



Beausang Bulletin

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From the Principal Br. Francis Otieno

As I mentioned last year in the first Bulletin for 2009, the year began with many positive and exciting events throughout the world; in powerful nations and also in the small village of Emubulbul, Kenya in East Africa where the school entered the year with a new leadership team structure. This year 2010 is the opposite, with tragic events like the Haiti earthquake casting a dark shadow over much of the world.

Vulnerability is not an exceptional experience; at the beginning of this year the Brother Beausang Community experienced some tough moments in the first two months of the year when four of our most promising teachers resigned in order to pursue other opportunities. The resignation of these teachers created an impact in our students as well as the staff and the administration. They left the school in good faith for their future personal development either to serve in other institutions or to advance in their education. As a school we thank them for their contribution and the services offered in the mind and heart of our students and the whole school fraternity.

Volunteers: Volunteering is a core value at Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre and something that is practised in various ways. We were delighted to receive two young Australian men, Ben and Alex, who worked with us for two months, Natalie Cooling (Australia) who worked with us for 3 weeks, Laura Brenda (Germany), who has been with us since last August and will stay till August this year, and Faith Karuma (Kenya), who was our former School Council Captain. They have contributed immensely to our success by contributing goodwill, talent, knowledge, skill, time and energy to serve the school fraternity and community around us. Ultimately, the eye-opening experience is as beneficial to the volunteers as it is to the school community.

Appreciation: It was our pleasure to receive visitors from Australia, Frank Fitzgerald and Peter Hogan, who have been providing valuable assistance in coordinating our Australian educational support scheme for both students and staff of Brother Beausang. We are delighted that they have committed themselves to this important project.

I would like to thank the management of Christ the Teacher Institute of Education CTIE Tangaza College for giving a chance to some energetic and keen young men and women to be involved with BBCEC - Elizabeth Kiarie (Biology and CRE), Fridah Kimani (English and CRE) and Ignatius Kabamba (Geography and CRE).

Secondary School Student Leadership Council members 2010 shortly after official inauguration



Front Row left to right - Martin Muindi, James Muli, Shima Hassan, Ruth Kamau, Jacob Kaluka, Lazarus Muoki, Erick Owiyo, Samuel Nyoro, Rose Wanjiku Bro Francis Otieno

Back row left to right - Tr. Johnfisher, John Naran, Kelvin Odhiambo, Philip Sayalel, Daniel Kuria, Daniel Maina, Sheilla Nduta, Crus Kariuki

We also welcomed from Marist International College Sr. Anthonia Ochike (English), Yusuf Hafsa Bashir, Anne Wambui Wambugu, Solonka Theophylus, and Gerard Kenneth Odhiambo (who have been working in our Pastoral Care Department). The two Colleges are both Constituent Colleges of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. We thank them all for their enormous contribution to our school.

Special thanks also to Fr. Reginald and Fr. Con the Embulbul Parish Priests for guiding us through our Eucharistic celebration every Wednesday. This Mass is a special occasion when Brother Beausang comes together as a family. Thanks also to the Dispensary team for initiating the Health Education program in the secondary school curriculum and to the Counselling Department for providing additional support for our young people. May you all be blessed.

Brother John Corbett:

Disappointment and loss are unavoidable parts of this world of ours. It is with regret that I announce that Brother John Corbett, our Deputy Principal for financial and resource matters, is to go back home to Australia at the end of this term for health reasons. John's thirteen months at BBCEC saw important changes and growth. A lot of renovation took place in the old secondary school to pave the way for the children from the primary school to have a more conducive environment for good teaching and learning.

On behalf of all the Brother Beausang community, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Brother John for serving generously in the school. Brother John assumed this difficult role early last year. He has achieved so much in those months at Brother Beausang. We thank John for his active contributions during our staff capacity building seminar days, in our day to day running of the school, in administration meetings and in one-to-one dealings with staff and parents.

Staff Changes

Thanks to Jennifer Alili, Beatrice Kangongo, Elijah Lemesio, Samuel Otieno and George Amisi (teaching staff) and Abubakar (groundsman) who left us for a new adventures or opportunities elsewhere. We welcome Lawrence, Stephen, Everlyne and Francis who took over from those who left us in the secondary school campus.

