



SAAS

SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

ISSUE NO: 34

2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Ministry of Education released a 2021 Calendar for students. This was after the 2020 school calendar being considered void. There is an increase in several terms compared to the previous school calendars. This year students will be covering 4 terms to cover up for the lost time due to COVID. It is our wish and prayer that COVID could be kept under control so that schools won't be closed again.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

We closed our Mombasa office from the 24th of December to the 2nd of January for Christmas Holiday. On behalf of the SAAS fraternity, we are taking this opportunity to wish all the SAAS directors, donors, families, and students a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year of 2021.

FOOD RELIEF PROGRAMME

We wish to appreciate our donors who supported this food program until Phase 8. During this COVID time, most parents are laid off from work hence causing them to experience a lot of hardship in meeting their basic needs like Rents, Medical, Food, etc. SAAS donors came through and lifted off the burden of setting food on the table. Here family members were blessed to have food packages that contained maize flour, wheat flour, beans, rice, cooking oil, soap, and sanitary towels. This supply was sufficient to last one month or so.

More than 120 families have benefited from this food program since we started phase 1 in May to Phase 8 in December.



Left: Food before packing. Center: Food after being packed Right: Parents happily receiving the food.

SAAS FUNDAY

We normally have our end of year fun day in the SAAS office compound, but this year we decided to conduct this event at the shores of Nyali beach. This was a huge success!

The main agenda of this event is for them to interact with one another also to participate fully in the fun activities which we had arranged for them. These included paper games, balloon games, rope tag, football, rugby, swimming, entertainment, and a few more similar events. We all had a good time with one another!

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

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Directors: Gina Woods, David Maguire, Vanessa Hayes, Henry McLoughlin, Vat No: IE9579195E Charity No: CHY 17318



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During this activity, we grasped that the students are looking forward to resuming school in 2021. They are now fully prepared with information about COVID. Come 2021 they will take full precautions in taking care of their safety in addition to acquiring their basic needs in life that is EDUCATION.

Students appreciated SAAS donors and the office in general for being close to them emotionally and physically. In addition to that, through your help, they were able to receive a supply of sanitary towels and food parcels.

The day ended well with us sharing a meal as a family. We wish to thank you donors, for making this event a successful one. All the students wished everyone in SAAS a Merry Christmas and Happy Prosperous NewYear.



Top photos; students having fun. Bottom photo: Girls happy to receive their packs.

CANDIDATES BACK TO SCHOOL

Kenya cautiously reopened Schools, Colleges and Universities on 12th October of 2020, after an extended break caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that forced the closure of schools in March.

The Education Ministry authorized learners in Grade 4, Standard 8, and Form 4 to start reporting to school for physical learning, as parents wait to know when other classes will begin again.

The schools were reopened under stringent measures, including social distancing in class, wearing face masks, and obtaining water at designated points for cleaning hands. During the long COVID-19 break, the rate of early pregnancies among learners in the home was identified as a critical concern. And as schools resumed physical learning, Cabinet Secretary of Education Magoha said no girl would be denied a chance to continue their studies because of pregnancy.

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The schools were reopened to enable preparations for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examinations, which will start on March 22, 2021, and end on March 24, 2021. while KCSE examinations will begin on March 25, 2021, and ending on April 16, 2021.



Students across the nation going back to school.

ANNUAL PARENTS MEETING

This is a summary of all the meetings with parents that we held at the SAAS office throughout the year. These meetings came up after we had a talk with the children concerning their welfare at home, especially during this pandemic time. Lots of complaints were towards the parents from the children. Among the complaints were parents being very harsh, very busy, responsibility issues, parent's conflicts which affect the children. We informed them of the above issues and we are glad they worked on their relationships with their children. Currently, things are much better compared to previous times. As we all know change is a process! We also reminded them that school is due In January for everyone so they have to be fully prepared before then. This is to ensure that all children report to school on time with all the requirements. Parents also send their Christmas wishes to the donors.



Left: A parent sharing his parental skills with other parents. Right: Maria Talking to the parents.

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TALK THERAPY TO SAAS STUDENTS.

We held these talks several times during the year. Sylvia and Maria ran the girl's talk while Freddy and Danny took over the boys' conversation.

These days were immensely successful as a considerable number of students turned out for the talks.

We are glad that children slowly started to open up to what they are encountering in their households and society at large. It was a neutral forum for everyone to share their feelings, fears, and challenges, among others. We noticed many of them had low self-esteem and lacked confidence in themselves due to their environment. Many said their parents weren't supportive in giving them emotional and educational support. According to the students, parents are incredibly harsh, especially now that Corona virus has to transform their lives into misery. They have no time for their children, so it is difficult for them to share their problems.

We concluded that communication was the key problem among the families. This is spiced up by parents being too busy to acquire basic needs, hence causing children to confide their issues to their neighbors and friends who in turn mislead them. We agreed that these would change and we shall address these issues when we meet up with their parents.



Left: Girls sharing their experiences



Right: Boys listening to their speaker.

SAAS COMPUTER GRADUATES OF JANUARY TO MAY INTAKE 2020

In November after the ministry of education announced that all the final year students could go back to school. We were delighted to have our computer students back at the office to wind up their course. Their course was disrupted due to Covid back in March.

54 students were able to graduate with a certificate in Computerized Applications. On behalf of the SAAS fraternity, we heartily congratulate the computer scholars for having satisfactorily accomplished their course. We wish that brighter opportunities come their way, and they achieve success in all of them!

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Left: A student receiving her certificate



Right: A group photo of all computer graduates

GRADUATION

Congratulations are to Alan Ouma and Duncan Juma for achieving precisely their lifelong dreams. Alan Ouma graduated with a Degree in Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology at Masinde Muliro University. At the same time, Duncan Juma graduated with a Diploma in Business Information Technology at Kenya Methodist University. We wish them all the best in their distinguished careers.



Left Photo: Duncan Juma Wanga graduated with a Diploma in Business Information Technology.



Right photo: Alan Ouma graduated with a Degree in Biotechnology

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