



# Beausang Bulletin

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*School Motto: CARPE DIEM*

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL Reflection

The year began with many exciting events throughout the world in powerful nations to the small village of Embulbul - Kenya, East Africa. The school has a new leadership structure following my appointment as Principal and the appointment of two co-deputies, Br. John Corbett and Mr. Peter Shanahan. I thank Peter and Br. John for accepting their roles in the Brother Beausang family. Peter and John, being experienced administrators, have made it easy for the school to continue smoothly without set backs. Together with the whole staff, we are confident to continue with the good work of the past six years..

Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2009, was an important day for the new Administration team as they took part in a team-building seminar which was conducted in the light and the spirit of knowing each other better and focusing on the vision and the mission of the school. We came to realise our gifts, talents and differences and that each of us is special and that we can make a difference in the life of the school and our environment.

**Visitors** - We were delighted to receive international visitors from an Edmund Rice group from Perth Australia towards the end of last year led by Martin Kelly and Kellie Carnoby. A second Australian group also arrived in early January led by Br. Gerard Brady cfc and Paul Daly from Melbourne. It was also encouraging to receive two Irish women teachers and Br. Tony Twomney. The three groups were delighted by the Br. Beausang family and the marvellous work that has taken place in the school within such a short period of time. We thank them for their great support and their warm remarks on how graciously and friendly they were welcomed into our lives and how we were accepted into theirs as well.

It was our pleasure also to receive visitors from the Christian Brothers' Foundation Melbourne. The team was lead by Sue Corby and Br. Bill Wilding. As a school we thank them for their continuing generosity and support. Br. Bill Wilding was also involved with Dr. Wayne Tinsey, Executive Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia in facilitating a seminar at Namanga (border towns between Kenya and Tanzania) for the three East African schools- Brother Beausang; Reuben (Nairobi) and Edmund Rice Sinon (Arusha). The brief visit by Sue, Dr Daniel Doyle and Christine Wright helped them realise some of the extraordinary challenges facing staffs and students in both the Primary as well as the Secondary areas.

**Appreciation** - We are remarkably blessed by the generosity of the entire Embulbul Parish, the Counselling Centre, and the Dispensary for their great support and kindness in assisting the school in our daily routines. The school made an excellent beginning in 2009 because of the increasing unity among the departments in the parish. Our spiritual needs have been taken care of during our Wednesday Eucharistic celebration, our health in the Dispensary, and our day-to-day challenges in life at the Counselling Department. I want to thank in particular Br. Laurie Collins who was responsible for the development of these partnership.

**Building** - Stage II of our new secondary school building is in use after a long wait, especially for the Library and Administration. We thank Christian Brothers Foundation Australia for the books, computers and library shelves which were sent to us in a large container all the way from Melbourne. Even though the installation of some technical facilities are still in progress in the Science and IT laboratories, we are proud and excited at the prospect of using them soon. The whole exercise will enable us to acquire a fully modern and high quality educational programmes.

**Staffing**- We had a number of staff who resigned at the end of 2008 for new employment elsewhere. In the primary section we bid bye to two significant teachers: Joseph Mchangi and Sarah Kamau, whilst in the secondary section Peter Obegi, Jonathan Mungai, and Humphrey Miheso left for new opportunities.

Similarly we sadly accepted the resignation of the Development Officer, Headmound Okari who has been part of the development of Beausang Education Centre. We thank Headmound and all the departing staff and wish them God's blessings.

At the same time we have been blessed by new staff members in both primary and secondary sections. We have eight volunteers in both primary and secondary section and two teachers on attachment in the pre-primary section and one in the secondary. Four student from the Marist International College have also been involved in the Pastoral and social welfare of students.

**Students** - Congratulations to both our KCPE and KCSE candidates on their success in the national exams. Welcome to the new students especially the Form 1s. We trust that your stay in Br Beausang will be a great time for both yourselves as well as the whole school. It is our hope that 2009 will be a wonderful year for all students, staff and families. With success in both personal and collective endeavours.