In the middle of the year we are expecting and looking forward to receiving Australian visitors for an immersion experience.

As we end this first term I wish you all a very Blessed Easter and may the Risen Christ live in our hearts. Amen.

**Brother Francis Otieno cfc
Principal**

Dear Readers

The first term of the year has come to an end. It has been a busy term for all of us here in Brother Beausang Centre. In this edition much of the focus is on students performance and staff development.

We are in the process of applying to sponsors and donors both locally and internationally to fund us for the construction of stage 3. The primary school; an access road connecting the parish and the school; a playing field that needs to be leveled and building of gabions in the secondary school to avoid soil erosion.

International Immersion - In the beginning of the year we had a group of students from Australia led by Paul Daly who were involved in working in both schools. We expect more groups in the months of June to August that includes St Bernard's Essendon, St. Kevins, Eddie Sheehy and many more we say with one voice - **karibuni sana!**

Remembrance - We kindly request for your prayers for the father of David Koech Class 4 who died recently.

I wish you read this edition with interest and any form of feed back will be highly appreciated.

Thank you all and have a Blessed Easter.

Development Officer (Lenny Limion)

From the Deputy Principal

Once again this term has been a busy one. The beginning of each school year brings with it a sense of energy as well as new hopes and expectations and 2010 was no different. In both the Primary and Secondary campuses we have welcomed new students – 28 new boys and girls into the Nursery class and 78 new Form one students. We also welcomed a small number of new students who joined other classes. I know we all wish these new students well for their time at BBCEC.

The KCPE and KCSE results always generate much interest and evoke a range of emotions – happiness, relief, disappointment and satisfaction. As a school we look at the results very carefully as part of our commitment to the students. Looking at the results and generalizing about can be quite unhelpful. We need to reflect on each student's result in terms of how the student performed through their schooling; their attitude; home factors and what their individual interests and strengths are. The teachers also use the results to review how we teach particular parts of the curriculum and the methodologies employed.

An initiative we took this year was to conduct an Orientation Day for our Form 4 students before school officially opened. Goal setting; how to cope with pressure; time management and study skills were some of the topics covered and hopefully proved useful for the students as they prepared to take on the challenges of Form 4. Another important initiative was the formal assessment of our Primary Special Unit students through Kenyatta Hospital with the assistance of Br. Fred Adhiambo at the Mary Rice Centre. Thanks must go to Br. John Corbett and Teacher Sarah for their work and leadership in this.

This term sees the introduction of the new report format for secondary students. The report will now include a grade for class work; assignments; mid-term CAT as well as the end of term exam and should provide a more accurate reflection of the student's efforts and work throughout the term.

Staff have also been very involved in various professional development activities during the course of the term, attending seminars and workshops on a number of subjects and topics including: review of the KCPE results; Mathematics; Science; Humanities; Languages and the "Excellence in Education" symposium at Tangaza College in early March.

Clubs and sport also form an important part of the overall school curriculum and it is pleasing to note the active participation of students in the clubs such as Justice and Peace; Scouts; Journalism; YCS and Drama, all of whom provide students with opportunities to develop their interest and abilities in these co-curricular activities. Sport and games also have an essential role in the school curriculum and it is in the best interests of the students to look at these activities as way of promoting and developing their many talents.

Best wishes for Easter and the April holidays.

Peter Shanahan
Deputy Principal (Curriculum / Staff Development)



Principal Bro. Francis during the Inauguration of Student leaders in the primary school.

TERM 3 2009 ACADEMIC AWARDS

The following students were presented with certificates of merit at Mass on February 24 2010 to acknowledge their performance in Term 3 2009.

