



Beausang Bulletin

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School Motto: CARPE DIEM

From the Principal

Reflections on 2007 School Year

2007 was another year of rapid growth at Beausang. The Enrolment in the Primary rose from 320 to 350, while the secondary numbers rose from 218 to 330. Our staff now consists of over 40, not including student teachers and volunteers. All classes were filled to capacity. For the first time we were able to present candidates for the KCSE examinations.

The new secondary school building has become an absolute necessity, as we have been very overcrowded, and needed to borrow additional rooms in the counseling centre from the parish. We eagerly anticipate the move to our splendid new home.

We were blessed this year by a very large number of generous sponsors; their support has enabled many students to attend here when otherwise it would have been financially impossible. We pray that this support will continue. One of the many advantages from our home visit program has been that we have been able to send back important information to sponsors.

Building Project

Our new 12 classroom secondary school is

nearing completion. With the consent and cooperation of the builder, Kilimanjaro Construction Ltd, we were able to use four classrooms for the KCSE examinations – a situation much appreciated by our Form Four students. Recently, through the generosity of some Australian supporters, especially the students of St Bernard's College in Essendon, we purchased an additional 1.15 acres of land, bringing our holding to 5.15 acres. This area is now fenced

When we gained the necessary approval from the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) to build a school on the site, a key condition imposed was that we construct a sewage treatment plant to protect the fragile environment. While very necessary, this resulted in major additional expenses. Fortunately Rotary Clubs have come to our rescue. Rotary Essendon and Rotary Karen, with the cooperation and support of Rotary International, carried out an extensive evaluation of the proposed project, and have agreed to fund it completely. This will solve the sanitation problems of not only the school, but also the whole parish compound.

We hope to move all secondary students to the new school at the beginning of the 2008 school year. The official opening is planned for Saturday 1st March.

KCSE

As this year was the first that Beausang had presented candidates for the KCSE examinations, it marked a most significant point in our development. A total of 89 students presented in 11 subjects – English, Kiswahili, French, Christian Religious Education, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Geography, History, and Business Studies. All of the examinations, which included the three science practicals, took place over a four week period, and were conducted in our new building. Our candidates were praised by the supervisor and invigilators for their cooperation throughout the examination process.

Earlier in the term we had been disappointed by the performance of many in the mock examinations, and so took a number of steps to facilitate a substantial improvement. Developing a strong academic culture in a new school remains a real challenge, but one that we are committed to achieving.

School Fees

In the secondary school, the school fee has remained unchanged at Ksh. 20,000 per annum for the past three years, despite the substantially higher cost of living. Recognizing the difficulties that most families have in paying school fees, we continue to do all we can to keep fees as low as possible. However, in 2008, it is necessary to raise the fees (which includes exercise books, textbooks, lunch and some medical costs) to Ksh. 20,500.

Form 4 students will be required to pay the following additional costs which are not covered by the school fees – KCSE Mock exams (Ksh. 750), KCSE examination fee (Ksh. 3,100), and April & August holiday tuition (Ksh. 500).

The primary school fee will be raised to Ksh. 7,800. KCPE candidates are required to pay an additional fee (Ksh. 300) to register for KCPE examinations.

Letters outlining all the details of 2008 fee structures will be distributed to all students, additional copies are available at the school office.



The Form Fours in the new building

Artane Visit

In September, a party of 10 students and 3 teachers from St David's CBS Artane Ireland were involved in a 12 day immersion experience here in Embulbul. The aims of the program were as follows

The immersion program aims to provide a challenging cross cultural experience for participants, to provide a genuine experience of Africa as a developing country, and to establish partnerships with African youth. As a result of this, it is hoped that participants will reflect on, question, reassess and appreciate their own lives and circumstances. Also it is hoped that the participants will provide valuable assistance at Br. Beausang Catholic centre by their presence, support and work.

The students stayed at the new bungalow recently constructed on the Brothers' property at Olepolos, made possible by the generous donation from St Bernard's College Essendon. During their stay they were involved in wide range of activities, including home visits, tutoring & teaching, liturgies, sport & physical education, excursions.