**Parents** - Sincere thanks to all parents/guardians for supporting your children and the school. Thanks also for attending the Parents/teachers' meetings held earlier this year. This year we plan to hold one meeting per term.

As you are probably aware, the school because of the generosity of many sponsors, is able to offer sponsorships to a considerable number of needy children. All these sponsorships are awarded after considerable evaluation after home visits. We are hoping to extend our program of home visits so that all families will have the opportunity to understand our situation. We are asking parents to make payment of school fees promptly. For further clarifications regarding sponsorships please contact the school administration.

The school scouts' motto for this year's charity is a challenge to all of us *"We are never too poor to help others."* I will also leave you with a quote for the term: ***"Don't be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking risks that we learn how to be brave"***

**Br. Francis Otieno cfc Principal**



Sr. Catherine facilitating learning activities for Standard 1 pupils

### From the Deputy Principal Curriculum and Staff Development

My first term here at Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC) has been a very enjoyable experience. The challenges are very real but the openness and spirit that exists amongst the staff and students cannot help but promote a sense of enthusiasm and determination to make the school a special place.

The BBCEC Mission Statement states:

**“We engage the hearts and minds of young men and women. At the heart of the Centre is the belief that good teaching and learning can empower the individual to strive for excellence in all aspects of his or her life. Therefore we strive to offer the best education possible for our students.”**

Therefore our work in the areas of curriculum and staff development is focused on improving on what we currently do and how we do it. Early in the term I visited many classes and observed all our teachers (and students) in action and I can say without hesitation that Brother Beausang has teachers of real quality and commitment. I was also impressed with the rapport that existed between the students and staff and their acceptance of my presence in the class. The Kenyan education system is challenging for both students and staff and whilst it can be argued that the very prescriptive and exam orientated nature of the system can be restrictive; the teachers are very professional in their outlook and very supportive of the work of the Heads of Department and their colleagues.

The following initiatives / plans are worth highlighting:

**Teacher Appraisal / Professional Review** – all teaching staff will be involved in a planned Teacher Appraisal process which is aimed at improving our teaching and learning practices at Brother Beausang. This was introduced near the end of Term 1 and will continue during both Term 2 and 3.

**Curriculum Review** – during the Staff Seminar Week in late April, the teaching staff will spend some time in reviewing our present curriculum which includes not only the subjects taught, but also things like our organization and structures – e.g. length of lessons, daily timetable, and resources.

**Student – Parent Report Reply** – students and parents/guardians will be invited to give feedback on the student's Term 1 performance. Hopefully this will assist us in identifying areas that may require additional support and resources. The teaching staff and counselling staff will then be able to plan more effectively with this additional information.

**Term 1 Academic Awards** – it is important student success and efforts are encouraged and recognized and these awards will help in this.

**Staff Seminar Week (April 27 – 30)** – the teaching staff will be involved in a number of professional development activities during this week. It is worth noting that this week is actually the last week of the Term 1 holidays which is a reflection of the commitment and generosity of the staff to the school community.

Brother Beausang has made remarkable progress in its very short history and credit for this must go to the whole school community. Schools are only as good as the people who make up the school. Resources and facilities certainly help but without the spirit and passion that I see everyday at Brother Beausang then these mean very little. In 2008 I was fortunate to be part of another special school, Edmund Rice Simon in Arusha, so I feel very privileged to be part of the special community that is Brother Beausang and I look forward to sharing in the life of the school through the rest of 2009.

Peter Shanahan

*“There are times in life when we are called to be bridges... A bridge that opens the way for ongoing journey. When I become a bridge for another, I bring upon myself a blessing...” (Joy Crowley)*

### Inauguration Report

Our new 2009 students' council leaders were inaugurated on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The inauguration mass was celebrated by Fr. Reginald assisted by the ever hard working catechist, Thomas. As has been our tradition, the students used the symbolic gesture of washing of the feet: a sign of humility and leadership based on practical service to the Beausang fraternity. The class representatives and departmental prefects, Laboratory and library were also sworn in. For the first time the primary section prefects were also inaugurated on this day. Talking after the inauguration, the Principal encouraged the leaders to set a good example to the rest of the school by guiding them honestly and with integrity regardless of one's social, spiritual and economic backgrounds. We wish our new student leaders every bit of courage and strength in their daily endeavors.