Class Dux

Class 1: Florence Akinyi	Class 6: Vincent Irungu
Class 2: Philip Sankale	Class 7: Kevin Leiyen
Class 3: Giovanni Tonucci	Form 1: Gichuki Mureithi
Class 4: Peter Koroso	Form 2: Peter Mutun'gu
Class 5: Brian Nzuki	Form 3: Daniel Kuria

Certificates of Merit

Form 1: Linda Mwachiki; Corine Ji Sun Wakaria
Form 2: Daniel Sankei; Timothy Kariuki
Form 3: Daniel Maina; Kevin Odhiambo; Eric Owiyo

FORM 4 / CLASS 8 APRIL STUDY PROGRAM

All Form 4 and Class 8 students will be involved in a 2 week study program during the April break as part of their preparations for the KCSE and KCPE respectively.

Topic revision and study skills will be part of the program which runs over 2 weeks – April 12 – 16 and April 19 – 23 (8.00 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.)

AWARD WINNING CARTOONIST AT BBCEC!

It was with great delight and excitement that we learnt in late February that DANIEL KURIA (4P) had won an award in the Mbuga Trust / Daily Nation "Young Kenyan Leader" competition. Daniel's entry in the cartoon section was on the theme of 'Vision 2030 – The Kenya We Want' and was voted one of the best cartoons by the readers and judges of the competition. Daniel received his award from the Mbuga Trust Project Coordinator, Mr. Martin Minns at a special Mass / Awards Ceremony on February 24. Daniel's original cartoon is now proudly on display in the School Office. Congratulations to Daniel.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT COURSES SPONSORED BY MISEAN CARA

"A river that forgets its source shall dry up." The African sages weren't wrong when they said this. Our journey in CORAT as school administrators commenced on this note. Each and everyone was given the opportunity to retrace and openly share with the rest his/her river of life. From the individual sharing, it was quite apparent that none of the recounted rivers were completely straight and that we all normal and human beings are bound to encounter moments of pain, joy and challenges. Nevertheless the rivers have to keep moving on to the destination that God destined for them. At the end of this exercise (retracing our rivers of life), it was hardly realized that a family with a common mission in this world had been created. We all did come from diverse cultures and backgrounds, but the bonding happened so fast thanks to the rivers of our various lives. It became so strong that when groups challenged each other during class discussions, it was done with such humor and love that none left the class with any bitterness.



Principal Bro Francis, Deputy Headteacher Johnfisher and the class representatives

Continued on page 3 column

Stewardship and Accountability ushered us into the reality of our work as school managers. Through this course we learnt to appreciate that life is about being responsible and answerable to God, oneself and others so that we can become effective in whatever we do. The introduction to Educational Management was indeed rewarding. The acts of directing, planning, coordinating in order to realize school and educational goals are management roles that any school manager cannot escape. The course was therefore a good refresher and a wakeup call to all of us. As stewards and managers we also learn that we need to possess the qualities that come with the pair. These were brought out quite clearly in leadership and Governance: The ability to influence others to move towards realizing the goals of our institutions. Through **Human Resource and Development** we were also reminded of the need to realize that each individual employee in our various institutions is a unique creation of God, made for a purpose and equipped with special skills and talents. We should therefore acknowledge and appreciate the dignity of people as authentic bearers of God's image. One theologian has it that: Our life is bound to be full of crosses since the Christ whom we follow died on the cross. Therefore **problems/problem solving and decision making** are almost a daily business. The problem here is NOT the problem, but the most important thing is how to solve the problem nor is it the decision, but how we arrive at the decision. As I give this course overview I have every reason to believe that the school managers (who took part in this cause) are currently well versed in the steps in decision making. Arriving at informed decisions in their institution will no longer cause sleepless nights to them. Directly related to problem solving is and indeed was **CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**: As in the problem solving, the issue is how to handle conflicts whenever they come up both within and without our institutions. Whatever the case, any conflict provides a valuable opportunity for learning. The course on **STRESS MANAGEMENT** would not have come at a better time. We are indeed fully aware that any person in leadership has to withstand pressures from both the team and the individual members of the team. How to deal with stress was adequately addressed in this course. It is said that working with a demotivated staff is akin to handling a hungry donkey. The course on **MOTIVATION AND JOB SATISFACTION** gave the educators the chance to explore various ways of motivating their staff. Just as the body and its parts cannot work without a free, effective and efficient flow of blood so is an institution without efficient **COMMUNICATION**. Communication is the lifeblood of an organization/institution. As school managers, efficient flow of communication in all the departments of our institutions does not only influence action towards the welfare of the institution, but also help in dealing decisively with idlers and gossipers at the workplace. Our three week stay in CORAT would not have been complete without tackling something on **financial management and Budgetary control**, that is, planning for acquisition of funds, ensuring that funds received are recorded and properly accounted for because it is the availability of this scarce commodity that keeps our institution running. Finally, just as the tall and straight tree is the pride of the forest; the fastest deer the pride of the park; a clean veranda and well kept flower garden the pride of the householder, a beautiful and hardworking wife the pride of the husband, so should we remain the pride of our various institution, knowing fully well that no calling is as noble as that of a teacher. *SOLI DEO GLORIA – TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY. AMEN*

