



Beausang Bulletin

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Reflection

Looking back over the seven months of the year, many things have happened and I appreciate and thank God that all of our staff members and students, as well as the parents, have been part and parcel of this unfolding anecdote. Each and every one of us has shown great commitment whilst working hard to reflect the ideals and values of our school which have been expressed in the different staff monthly meetings, briefings, assemblies, and parent meetings. The parents have a good understanding especially those who occasionally come to seek the admission opportunities in the school.

Parents now receive much more information about the school and are taking a strong initiative in building these important partnerships of students/parents and staff and parish as well as village

Brother Beausang school community continues to be a place where who we are and what we are trying to do is intricately linked to the priorities of the Christian values as stated well in part of our mission statement.

"We aim to ensure that students with special needs will be provided with appropriate education opportunity, in partnership with families so that students can develop their skills and be prepared to accept the challenges of meaningful participation in the society"

At this stage of second term we still face the challenge in dealing with those families seeking admission even as late as now. Unfortunately we are not able to provide these families with these opportunities because of the limited space in both primary and secondary levels. This has become a big call to us as a school.

From my learning and experience, leadership in both education as well as in families is about listening to others making people feel welcomed and at ease even if the admission chances is not available. It is important that our actions are faithful to our endeavours. I am pleased in how the two Deputy Principals have shown this model of leadership as part of their long journey in various leadership roles.

As the first term ended we had a successfully facilitated executive meeting of which we reflected over our term one experience. This has given us much focus for the continuing development of the school both primary and secondary.

Staff seminar

The ongoing commitment to the staff in-service has been part of our life here in Brother Beausang community every year. This is something not all private schools in Kenya have as a formal program for teachers. Therefore we are privileged to have this opportunity and I am happy that the teachers use it well and really appreciate the input given by invited guests and experienced facilitators we are very grateful to the Counselling Centre for providing us with their professional services, resources and support. This is one of the opportunities that the school should always be thankful to God for.



Br. Francis Otieno cfc
Principal

Visitors

Even a day visit can make a difference in any school/community. In the course of this term we had an unexpected visit from the Christian Brothers' African Provincial Leadership Team, led by Br. Richard Walsh. ***"Great to see the progress to date"*** His word of appreciation is sincerely appreciated. Many of our visitors described their experience in the school as being renewed. Early in the second term a group of nine students and their two lecturers Professor Jim and Teresa Johnson from Iona Christian Brothers College USA spent two weeks with us in the school. The group had a wonderful immersion program with us. There were deep and mutual relationships experienced within the group and the school. As this was the first large group to visit us from America their time here supremely satisfactory and rewarding for both hosts and visitors. Many of them expressed their desire to return to volunteer here in Embulbul after completing their university programs. Towards the end of June and the beginning of July we were pleasantly overwhelmed and blessed by multiple visitors from St. Bernard Essendon College led by Bruce Wallace, and from St. Kevin College Melbourne Victoria led by Tom Purcell. Another group of six led by Br. John Carrigg from some key Christian Brothers Schools in Australia.. I thank the principals of these colleges Mr Mark Sawle St. Aquinas College, Mr. Paul Tobias St. Joseph Geelong, Mr. Ian McDonald St. Laurence Brisbane and Mr. Jeff Croser Rostrevor College for allowing this wonderful people to come and share with us their rich experience and insights.

Another wonderful and supportive group from Mercy Secondary School Mounthawk in Ireland was led by Fr. Kevin Sullivan, We also had as an individual school supporter and a friend to the school Eddie Sheehy. The school will happily remember his visits being timed to coincide with the many sports events. This will help to energise the teams in developing team spirit and cooperation.



Primary school during break time



Brother Russel and Iona group during a tree planting session

As a school we continue to thank them all for their great support and their warm remarks on how generously and friendly they were welcomed into our lives and how we were accepted into their lives too. These visits have been generous for us all, whether physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Appreciation

Of special note to our Italian sponsors through the Capuchin Sisters through Sr. Immanuela and Sr. Teresa, Daughter of St. Joseph Sisters (DSJ) in Embulbul Parish Individual person like Eddie Sheehy, Peter Hogan and his team one of our great supporters of our sponsorship program. There is no government funding for these students and pupils and they simply would not be able to afford to come to school without sponsorship that has been provided by these people.

Stephan the young German volunteer is finishing at the end of the term after one years work in Brother Beausang. We really appreciate his work and support that he has made to the school.

I would like to express my appreciation to the student teachers for their valuable contributions to the school.

