



Beausang Bulletin

principal@beausang.org
beausangb@gmail.org
dev.beausang@gmail.com
studentsb@gmail.com

November ,2008

Volume 4 Issue 2

P. O. Box 1416
Karen - 00502
Nairobi
Kenya.

Phone: + 254 020 883 642
Mobile: + 254 723 751 535

School Motto: CARPE DIEM

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Visitors

We have both welcomed and said farewell to a number of international visitors to the school. Sixteen students and staff from St David's Christian Brothers School in Artane, Ireland, spent a total of two weeks with us. During this time they participated in home visits, painted the primary school, visited the Ruben Centre, and were even brave enough to take on Beausang students in a game of football. We thank them for their enthusiasm and enormous contribution to the school and wish them all the best on their return to Ireland. The six Australians, all close relatives of mine, also entered wholeheartedly into the life of the school, and shared their many talents with us. Both groups made presentations at our weekly liturgies, and both have been very generous in their financial and sponsorship support.

Many of these participants described their experiences in the school and parish as being life-changing. The home visit program, in particular, gave our visitors a unique insight into living conditions here.

Br John Corbett recently completed a two week visit with us, during which he was fully briefed on our operation. We are delighted that he has committed himself to working here for the next two years as a co-Deputy Principal.

Ms Sarah Ryan has been providing valuable assistance in coordinating our administration documents and producing a staff handbook.

Leadership

I would like to congratulate Br. Francis Otieno on his appointment as Principal, and also Mr. Peter Shanahan and Br. John Corbett on their appointments as co-Deputy Principals. As Br Francis has a detailed knowledge and appreciation of our school, and the two Australians bring with them vast experience of school administration, I will leave confident in the knowledge that the future of the school is in safe hands.

From the Development Officer

I am not sure how you feel, but this year seems to have flown. The final edition of the Beausang Bulletin for 2008 provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the many activities and events that took place during the year.

As 'they' say, "change is the only constant" and we have witnessed considerable change. Perhaps the greatest of all, was the election of Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States of America and the announcement of a national holiday to honor his historical achievement. Hope you find this historic event inspirational especially to our young students - future 'Obamas' and 'Michelles'.

We also saw change in staffing levels. We farewell Br. Laurie who has done an absolutely outstanding job during his three years as Principal – who could believe someone could achieve so much in three years. He has worked tirelessly over the course of this time and we will miss him very much. On the other hand, we welcome to the Beausang fold Mr. Peter Shanahan and Br. John Corbett who will take up the positions of Deputy Principal at the commencement of the new school term.

With all this positive change, 2009 promises to be a terrific year. Wishing you all the best for the festive season and looking forward to seeing everyone back on deck next year.

Headmound Okari



Current Secondary School Building

A great deal of planning has taken place to ensure that there is a smooth transition with the new school leadership team. Br Francis, Br John and Peter plan to work together very closely. Br John Corbett will assume major responsibilities in the areas of Finance, Building, and Administration, while Mr. Peter Shanahan will have major responsibilities in the areas of education, staff and students. Br John recently spent two weeks here familiarizing himself with our operation, and Peter traveled up from Arusha for a series of information and planning sessions.

Building

At the time of writing the Stage 2 building is virtually completed, except for the installation of benches and cupboards in the science laboratories. We are also adding a number of items, including a large water tank, fencing around the sewage treatment plant, additional security provisions, and some modification in the IT laboratory.

The Stage 2 Building is linked to the existing Classroom block, and incorporates the following:

1. Library
2. Administration
3. Chemistry & Physics Laboratory
4. Biology Laboratory
5. Science Preparation Room

Our intention is to move furniture and goods into the new building in the last week on November, after classes conclude on 21st November. The library has been computerized. A considerable amount of work is involved in regard to the library, laboratories, and administration. As far as possible, we aim to have everything in readiness for the start of the new academic year in early January.

Personal Reflection

My three year term as Principal of Beausang is rapidly nearing an end, and I am soon to return to Australia. My role here has turned out to be very different to what had been originally planned. The parish was to have assumed all responsibility for capital development, freeing me to focus on the educational and academic aspects of the school. In the changed circumstances following the departure of Fr Kevin McGarry, it was necessary for me to move into these areas. We have been remarkably blessed by the generosity of our donors, so that our school complex in 2009 is one in which we can take great pride. However, as a result, I have not been able to give nearly as much attention as I had hoped to the academic programs in the school.

The school has made a very good beginning, but it is still at the early stages. So much more is possible if we follow our school motto and 'Seize the opportunity'.

I confess to gaining particular satisfaction from the following developments:

- The school is now on a reasonably solid financial and administrative footing, and can plan with confidence for the future.
- The two major buildings constructed at the secondary school provide the opportunity for modern and high quality educational programs; detailed plans exist for future development.
- The sponsorship program is making it possible for our school to be faithful to its charter of catering for local needy youth; without this financial support, we would be forced to enroll only students whose parents could afford school fees.
- Our immersion program for visitors has been outstandingly successful, proving to be of great value to both our many international visitors, and to our school community. The links are mutually beneficial.
- Visitors always remark on the friendly welcome they receive; we are clearly developing as a genuine Christian community.
- Our students are gradually coming to realize their potential.

I would like to thank both the Beausang school community and the Embulbul parish community for their friendship and support during the past three years. I am well aware that my limited knowledge of African culture and language has been a major disadvantage in my performing this key leadership role, and so I am appreciative of allowances others have made. I have learned and gained much from the local community, and am appreciative of the support and kindness given to me.

I wish you all every blessing for the future.

Br. Laurence Collins
Principal



Irish Immersion Group presenting a song in the Church.