We say a big THANK YOU to the MISEAN CARA for their generous support in sponsoring this course. The school administrators sponsored for this course comprised: From Brother Beausang-Francis Otieno, principal; Catherine Gathogo, headteacher; Johnfisher Ondigo, deputy headteacher; Evaline Njagi, headteacher primary and Reuben centre represented by Scholastica Opiyo, headteacher. Recently the Misien Cara sponsored our school secretary, Christine, to a three week course for administrative secretaries. In June Lenny, the Development Officer and (October) Grace, the Bursar will equally benefit from Miseen Cara sponsorship.

Written and compiled by: Mak'Ondigo Johnfisher-Dep. Headteacher



The secondary school senior class and first grade pupils during the opening Mass



Bro. Francis, Tr. Mary with best students in academics 2009

Pastoral care

2010 has been a year of many events in our school and first term has given us direction on how and where to direct our energy in trying to make life better in this environment. We have gone through different experiences up to now; journeying with individuals and groups at large. Firstly we have received five students who have been working with us; Gerald Odhiambo, Hafsa Bashir, Theophyllus Solonka, Anne Wambui all from Marist International college and Br. James Awiah from Tangaza College. Their presence has been of great significance to both staff and students in our school community. They have participated in different activities such as home visits, counseling, Form One admission, one to one talk with the students, working in Special Unit and office work. We really appreciate their contribution which has been of great impact to our institution. We wish them all the best as they go back to continue with their studies. Home visits have been a great experience and yet a challenging one. This first term we started with the primary section. We have visited many families in Embulbul, Kariobangi, Kangawa, Olepolos, Tosheka, Kerarapon, Kibiko, Ngong, Vet, Karen, Shade and other areas where the student come from. It has been exciting, adventurous, challenging, and sometimes tiresome but we had to forge forward so as to meet our goals of trying to know, understand, meet and form a relationship with our students and their families. Home visits have given us the chance to share, listen and contribute where we can in and about the life of our students. It always give us the clear picture of knowing and try to understand the lives of students we are having, their background, their joy and suffering, their strength and weakness, their struggles and their hopes. There are many challenges we encounter and these usually gives us time to reflect on our own lives and the lives of those people we share with daily and thus it becomes the source of energy to move forward. There are many expectations around and all can't be fulfilled, there has to be a time in life when disappointment is the only friend but that doesn't mean we are at the terminus. We have to find a way out, rejuvenate and keep going. We thank all the students who have cooperated with us and made everything successful. And for those who we have not visited, don't sulk, for the time is coming. Counselling is an important part of school programme. It usually helps one to relieve him/herself, be open and ready to share both joyful and painful experiences that life lays for us. It's an opportunity to start the process of healing, gaining confidence in oneself and building self esteem. We are planning to have regular counseling activities both one on one and group counseling. This will help us to be aware of individual and group issues which need to be addressed. We encourage students those who are willing to share about their daily life to take this opportunity and utilize it. Our office is always welcoming and our ears open to listen to you. We wish you all the best in your exams and a prosperous Easter Holidays.

If the power to work hard is not a skill its the best substitute ever -James A Garfield

Hard Work Defined

My definition of hard work is that which challenges you.

And why is challenge important? Why not just do what's easiest?

Most people will do what's easiest and avoid hard work — and that's precisely why you should do the opposite. The superficial opportunities of life will be attacked by hordes of people seeking what's easy. The much tougher challenges will usually see a lot less competition and a lot more opportunity.