Because of limited space in this edition I'll only mention the secondary captains and their assistants

Daniel Kirika	-	Captain (Head Boy)
William Ghasio	-	Vice captain
Jane Mughambi	-	Captain (Head Girl)
Lucy W. Mwangi	-	Vice captain

Johnfisher M. Ondigo  
Deputy Head teacher

### Speeches by the Captains

The Principal, Br Francis Otieno, Deputy Principals, Teachers, Parents, Fellow Students, Ladies and Gentlemen Greetings to you all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for the trust they have in me. I assure them that I will not let them down in anyway. To the student's thank you too for your votes, for if it was not for you, I would not have this golden opportunity to serve you. It is indeed a very great honor for me because I came to this school early last year and by the end of the year I was elected as the school head girl, this shows the confidence and trust that the school at large has in me and I thank you once again for that.

I promise to serve you to the best of my ability and ensure that everyone is satisfied and contented. I will contribute greatly to the school administration through cooperation with the staff on various assignments, responsibilities and obligations. To the students I will not let you down. I will be present to listen to your concerns and take appropriate actions. Thank you once again and may God bless you.

Have a prosperous year.

Jane Mughambi – School Head Girl

The Principal, Br Francis Otieno, Deputy Principals, Head Teachers Parents and my fellow students. I salute you all. It is with great honor and humility that I take this opportunity on behalf of the student council to express our gratitude to the administration and the whole student body for having granted us with this leadership positions. We solemnly understand that we may be not the best for this duty, but being chosen among the rest is a clear indication of the trust and hope that you have in us. I would like to call upon the parents, administration and fellow students to help us in realizing and exploring fully our potentials as leaders and assist us where help is needed, since it is only when we walk and think together, that we move a mile further. God bless you all

Daniel Kirika - School Head Boy



The Principal Br Francis, Mr Omoro and the secondary Student Council



### Achievements and Projects in Progress

The first term of 2009 is rapidly coming to an end. It has been a busy term for all of us here in Brother Beausang Centre. 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009 marked yet another symbolic day in Beausang history when the administration moved to the new Resource Block.. Whilst the students and teachers were on mid-term break, the non-teaching staff were busy moving all the furniture and stationery from the parish building. The Librarian is currently busy with sorting, classifying and arranging the many books received from Christian Brothers foundation. The teachers also now have 3 computers in the staffroom. This will ease the work of the secretary and give teachers the necessary skills to grow and perfect their computer skills.

The 2008 results elicited mixed feelings from both staff and students. It was a feeling of triumph as two students Rueben Kimenji and Peter Kabata decorated our results with each scoring well deserved A-. Two students managed to get B plain, four students got B- whereas three managed to get C+. In total eleven students stand a chance of joining the university come next year. On the other hand it was sad to note that there was a drop in the mean score as the majority of the students fall in the D category. Our pioneer class of 2007 students has also made us proud as three of our own students have been admitted to the university. An enormous challenge now lies ahead of us. We must stand true to our motto and seize the opportunity and propel Brother Beausang to greater heights.

*International Immersion Program* - a total of 11 visitors from Christian Brothers University IONA - America, will be involved in a two weeks immersion program in the month of May which we expect to be of great mutual benefit.

