing compositions by other musicians she actually writes her own songs which are then produced with a backing band and vocals – all written by Maureen. Maureen has been singing since she was

a teenager and as a newcomer to Mombasa she would love to be invited to other churches or events to share her talent. You can also buy her CD from her – for only 200KShs.

We recently farewelled Mr Eric Mbevi, Facilities manager, after nearly three years of service in this busy and demanding role, and Senior School maths teacher Brian Wanjala. Currently serving as an intern in the PDC is 2013 DP graduate Adams Galgalo.

Mr Benard Dudi recently visited the State House in Nairobi to receive an award from President Uhuru Kenyatta. He was recognised for his outstanding contribution to the development of The President’s Award Programme in Kenya; Mr Dudi has been leading the expedition that senior students go on for many years. We add our congratulations to those of the President.



Maureen’s latest CD



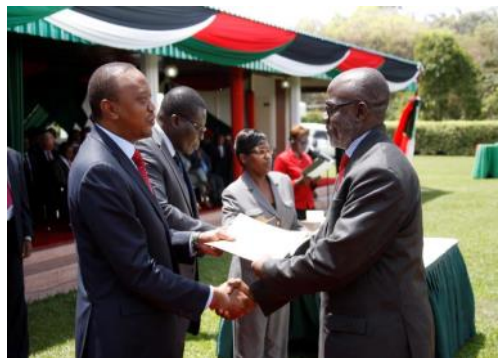
10th ANNIVERSARY



YEARBOOK
2012-2013



10th Anniversary
Yearbook—still on
sale—still only
1000KShs



Notices and Coming Events

Zawadi Bazaar—7 December, 10am—4pm, Commons

Christmas tree lighting—9 December, 5.30pm, Commons

10th Anniversary Gala dinner—10 December, 6.30-11.30pm, Commons

Term ends 10 December (3pm).

Junior School News

The Junior School SRC means business! Recently they completed their first initiative, launching a successful campaign against endangering the environment we live in by changing from the use of disposable plastic cups by introducing the reusable plastic ones. This will also save money in the long term as there will be no need to continuously buy cups that end up in the rubbish. However, they will continue with monitoring use and loss of the cups, gradually instilling a ‘cup care’ culture so that non-recyclable cups become a thing of the past and the lovely colourful cups become the new way. Change and Action has arrived!

The Junior School held a Diwali assembly on 15 November which was the most colourful event the Junior School has had so far this year. Well done to Mrs Dave, Ms Harsha and external dance instructor, Ms Bharti Pathak who worked so hard and patiently to teach the children very exciting Indian dances and skit presentations to commemorate the event. The Indian attire worn by teachers, students and parents was absolutely beautiful and added colour and glamour to the celebration!



Halloween was celebrated on 31 October

Field Trip to Wild Living

All year 10 students visited Wild Living Resources near Kilifi on 28 October in a joint Leadership and Humanities initiative. As part of their leadership programme, the students are currently working on a unit about entrepreneurship. The trip offered the students an excellent opportunity to develop their social entrepreneurial skills by observing the way the organisation empowers the local community with the “know how” and necessary funds and tools to earn an extra living by using their immediate environment in a sustainable manner. By looking at projects like the eco-friendly charcoal production line, the sustainable harvesting of aloe vera or the innovative way medicinal plants are harvested and preserved, our students gained some valuable knowledge about involving the local community, and the way the business is run gave them some ideas

about how to make a profit in an ethical manner. Moving forward, the students are expected to use the knowledge they gained to run a mini-business at the forthcoming Zawadi Bazaar and possibly also implement some of the ideas in the running of the School Tuck Shop. The trip was useful in helping the students to understand all four Year 10 Units, where the focus for the year is on Sustainable Development and Activism and we consider issues such as the ethical use of resources, how our actions as a community leave behind an ecological footprint, how labour is central to development and the way in which interested and motivated individuals can bring about positive change in their communities. The visit to Wild Living gave the students the opportunity to see all of those big ideas in practice. It was a great learning experience!

“The trip offered the students an excellent opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial skills”



Visit to Wild Living



Residential Cultural Evening attire

“The Academy is the only school in Kenya to become a Microsoft Mentor School.”



BIG members with Vilwakwe students

Residential Cultural Evening

Our annual Residential Cultural Night was held on 26 October. It is an opportunity, eagerly embraced by students, both to dress in their best and also to perform songs, dances and poems, from their own culture as we celebrate the diversity of the school student and teacher population. Each of the six residential blocks took it in turn to present their pieces which they had been rehearsing over the preceding weeks. In some cases those from one culture joined with those from another so that they could more fully experience a different culture, while some presented a mix of flavours to give a truly original offering. It was a very enjoyable evening, capped off by a dance.