Australian visitors presenting a song in Church

From the incoming Principal

Farewell Br. Laurie!

On behalf of all the Beausang community I would like to take this opportunity to farewell and thank Br. Laurie.

Br. Laurie assumed the role of Principal of the school in 2005. He has achieved so much in his three years at Br. Beausang Catholic Education Centre. We only have to look around us to catch a glimpse of the results of his efforts. Take the construction of the new Secondary School and resource block for example. He was instrumental in seeing this development through to its completion and our secondary school students are already enjoying the benefits of this new establishment.

Br. Laurie has always maintained a strong and positive vision for the school. He is a strategic planner, having overseen the successful completion of two stages of the school's Master Plan as set out by the school's founder, Fr. Kevin McGarry. He has also been a strong ambassador for the school. He has forged strong links with donors and sponsors, ensuring that as many students as possible have access to quality education.

Br. Laurie's enduring legacy at Brother Beausang will be his consultative and collaborative leadership. This is most indicative through the development of the school's revised Mission Statement.

Whilst we shall miss Br. Laurie, I am really looking forward to working with our new co-Deputy Principals - Peter Shanahan and Br. John Corbett in 2009. Our school is changing every day and I'm honored and privileged to be leading the school in 2009.

Br. Francis Otieno cfc
Incoming Principal



Sarah Ryan and some of primary school kids

Br Beausang is a terrific school and community. It's been a delight to come to school each day and to be greeted by many smiling faces and cheeky grins. I shall return to Australia with fond memories of this supportive and positive learning environment.

My experience at Br Beausang has been an awesome one. I would like to thank Br. Laurie, staff and students for welcoming me so warmly and for the opportunity to share precious insights into the lives of others.

Sarah Ryan

BAOBAB

We would like to thank the Baobab project for making us proud. It has enabled us to build our life skills and entrepreneurship skills. It was of great help to us in the sense that before the introduction of the project, We had the desire to become entrepreneurs although we couldn't. But with the help of the project through Mr. Stephen Nduuru, we are now sure of starting our own businesses through the training we underwent. On behalf of the other members, we appreciate the trainers and the mentors of Technoserve who were of great help to us. We will not forget to thank the school administration and more so the principal Br. Laurence for supporting us to achieve this training. Last but not least, we would like to urge other girls to discover their hidden talents and explore them to enlighten their future life. For they say: To educate a man is educating the society but educating a WOMAN is educating the WHOLE WORLD.

Celine Ndinda, Ejidia Lau and Mary Muthoni



Bro. Laurie Collins with the Baobab Group.

Appreciation letter from an old student

Nothing comes easy and behind every success there lies a mind that is determined, Focused and willing to work, That would be my word for the form four class of this year and the rest of the students in the other forms.

I believe that, you being a group of young people just like myself, are nurturing dreams in you that one day you'll be somewhere having achieved your on set goals. And targets: It's every bit possible!

I would like to encourage all of you to work hard, focus and strive to go an extra mile as you stretch to reach your targets. Also remember to hang on to your faith when discouragements set in because I believe that the worst a person can do to him/herself is to let pessimism take over when the outcomes happen to be below one's expectation.

Ever since I was a kid, I've always dreamt of one day wearing that green outfit that surgeons spot when at work and even at the moment, believe that my opportunity to achieve and live that dream is still out there somewhere; just a little patience and a few more prayers and I'll be there.

Finally let me express my appreciation to the school administration and the entire Brother Beausang community, who were over the years a family that was always warm and accommodative to us. My special thanks goes to the principal Brother Laurie whom along with the sponsorship committee ensured that our fees for the whole year were paid and that we had a humble time to be in school and study throughout.

May God bless you abundantly.

Also I can't forget my dear teachers who through genuine sacrifice and dedication, struggled to make sure that we were all well prepared for our exam. I've got outmost admiration and respect for you folks. I remember you were always there when we needed you, patient to attend to us even when the official time for learning could be over, you abandoned your own "shughulis" to be with us over the holidays and above all you untiring efforts to guide and advise us.

It's my prayer that God will always rain his blessings on you and be your ever flowing source of wisdom and strength as you continue doing your work.

Thank you,

Rhoda Moraa.



K.C.P.E 2008 candidates

School Captain 2008

The advent of Br. Laurie in 2006 to the helm of Br. Beausang leadership ushered in a new wave of impetus in the great strides this school has made towards excellence in academics and other areas of relevance. You will agree with me that it is not mere exaggeration that the academic performance and discipline among the students as well as the motivated culture of team work among teachers and support staff has been at its best during his time. Br. Laurie has been able to make Br. Beausang an ideal learning institution that parents are yearning to bring their children to.

Thanks to Br. Laurie for his aggressive support in securing sponsorships for many students which has made them learn without interruptions. The school, especially students, can boast of very beautiful classrooms that have made learning very enjoyable. We do appreciate his efforts for tirelessly sourcing for funds to build the first phase of the school building. This is one of the significant achievements the students will remember him greatly for. A lot has been achieved through his dedication, commitment, support and sacrifice that he has offered to the Br. Beausang fraternity.

As Br. Laurie leaves the school, we, the Br. Beausang community want to wish him well and may God bless him abundantly for the good work he has done for us. Surely his efforts are not in vain.

Faith Karuma - School Council Captain



This edition of Beausang Bulletin is sponsored by Mercy Secondary School Mountbhawk, Ireland. We much appreciate their generous support.

Important Dates - 2009

Opening -

Administration 5th January 2009

Staff 6th January 2009

Students 7th January 2009

Mid-Term Holiday 27th February

Closing day 10th April 2009

Opening Second term 4th May 2009

*Compiled and Edited by Headmound Okari.
headmoundokari@yahoo.com*