Secondary school: Mary Midida, Roseline kerubo (Kiswahili/CRE) both from Nairobi University. (Geography/Business studies), Sr. Lucy (English/Literature), Sr. Leonide Soazandry (Geography CRE), Sr. Melanie Totou (Geography History) from Marist International University, Mwanajuma Faridah Social/pastoral Ministry from Tangaza College

Primary School: Daughter of St. Joseph Sisters (Postulants): Jacinta Kimonto, Esther Wanjau, Grace Nyaga, Margaret Ndegwa. Caroline James and Jacinta Achieng' both in (pre-primary) who are doing their teaching attachment in the school

Volunteers:

Christopher Owino (primary library). Brother Leo Mwenda (Dominican) helping in the Computer classes in the secondary



Primary kids having lunch

Staff Changes

Considerable appreciation is expressed to Br. Ignatius Kitwe cfc for the contribution he made to the school in the last one and half years of service. His warm hospitality and generosity in the pastoral care office has been contagious. Ignatius' giftedness in coordinating both primary and secondary school liturgy every week was just excellent. His participation in briefing and organizing the home visits especially with our immersion visitors is a gap yet to be filled.

Thanks also to Mr. Marcus Wambua for the active contributions he made to the drama and journalism club. Marcus left us for a new adventure or opportunity elsewhere. We welcome Jennipher Alili who took over from Marcus' position in English and Literature subjects in the secondary school.

During these two terms, two staff members Beatrice Kangogo (teacher) and Grace Wanjugu (Bursar) have taken maternity leave. We rejoice with them both on the safe arrival of Tony Kemboi on the 17th of February and Stella Wangoi on the 23rd of April 2009. We wish them all good health and strength as they continue to grow.

Losses

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we lost quite a number of our student's parents as well as one staff member's parent within a short period of time this term. The death of these parents has left orphans in a heart-breaking situation. These youngsters will be struggling with their everyday living. May the souls of their loved ones rest in peace with God their creator. Let us remember that scriptural quotation: "*How blessed are those who consider the helpless*".

Br. Francis otieno
Principal



Tr. Eva with class 3 pupils.



St. Bernard's Essendon staff during their visit in Br. Beausang

From the Deputy Principal—Curriculum and Staff Development

Term 2 has been a busy one for all the students and staff at BBCEC. Early in the term we recognized the achievements of those students in both Primary and Secondary who did very well in their Term 1 reports. The **Merit Awards** were presented by the Christian Brothers District Leader, Br Gerard Ellul and the Principal, Br Francis Otieno at our Edmund Rice Day Celebration Mass. As I mentioned in the March edition of the Beausang Bulletin, the secondary students received a Report Reply form with their term report and the responses we received (nearly 80% returned their form) have been very helpful in both our short term and long term planning. **Study skills** was one issue that was mentioned by many students and in response to this a number of sessions were held to help support the students. Issues such as time management; how to plan study time; different types of study techniques and even food and exercise were all mentioned. The collated feedback was distributed to all teachers for review and action.

We were also fortunate to receive a grant from the Oceania Province (Australia / New Zealand) for a **professional development program** that has allowed us to conduct a 2 week **Examination Preparation Program** for our KCSE and KCPE students in the upcoming August break. These programs will be a combination of revision and study skills and whilst this will be focused on the Form 4 and Standard 8 students this year, the plan is to extend this for other classes in 2010.

Another area we have been looking at is the current **report format** for secondary students and the plan is to include two additional assessment tasks (a mark for class work and also for a major assignment) in 2010. These will be in addition to the CAT and end of term exam. I believe this will provide students and parents with a report that is more reflective of the effort and skills of the students put in over the term, rather than the current format which is really an exam summary.

Finally I would like to commend the students for their efforts throughout the term. Term 3 will obviously be an important one for all the students particularly the examination candidates and I know all BBCEC staff – teaching and non teaching – will be fully committed to supporting our young people as they prepare for the challenges that lie ahead.

Peter Shanahan



Mr Kihoria, Mr Mugambi, Ms. Mungai and students dissecting a rabbit during a Biology lesson.

It is with profound joy that I wish to share with you this edition of the Beausang bulletin. Term II has come to an end after 14 weeks of school work for both campuses. We are very grateful to all our visitors and you are all very welcomed again. Renovation of the old secondary school for the use of upper primary is currently underway and we hope to move them in by the beginning of term III. Congratulations to **Purity Nduta** (4R) for emerging in top three nationwide in a Justice and Peace essay writing competition. A big thanks to the choir for making our weekly Mass lively and to all staff and students I wish you happy holidays and looking forward to the beginning of term III.