There's an African gold mine two miles deep. It cost tens of millions of dollars to construct, but it's one of the most lucrative gold mines ever. These miners tackled a very challenging problem with a lot of hard work, but ultimately it's paying off.

Strong challenge is commonly connected with strong results. Sure you can get lucky every once in a while and find an easy path to success. But will you be able to maintain that success, or is it just a fluke? Will you be able to repeat it? Once other people learn how you did it, will you find yourself overloaded with competition?

When you discipline yourself to do what is hard, you gain access to a realm of results that are denied to everyone else. The willingness to do what is difficult is like having a key to a special private treasure room.

The nice thing about hard work is that it's universal. It doesn't matter what industry you're in — hard work can be used to achieve positive long-term results regardless of the specifics.

Hard work pays off. When someone tells you otherwise, beware. The greater your capacity for hard work, the more rewards fall within your grasp. The deeper you can dig, the more treasure you can potentially find.

Being healthy is hard work. Finding and maintaining a successful relationship is hard work. Getting organized is hard work. Setting goals, making plans to achieve them, and staying on track is hard work. Even being happy is hard work (true happiness that comes from high self-esteem, not the fake kind that comes from denial and escapism).

Hard work goes hand-in-hand with acceptance. One of the things you must accept are those areas of your life that won't succumb to anything less than hard work. Perhaps you've had no luck to get great grades. *Maybe the only way its going to happen is if you accept you're going to have to do what you've been avoiding.* Perhaps you want to score an A. Maybe it's time to accept that the path to your goal requires disciplined diet and exercise (both hard work). Perhaps you want to increase your scores in math's. Maybe you should accept that the only way it will happen is with a lot of hard work, Your life will reach a whole new level when you stop avoiding and fearing hard work and simply surrender to it. Make it your ally instead of your enemy. It's a potent tool to have on your side. And as the quote goes - *The difference between a successful person and others is not lack of strength not lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will- Vince Lombardi*

Daniel Wanjira Kuria 4P

“One thing you may be sure of, is that while you work for God - whether you succeed or not - He will amply reward you:”

Blessed Edmund Rice



Mr. Peter Shanahan, Br Francis Otieno during the presentation of Academic Merit awards



Tr. Elizabeth and students of Form IR collecting specimen for a biology practical lesson

Justice and Peace club One of the main events we had this term was to host 24 high school students from the Netherlands. This was an exchange program known as “Going Global”. Our members had an ample time with the expatriates. The main activity was a one to one interaction where each student paired with the visitor. There was the plenary discussion and presentations like skits and short plays and games too. The topic of discussion was the HIV/ Aids, its effects and the role of the youth in fighting against the spread of and stigma. The whole event which was sponsored by the Kenyan Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR). It is one of the NGOs that work with our club. The club now makes presentations at the assembly on child rights and responsibilities. We have also hosted three other events; training of teachers on advocacy, meeting rights club officials and lastly the networking team of different of different secondary schools. Our club is becoming more vibrant with time. At the moment we take care of the Edmund Rice Network tree nursery in the school. We seek for more networking and we are open to receive members from all classes.

Tr Samuel Omoro
Patron

Important Dates 2010

Term II

- Opening day : 3rd May
- Feast of Edmund Rice : 5th May
- Madaraka day holiday : 1st June
- CAT week : 14th-16th June
- Mid term break: 18th June
- Beausang 10th year anniversary celebrations
- End of Term Exams 19th July to 4th August
- Closing day 4th August

Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre Website

On December 14th our new website, www.bbcec.org, was launched. It is full of information about our school and over the coming weeks, months and years will expand to keep the world informed about our schools. Thanks to St Fintan's CBS Ireland.

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Thanks to [St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace](http://www.stjosephscollegegregoryterrace.com.au), Australia and [St. Fintan's CBS Ireland](http://www.stfintanscbsireland.com) who are hosting our webpages and this edition of the Beausang Bulletin can be viewed under the following links - <http://smeagol.terrace.qld.edu.au/beausang/Pages/mission.html> or <http://www.bbcec.org/>