The Academy is a Microsoft Mentor School

The Academy has been selected by Microsoft as one of only 80 outstanding Mentor Schools world-wide and is the only school in Kenya to receive this prestigious award. Our application was fronted by Mr Gioko Anthony, Vice-principal Professional Development and Outreach, and the judging panel of a group of independent education experts commented that it was clear that as a school leader, Mr Gioko is dedicated to

improving student outcomes and mentoring other school leaders in the community. They also mentioned that the Academy’s passion for innovative teaching and learning shone through in the submission. We feel very proud of the work undertaken by our Professional Development Centre, and are delighted that it and its principal have achieved this well-deserved recognition.

Work it, Do it, Play it BIG

On the 26 October, the Because I Am A Girl service club hosted the *Work it, Do it, Play it BIG* sports day event which was held at the Academy and was organised by the members of the club with the help of Ms Asharia. For three years the Because I Am A Girl club has been working with Vilwakwe Primary School in Bombolulu. The club has the goal of empowering these girls through various means as well as encouraging them to stay in school and work hard in order to be successful and give back to their communities. Girls from Vilwakwe as well as children from Dickson Children’s Home and Mombasa Children’s Home, were invited to take part in the event; a total of 40 girls attended. The club had organised a fun-filled day full of sports and games for the girls, as a way to encourage them to play sports and keep active. It was an opportunity to remind the girls that sports are not just for boys, and that girls can excel in sports as well. It was also a chance for the club to organise a fun day in which the girls could unwind and have a great time.

The event was a great success, because everyone had a good time, and everyone was able to participate. The girls were very enthusiastic about sports, which was the goal and main reason for hosting the event.—Reporter: *Dzidze Muruu*

Indiance: Celebrating Diwali

Saturday 16 November was a night to remember for members of the Aga Khan community as they gathered in the Commons to watch a dance show in celebration of Diwali and various other Indian festivals. The show was organised by three DP1 students, Tulsi Vyas, Jayni Modasia and Karishma Bhagani as part of their CAS project, in aid of charity.

“We didn’t really think about it as a CAS project. The idea was actually coined during one of our dance lessons, and we did it because of our undying passion for the performing arts, and dance in particular,” said one of the organisers.

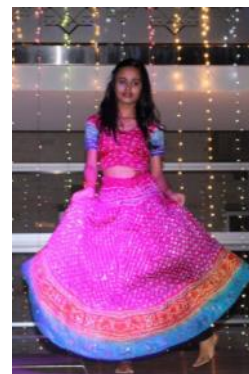
Middle School students can join the Dance club as one of their enrichment activities, and the show, which consisted of 13 items, has been in rehearsal for the past month. Guests of honour were Mrs Bharti Pathak, the students’ Indian dance teacher, and Mrs Jean Hughes, the students’ tap, ballet, and LAMDA teacher.

The show’s first half was based mainly around celebrating different Indian festivals, including Karva Chauth, Holi, Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturati and Diwali, which the MCs explained to the audience. The second half was an appreciation of modern Indian dance culture, with sizzling Bollywood tracks, which kept the audience entertained throughout the evening. The entire event was student-led, with middle school student participants including Namrata Srivastava, Nandini Srivastava, Rishika Gokhale, Nafisa Rahimjonova, Dinar Fazal, Ashiqa Abhoo, Reena Kara, Rabia Dhanani, Noorin Pattni, Simran Khataw,

Alishah Janmohamed, and Urvi Dayal. Several DP students were also involved: Imran Janmohamed (DP1)—sound, Farhan Kassam (DP1)—lighting, and Zishaan Sunderji (DP1) and Karishma Bhagani (DP1) as the MCs. Adnan Jivanji and Ifran Madataly (DP1) were guest performers, and they stunned the audience with their moves and flair. The entire event was a great success, with state-of-the-art lighting facilities provided by Mr Umesh, and sophisticated set designs. There were also eight student-led stalls providing refreshments for the audience.

“I never thought this would happen. It seemed like a dream, and I didn’t think we would have many audience members to watch us. However, I managed to overcome my fear of dancing in public, and the audience members were very encouraging,” exclaims one of the club members. The show lasted for nearly 2 hours, and approximately 260 tickets were sold, raising a handsome sum of money. All students, from the backstage helpers, to the performers and organisers put their effort into making the show a success, and to raising funds to donate to charity—proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Nyumba ya Wazee in Tudor for a picnic for the residents of the home. This shows the level of commitment, resilience and determination required to make a dream come true.

The Indiance team would like to sincerely thank all the helpers, teachers, and audience members for supporting them, and turning their dream into a reality.—*Reporter: Karishma Bhagani*



Namrata Srivastava performs at Indiance



Jayni Modasia, Karishma Bhagani and Tulsi Vyas — organisers of Indiance



Dance action from Adnan Jivanji



In the pool

Making a Splash

At the CASA Novice Gala over 12-13 October Academy swimmers emerged as the overall winners in the Boys, Girls and Combined with a total of 787 points. This was well ahead of the next place-getter, Mombasa Aquatic Club who finished on 449 points.