I hope you read with interest this edition of our bulletin and any form of feedback will be highly appreciated. From Brother Beausang we say Asanteni Sanai!

Thank you and wish you God's blessings.

Lenny Limion

Development Officer.



ERN NTERNTIONAL GATHERING UPDATE

ERN international gathering kicked off on a high note. On 24th evening we had a very captivating ritual in which the four major elements of the cosmos: Soil, Air, Water and Fire were symbolically used.

The participants brought with them small amount of soil and water from their various places. To begin with we had the soil or soils put together into container to symbolise the oneness and unity created by our diversities. Next we had the bubble game (the air)-let your spirit fly free like that of Blessed Edmund Rice. Thereafter we had the water in one container-drinking from the same well of life. We concluded with the fire in the Chapel – keep the fire burning-that inner strength catalysing the ERN into action across the globe. The concluding prayer around the tomb of Edmund Rice was equally moving. The following morning Br. Peter Dowling gave an opening remark which to me set the tone and the mood for the gathering. He dwelt on Jesus' visions to humankind: Inclusivity and that a society is judged by the way it treats the marginalised and the most vulnerable; gathering people to share their stories; true worship of God is in faith and in truth; advocacy for justice and fairness. Since Jesus lived everything he said, so should we in the network. The Edmund Rice trail in Waterford in the evening of 25th was such a wonderful venture. We visited quite a number of places connected with Edmund. I was particularly impressed by the Irish's connectedness to the past. Many historical sites dating back to the 15th and 16th century are preserved. The sharings about the ERN works in various provinces have been quite encouraging. Oceania, for example, has the most organised ERN structures. The ERN in South America is doing a great work particularly among the rural poor. Two out of three students (CBS) are involved in outreach programmes among the poor and marginalised in Argentina and the other South American countries where the brothers are working.

Above. Ondigo Johnfisher outside Callan house Ireland where blessed Edmund Rice was born and brought up.



Br. Gerard Ellul, Br. Francis, Tr. Eva, Tr. Mary, and Shila presenting merit awards to primary school pupils during Mass.



Maryanne Wanjiku inflating lungs during a dissection practical session as Mercy Nganga looks on..

OUR LABORATORIES

Since the official opening of our new laboratory building, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer they have been of great help to all the students. During practicals in the laboratories they help one to understand what he/she is taught and it sticks to the mind. The apparatus in the lab are available throughout and they are the most modernized apparatus so far in this world of technology. With the aid of the sciences teachers if u don't understand anything well during the practical, they are ready to help by repeating the practical and explain things again. This shows the commitment of the teachers. They are not only filled with apparatus but also are spacious and well ventilated. It has modern benches and seats which makes a student feel comfortable and in a good place. I take this golden chance to encourage the students to seize the opportunity by properly using the laboratories, which will enhance their learning in science. By doing this the saying 'seeing is believing' will be put into practice!

Jane Mugambi 4P

Student leader



Students learning computers in the new IT lab.

Filling the pages

Gersthofen – that's where I'm from, Embul-bul, that's where I went to. Two names, one filled my mind with pictures, memories and associations, the other one was just a constellation of letters for me, a name, a place on a map.

Gymnasium bei St. Anna, that's the school where I used to study, Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre, the school I would go to. The memories of one were of people, colours and sounds, the other one an empty pot, a blank sheet of paper, still air.

The moment I came to Embul-bul the name developed a meaning and soon became full with new memories and associations.

As soon as I arrived at BBCEC, the empty pot became filled with life, the blank paper full of colours and the air started swinging (that one in particular ;)

Living in Embul-bul and working in BBCEC has made my world bigger and widened my perspective.

I have been taught more than I could ever teach and been given more than I could ever give.

Asante sana to all of you.

Your (only German!;) Stefan Kreutner



Sr. Teresa with visitors from Italy during a visit at the primary school

Important Dates	-	2009
Closing day	-	7 August 2009
Staff Seminar	-	31st August – 4th Sept 2009
Term III Dates		
Opening	-	Monday 7th Sept 2009
Moi Day	-	10th Oct 2009
Kenya Day	-	20th Oct 2009
KCSE exams	-	21st Oct 2009
KCPE exams	-	10th Nov 2009
Closing Day	-	27th Nov 2009

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"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)

Thanks to [St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace](http://www.stjosephscollegegregoryterrace.com.au), 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>