*Remembrance* - We kindly request for your prayers for the following members of our community who died recently:

- Florence Silantoi - Mother to Faith Muthoni (std 4) and Winnie Naetu (pre-unit)
- Mr. Chege - Father to Marvin Murigo (std 5) and Alsey Wanjiru (std 3)
- Michael Odhiambo - Father to Lydia Lilly Odhiambo (form 1P)

Thank you,

Lenny Limion for Development Officer

### Home Visit Program

On behalf of Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre we would like to take this chance to thank the students from Marist College for being part of us in the home visit programme (home visits and report preparation) and being in the peer counseling group and engaging in the daily activities in the school. We wish them all the best as they move on with their careers in life. *Asanteni sana.*

Bro. Ignatius Kitwe and Sr. Aster Michael



Library shelves already in use

### Library Report

The new library (to be named McGarry Library after the school's founder Fr. Kelvin McGarry) will provide a full range of information, both in print and electronically for the students and staff. The library is part of the school's vision to make Brother Beausang a school of academic excellence where the students acquire global perspective of life. The library and its staff are committed to being active and creative in selecting, organizing, presenting and preserving information, resources for present and the future students. The reading area has a seating capacity of 50 students. The atmosphere in the library is highly conducive for reading. A wide range of course reference works and books of all general interest are available. The collection currently is made up of titles mostly in areas of Science, English and literature, Education, History, Social Science and General information.

The school will strive to collect information, resources and services and make them readily available, so as to encourage learning, teaching and improvement throughout life, it will also assist in preparing the students to become competent professional who can enrich society with their knowledge, initiatives and personal responsibility.

I hope that the Beausang Community will make good use of the library as we work together to develop a strong reading culture in the school.

Luciana Mugo-School librarian.



Some of the computers donated by Christian Brothers Foundation- Australia being sorted in the IT Lab in the Resource Centre building.

### Justice and Peace club

The Justice and Peace Club was officially started in 2008. Membership of the club is open to both the students and staff members. At the moment we have about 40 members. The 3 teachers who are members Samuel, Orlado and Henry. James Lemashon is the student member of the council in charge of the club.

*Children's Rights* - they are a set of universal entitlements for every child and young person below the age of 18. This applies to children of every background and encompass what they need to survive and have opportunities to lead a stable and rewarding life. They were adopted by the U.N conventions in 1989 and made law in Kenya in 2001 under the Children's Act of 2001.

The main objective of the club is to educate students in children rights and responsibilities and to introduce them into the knowledge of human rights in general. The club also gives students opportunities to be involved in practical activities such as environmental cleaning, planting of trees, and social work such as helping with manual work in Children's homes. We were involved in cleaning up the Nairobi River last year and this year we will do the same on 21st march. Last year we participated in the World Environmental Day event held at St. Mary's school in Nairobi.

Tr. Samuel Omoro-Patron

### Scout Club

If not being blessed what is it? Being the most active club in the school, the members had the chance to attend the annual founders day held in Arap Moi Primary School to celebrate the birthday of Sir Smith Burden Powell the founder of the movement, where they scooped different barge's as awards for their efforts noted. Due to the current famine/poverty situation in our country, the club launched a charity project; "tuchape kuchapa, poverty i die" (beating poverty, poverty to die) being the theme of the charity to help the needy in our society, that is in line with the scout law No.3 which is:

#### A SCOUT IS USEFUL AND HELPFUL TO OTHERS .

We are also privileged to have as our assistant patron Mr. Kelvin (*Kajiado District Barge Secretary*). Bravo to all members, the newly recruited members, the scout commander, the club patron Mr. Nzioki, the administration and the school fraternity at large. WE SALUTE YOU ALL!!!

Kelvin Kamau—Asst. patron



Mathew Senteu (scouts commander) administering first aid on an injured scout

### Creative Writing

#### My experience in Brother Beausang

My experience in Bro. Beausang has been very exciting since I came here in the year 2005. My progress has been improving, even my behavior! The teachers here are really encouraging and kind. The friends that I have made are nice as are all the other pupils. Our school has been really good because it provides us with books and computers to improve our knowledge. Many teachers have gone, but others have come who are kind and nice. Thanks to the teachers some of the pupils who were a little lazy are now up and running. As for me, all I can say is that where there is a will there is a way! I hope the others who are behind us will follow on our footsteps.