In the overall results for the Junior CASA Gala held over 9-10 November the Girls finished in first place on 192.5 points (taking 13 Gold, 6 Silver and 8 Bronze medals), with the Busy Bee School second on 79 points, while the Boys finished in second place on 186

points (taking 10 Gold, 7 Silver and 7 Bronze medals) being narrowly defeated by Jaffery Academy on 189.5 points. It was a great result all round for our fantastic Academy Junior swim team. If they can do this well when they are juniors, then our results will be stunning as they move into the senior grades. Well swum!

In the KSF National Age Championships which were held 25-27 October our swimmers took a total of one gold, four silver and ten bronze medals. Overall the Boys team finished in 4th place and the Girls in 5th.

“Tiana’s tally was 10 gold and 2 silver medals.”



Tiana Vora—winner!



Tiana is Tops

We are delighted to congratulate Academy student Tiana Vora who won ten events over the recent two-day CASA Junior Gala. She began on the first day by winning the girls’ nine years and under 200m individual medley and then went on to win the 100m individual medley and both the 50m and 100m butterfly. She then continued in her winning form, scooping a further six gold and two silver medals on the second day, in freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke, for a total medal tally of 12. We congratulate Tiana and her coach, Rama, for this great outing.

Safaricom and Academy Choirs Make Music Together

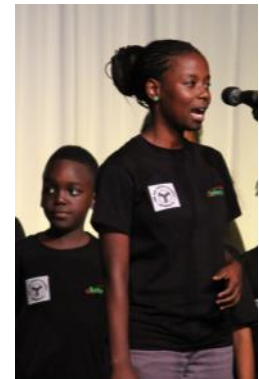
On Saturday 2 November the Commons came alive to the sound of music when the Safaricom Choir came to visit. The Academy was delighted to host the 70-member choir who travelled from Nairobi to give two concerts. The concerts opened with a performance from The Tribe, a group of Senior residential boys, who performed their exhilarating signature piece *Tarakihi* which is always a show stopper. That was followed by performances from the Academy's Junior choir, its award-winning Senior choir, the Aga Khan A Capella Quartet and the Wema Centre choir, who delivered a short performance under the direction of Mr Philip Agutu. Then the spotlight was on the Safaricom Choir, who performed

Zimbe, a wonderful composition comprised of a collection of African songs, which included participation by our choirs in some sections of the work. After a short interval we heard the highly acclaimed *Gospel Mass* which brought the concert to a rousing finish. The Safaricom events team had fully decorated the Commons and there was a full sound and lighting rig to enhance the visual and aural effects. It was a real partnership between them and us and all choir members sported tee shirts with both the Safaricom logo as well as that of the Academy. We look forward to future visits and strengthening this great relationship. It was definitely a concert to remember!



House News

After the House swimming competition that was held on 1 November, and was won by Eagles, the four houses are level pegging on 125 points each – so who will break away to take the lead in the next competition. The lip sync is to be held on 6 December with the debate to follow on 24 January.



Mary Favour performs at the Safaricom concert—note both the logos on the tee shirt!

“It was definitely a concert to remember!”



Safaricom choir conductor Mr Ken Wakia and Armaan Manji

SRC Costume Party

The Student Representative Council hosted a Costume Party for the whole Senior School community on 1 November. There was a large turnout and 173 students put on their finest costumes and shook a leg in the schools MPH, which had been decked out with Jack o'Lanterns and an impressive light show. The students had an opportunity to get to know and dance with students of other year levels, which was the main aim of the event. The SRC hopes that large-scale events like this, including our upcoming Zawadi Bazaar, help to create a sense of unity within the school. The SRC is also proud to announce that through the sales of admissions tickets and refreshments 20,000KShs was raised which will help to finance student activities throughout the year.

Personal Project Mock Exhibition

The Personal Project (PP) is a significant body of work produced over an extended period of time by students in their final MYP year and aims to showcase their own initiatives and reflect their MYP experiences as well as engaging students in research projects that interest them. On 8 November the PP Mock Exhibition was held as a prelude to the final Exhibition which will be held on 6 February 2014. Great works were displayed by the 62 students among which were some innovative and creative projects such as robots which lighten human work, solar powered planes, and other uses of solar power for lighting etc which would be particularly useful in rural and remote areas.

DELFL Exam Success

Thirty-five students sat and passed the DELFL exam in June and they are now proud recipients of certificates straight from Paris. The DELFL (**D**iplôme d'Études en **L**angue **F**rançaise) or Diploma in French Language Studies has four levels and students from year 7 to DP1 passed at the first level A1 through to the third level B1. Bravo à tous!

Girl Guide Enrichment Group

The Girl Guide Enrichment group comprises of Brownies and Guides: aged between 6 and 11 year olds, led by their patrons: Ms Ruth and Ms Judith. On 8 November they had their first overnight 'camping' experience in the Dance Studio away from home comforts. The girls had to do chores for themselves, which included preparing their sleeping area, helping with cooking their meals,

washing dishes and clearing up after the camp; learning basic skills of outdoor survival. They sang, danced and held a quiz around the bonfire as well as playing games such as rope skipping, and a tug of war. There was also an element of learning woven into the fun, such as the drill, track signs and other activities. At the end of it all, the girls went home tired but satisfied with their accomplishments.

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