St David's were extremely generous. The school had engaged in considerable fundraising on our behalf, and also brought much valuable equipment, including football kits, clothing, pens and a guitar. Our students and staff very much enjoyed the contact. The following reflections from our visitors show that they also gained considerable benefits.

■I personally feel that the house, brothers and service was fantastic. My over all impression on my Nairobi experience was fantastic. At first I was quite frightened and amazed, it was such a culture shock. For the first time I was the lonely foreigner.

I was different. But after a few days I become used to this. In fact people loved us, we were invited to have tea in shops and people constantly said welcome to Kenya. *(Jonathan Carr - student)*

■As for the primary school they had the nicest children I have ever met, I taught some Math, English, Social Studies and P.E. They are so eager to learn new things, the teachers were also very welcoming too. They were also open to new ideas we had. The P.E. was excellent. We played football, chasing, dancing and hurling. The children had so much energy it's hard to keep up. The hardest thing I ever had to do was say goodbye (*kwaheri*) and thank you (*asanti*) to the school children. Hopefully I'll be back in years to come. *(Ciaran Twamley - student)*

■When we had made our first appearance with the school it's safe to say we all fell with love with the school and staff, everyone no matter what time of the day had a smile on their face. It really opened my life to what we the developed countries of the world take for granted. The home itself is fantastic Today on the last day I broke down crying leaving the kids here just so happy and full of energy. I fell in love with all of them the whether it was trying to teach a lot of English or playing P.E. *(Daniel Redmond - student)*

■After getting an opportunity to teach in the primary school, I adore teaching and am planning my career in it. I absolutely loved the kids and would like to do anything to get back with them. It was hard for us to leave the kids on the last day and we all got really emotional. I was dehydrated because I lost all the water in my body by crying. *(Vishnu Anilkumar - student)*

■My experience of the immersion is priceless, I have seen and experienced so many thing that I will never forget and I give you all my thanks. Teaching in the school was amazing getting to bond with the kids was the best thing I have done but it was so emotional at the end. I have also been changed in many ways by visiting the slums; it was a real eye opener and it has changed my outlook on life I have learned that there is more to life than money and everything we have. *(Darragh O'Sullivan - student)*

■The school of Embulbul was an experience of a lifetime. The children, so beautiful, warm and friendly became our family. They were so grateful for the simplest of things – a balloon, a tube of bubbles or a song. The teachers were extremely supportive and inclusive. Today, our last day was full of joy and yet the tears flowed. We did not want to leave the school or children – our children. The past 2 weeks have been the best of our lives. We were enriched by the African culture – the children who dance like ballerinas and then there's the wonderful singing. I feel privileged to have been given this opportunity – one of joy, love, excitement and endless pleasure. *(Martina Flanagan - teacher)*

■The Sunday we woke up to a once in a life-time Africa mass. The mass kicked off with dancing and singing right from the start. It was a lot different to anything I have ever experienced. The round church of Embulbul was filled with uplifting energy that filled every seat and walkway. *(Daniel Byrne - student)*

Sponsorship

The following extract from a student's letter illustrates quite clearly how much value sponsorship is to an individual.

I would like to offer sincere gratitude to thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. Sometimes you might want to talk but find your mouth blank of words, sometimes you might think and find yourself thinking so deeply. Sometimes you might want to have so many things but find that you are not the only one to be helped, sometimes you might want to go further in your studies but find that even the lower class is a problem.

I have come to a conclusion that God is a God of wonders, never and ever shall there be any in this universe to compare with God. My whole life has been a problem; I could not know where the light could come from. I remember well this day I joined



The visitors from St David's CBS Artane

Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre; I will never forget this day.

Sometimes you might ignore someone and think he or she is a foreigner who does not know anything and should not even bother to know anything. For me, I have seen a miracle happening with my two eyes. I am even ashamed to talk about it. Someone might want to brighten your future without you knowing, someone might want you to live a happy and brotherly life without you observing. The time you will realize it, it would be too late.

For me I can only thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting me learn freely in your school without payment. I have never come across a helping hand like this one in my life and I do not think I will ever come across another while I am still living.