Faith Muthoni Njoki - 13 years, Form 1

#### My experience in Brother Beausang

It has been a very exciting year at Brother Beausang. Since I joined this school in the beginning of the year, I have seen a very big change in my life especially in my studies. This was due to the help of teachers and my fellow students. I would also like to thank the sponsors of the school especially those from Ireland and Australia. When some visited us they helped in our class, and they also sponsored some of the pupils in the school. May the Almighty God bless them and their families wherever they are. I wish the Principal, our sponsors, teachers and all the pupils a happy and enjoyable time.

Lilian Mwende—13 years

#### My experience in Brother Beausang

I like this school because it has helped me in many ways like giving us books, taking us for trips to see wild animals and various places. Then we are given delicious food; electricity has been put so that we can revise; clocks are in each room; there is a computer to help the teachers to type examination and letters. In Brother Beausang I have a nice friend, I like my teachers because they are helping me to read and understand and write well. I thank my sponsor because he/she has helped me be in school and I pray that my sponsor will continue to support the school.

Emmanuel Cheruiyot - Age 12, Class 5

### The giant has woken up again

*"abaa never awake the sleeping dog since you will sleep yourself"* After a long run, and so many obstacles, the giant had hopes of standing on its feet again and going to face other giants from all over the country. The drama club recently performed the play "*the treasure box and the narrative Ingoho the luhya flying vegetable*" with the support of the patrons (Marcus and Orlado). The drama members faced tough competitions at the zonal's held at Enomaatian Girls Secondary school. Nervous, energy, was expanded before the results were announced. Afterwards their curiosity was quenched by a simple call from their patrons saying that they won and were proceeding to the district level. Ahaa!! This was the time tears of joy overwhelmed everybody and they were speechless. We were motivated to go to the districts and perform even better than in the zonal's, unfortunately our best efforts were not quite good enough. What we encourage others is that never loose hope but continue fighting for the best is yet to come. Thanks for the support from the Administration of the school and the entire Brother Beausang community.

Nixon Maina-4R

### Table etiquette on a light touch

Good Manners are some of the most important things a person needs to learn when relating to others but also at the table when eating. Most of us cannot miss a meal even if it meant death. Eating is not just gulping food down your throat but with etiquette considering those you are enjoying the meal with. It is obvious that if most of us were taken to a fancy hotel for dinner, we wouldn't know what to do with all the cutlery on the table and wouldn't know the difference between a soup spoon and a salad fork or a bread plate. Brother Beausang students do not have good table etiquette. 3p's prefer to eat with their hands, thereby undermining the point of inventing the spoon or fork! We do hope that this article will change the eating habits and improve the table manners of these students. We should not speak with our mouth full and wash your hands before eating anything. Use a spoon or fork, unless for ugali, and eat properly, slowly chew your food. Practice table manners and enjoy your food!

Michael Gichinga - 3P

### Jokes corner

One day the Deputy Head teacher Mr. Johnfisher caught a student sneaking through the fence and the conversation went as follows..

**Johnfisher:** Sammy Paul, why are you sneaking through the fence?

**Sammy:** Excuse me sir, I was following Jesus' words

**Johnfisher:** What? What did Jesus say?

**Sammy:** He said we should pass through the narrow paths because the wider paths lead to hell!

**Teacher:** Henry, where were you born?

**Henry:** In Kenya

**Teacher:** Which part of Kenya?

**Henry:** The whole part of my body except my teeth!

Consolata Awuor—3P

<b>Important Dates</b>	-	<b>2009</b>
Closing day	-	3rd April 2009
Staff Seminar	-	27th April – 30th April 2009
<b>Term II Dates</b>		
Opening	-	Monday 4th May 2009
Madaraka Day	-	1st June 2009
Mid-Term Holiday	-	19th June - 22nd June 2009
Closing Day	-	07 August 2009

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Thanks to **St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace**, Australia who are hosting our webpage and this edition of the Beausang Bulletin can be viewed under the following link -  
<http://smeagol.terrace.qld.edu.au/beausang/Pages/mission.html>