Julia Douglas

Through the International Cultural Youth Exchange Program, Julia Douglas, a primary teacher from London, is involved in a six month volunteer placement at our primary school. Julia has professional qualifications as a teacher, and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Her experiences in contemporary trends in primary education are proving to be invaluable. Currently she is guiding us in the development of two exciting projects – a special

Reading Program, and "Star Chart", a system designed to reinforce positive behaviour.



Julia instructing students

Staffing

Early in Term 3, Margaret Ayuma (*secondary*), Justus Mutua (*primary*), and Rose Naetu (*Primary*), departed to accept positions in the Ministry, and Geoffrey Mawira (*Primary*) resigned. They were replaced by Joseph Muchangi, Sella Bundi, Emmah Nangami, and Mary Remoi. At the end of the year we farewelled Lucy Seki (*School office*). I thank all of these staff members for their valuable contribution to our schools. Late in the term our secondary Head Teacher, Catherine Gathogo, took maternity leave, and we rejoice on the safe arrival of Maryanne Wanjeri.

Volunteers

Again during Term 3, we were fortunate to gain from the services of a number of volunteers. I wish to record my appreciation to the following

Secondary

Ben Ondara (*Mathematics, Chemistry*), Elias Matanje (*CRE, History*), Inviolata Ochayo (*Biology, Chemistry*), Thomas Mukomondera (*CRE, Geography*) and Peter Makori (*Geography, Business*)

Computers

Molly Sekento, Michael Gitau and Jacqueline Masafu

Special Education

Cecelia Muthini

Primary

Sr. Vera Osama (*Ursuline Sister*) and four postulants from the Comboni Sisters; Jilde Likico, Christine Akite, Jackline Bortel &

Susan Nakiyingi

PPI

Sr. Teresa & Postulants from Capuchin Sisters; Lilian Ngunya, Peris Mathenge, Marietta Ndua and Harriet Omoite

Can a Change from a Familiar Ground Make a Difference?

Bro. Francis Otieno cfc, Deputy Principal.

The time is gone for those who have spent four years of rich experiences in Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre. "It is sad to start a new life in unknown ground but familiar environment, an environment I call home". The outgoing Form Four students in Brother Beausang found it had to let go of the school, the school they call "our school". The assurance of good company, comrades and guidance is very little now. Life in the village is not promising as such. It is quite lonely. Many are not really sure of what the next day will bring.

One of the students had this to say, "Teacher, it is not easy, though it is just less than a week since we moved out of Brother Beausang". The tension and pressure is building up at home between parents and some of the students who don't have something to do. They will mostly listen to music, watch TV and wait for meals which at times they are not even sure of. This is because many parents spend most of their time looking for the families' daily bread.

The end of the Form Four's ordinary level of education has brought good news of accomplishing the Secondary School Education. On the other hand it is sad news brought about by the departure from

friends, caring teachers and a secure environment like school.

Nevertheless the four year stint at the school gives our students the kind of preparedness they need to face challenges that come after school. In fact they are just beginning the real journey where they are expected to take full control of their destiny. They are all very promising young men and women and the future is indeed bright for those who are optimistic. We wish them well. We also promise them our prayerful support. Guys seize the opportunity "CARPE DIEM"

Beausang Becomes of age

Peter Obegi

At last the wind gathered storm and our final year students sat for their K.C.S.E examinations. Their spirits were heightened to the breaking point and everyone was perusing this and that paper in preparation and anticipation for a better performance in their life-determining exams. As a maths and science teacher, it forced me to do an extra work in guiding some students in their revision. I was really amazed by their enthusiasm and teamwork seeing that they have gained something to put down in their final paper.

The staff room became a beehive of activity as groups of students gathered around subject teachers for some clarification on this and that issue. Even the way to and from classes became a very busy avenue where a teacher could offer some brief important tips on a contentious issue.

As the adage goes "Time waits for no man". The D-day was here with us.

The sowing season was over and the sowers went to reap- 'He who sows sparingly shall reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully shall reap bountifully' (2 Cor 9:6)

The exams started very well without any hiccups and we (science department) had a hectic time preparing for the practicals, setting up a temporary laboratory down at our new building. It was a challenging, hard but exciting time for all of us. Thank God, we sailed through perfectly.

All in all it has been a very successful year.

Primary School

Mrs. Eva Njagi

Head Teacher (Primary school)

I take this golden and wonderful opportunity to thank our Almighty God for his protection and care for all of us. I would like to thank our esteemed teachers, loving mothers in the kitchen, parents and guardians and sponsors for their co-operation support and effort they have rendered unto us throughout this busy term. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Barclays bank team who volunteered to renovate our kitchen through our long term friend Mr. Vincent Otieno. The team planted trees and painted some rooms in the school.

To all our volunteers: We are very grateful

for your great work you are doing for our dear young children. Special thanks to Julia Douglas from England through I.C.Y.E, the Comboni Sisters through Sr. Rosemary, and Sr. Vera from Ursuline Sisters. The services which you are tendering to us are highly appreciated. May Good Lord bless you abundantly.

To our Irish Visitors: You are wonderful people to us. (St. Davids CBS Artane group, Seamus, Martina, Marion, Mark Ayton, Darragh, Daniel, Daniel Redmond, Vishmu, Ciaran, Alex, Shea, Jonathan). Thank you for visiting our primary school, you left a mark behind and in future plan to stay for a longer period. Thank you for all your donations. Live long St. David's C.B.S. I wish you a merry X-Mass and a happy New Year 2008 full of God's Blessings.



Important Dates

Term I 2008:

Opening Day:	7th January.	End term exams :	19th March
Form One reporting day :	11th February.	Easter Break :	21st—24th March
Mid-term Examinations:	15th - 21st February	Closing day:	4th April
Midterm break:	22nd February	Holiday Tuition F3 & F4:	7th—18th April
Official opening of the new school:	1st March	Staff Seminar::	28th April—2nd May
Pre-mock form 4:	13th March		

Sport

Secondary: (Peter Kihoria)

We entered two teams in the Gichinga Cup Team A and Team B. Team B sailed through the inter-zones stage after winning 5 matches and losing 2. They scored 15 goals and conceded 6. Patrick Kinoti emerged as top scorer with 7 goals. Team A was eliminated after winning 2 matches and losing 1. They scored 5 goals and conceded 3 goals. We played a game against visiting Irish students which we won 4-1. We wish the departing members of the soccer team all the best and extend our gratitude to them for their contribution to our success in soccer.

Rugby Report (Samuel Maithya)

The total number of people in the sport has increased from 11 to 18. Previously we used to practice without a coach and a patron, right now we are lucky to have Anthony Kanyingi as a patron and co-coach, he has been an inspiration to many by his support. We also have a coach who is called Steve; he's a retired rugby player who had played professional rugby for a club called *Kenya Harlequins*. He does his practices every Sunday afternoon for about 2 hours.

The game is not about brutality, as it is perceived as a social game. The main objective is to gain ground, which requires one to think critically, whether to pass or dummy. In a game situation it's all about weighing options, it is a game of teamwork and coordination. It's also a game of discipline, where a yellow card in rugby is normally sends you to the "sin bin" which means one is sent to warm the bench for 10 minutes. In these 10 minutes the other team could easily use the gap as their advantage, for they have an extra player. No team can afford to be undisciplined.

Rugby is also a game of fitness unlike football where 2 or 3 people attack, in rugby the team run as 11 pack for the whole game. You cannot win alone, but you only win as a team or lose as a team. During practice sessions the team members are always urged to support one another and push themselves to the limit.

It's also a game of responsibility, in the fact that you have to know how the strength and weakness of your team members and also in the fact that one knows or has a target of what he wants to gain by the end of the session. A strong team is responsible, and a poor team is irresponsible. The first day Steve came to school was on Saturday 3rd Nov. 2007 and he was very positive about our idea of him becoming our coach. Our first training was on 9th Nov. 2007.

So, if you are responsible, disciplined and you love the game why not join the team and hone than hidden talent.



Artane and Beausang Football teams

This edition of Beausang Bulletin is sponsored by St Joseph's College Melbourne, Australia. We much appreciate their generous support.