



SAAS

SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

Issue 14

Free Computer Class

SAAS's latest session of free computer classes began mid January and will run for eleven weeks in total. Classes run on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last for two hours, whilst the class run on Saturday lasts for three hours. To ensure that each student gets the most out of these classes the number of participants is limited to the number of computers available, currently seven. The courses are run by our Kenyan office with the help of our wonderful tutors. Thanks everyone for volunteering your time and skills to make this possible!

Whilst there is no charge for the students to attend these classes, priority is given to the most deserving. The majority of the students participating in this session are from the slums of Kongowea; they have completed their secondary school education and are currently waiting to begin college and professional courses. On successful completion of the course, the students will be awarded a Certificate on Completion. These certificates are essential to help them secure office jobs.

Computer Classes in action



Left Photo students in the computer class, Right Photo previous students receiving their certificates from SAAS Sponsors during the Month of January 2012.

Schools Re-Open

Schools reopened for the first of three terms in early 2012. All of our students were able to begin their new school terms on time as their fees were paid in full thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. As always we have students attending all years in secondary school as well as some attending college. They were all eagerly awaiting the start of this new academic year as it is a step closer to their dream job. Despite the economic

downturn, SAAS is able to help more young people this year than ever before. We really couldn't do this without the help and support of our wonderful sponsors around the world.

Visitors from Ireland and Australia

This New Year SAAS played host to visitors from Ireland and Australia. Whilst in Kenyan, our visitors saw first-hand the work SAAS is doing and the difference it is making to people's lives and futures. Our Irish visitors were Ruth Wall, Alison O'Gorman, Kate Sheahan, Catherine Coughlan and one of our directors, Gina Woods. From Australia, there was Lauren Wight, Bec White and Alanna Eades.

Our first time visitors were able to visit the local attractions including Fort Jesus, Tsavo East and West and the dolphin show at Wasini Island. Our students also acted as tour guides and brought our visitors to Hallerpark, an animal sanctuary in Mombasa, where they were able to feed giraffes, see a crocodile show, as well as see buffalos, snakes and tortoises. An informal touch rugby tournament was held at the Reef Hotel and the SAAS Youth Group was brought on a bowling outing – a rare treat for these deprived youngsters. It was a wonderful opportunity for our sponsors to get to know the students they are supporting through their education.

The office was also privileged to receive donors from Ireland in the month of December, Deirdre O'Connor with her two daughters Ciara and Morna O'Connor. Who also got to visit the families and learn more of what SAAS is doing on the grounds.

The Kenyan SAAS Team and all our students are looking forward to welcoming our next group of guests later this year.

As the saying goes: "Visitor's footfalls are like medicine; they heal the sick." ~ African Proverb.



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

24 Fairfield Ave, East Wall, Dublin 3. Email : info@saas.ie Web : www.saas.ie
Directors : Gina Woods, Henry McLoughlin, Dr Fergus Toolan Vat No: IE9579195E Charity No : CHY 17318



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From Top left, SAAS Youth Group and Donors taking a photo after a Bowling game, Right At Haller Park

Bottom Left, Rugby Tournament at Mombasa Beach and Right, Mrs Deirdre at the office with her two daughters.

Form Four Exams

The sleepless nights were finally over for our Form Four students when the Minister for Education, Professor Sam Onger, announced the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E.) results. Seventeen SAAS students sat the K.C.S.E. in 2011, all scoring excellent grades. Kennedy Owino (33) is the first of our students to score a mean grade of B- and is looking forward to joining a local University to study Bachelor in Commerce.

School Closed For December Holiday

All of our students reported back to the SAAS office at the beginning of the December holiday after completing the third and final term of 2011. They all updated us of how the term went and what challenges they faced. Most are looking forward to a bright new academic year when they will be proceed to the next class up, whilst others are eagerly awaiting the start of college life. All our students visited the SAAS office during their holidays to avail of our library and computer lab.

2011 Awards / Fun Day Out

Every year in December, SAAS gives awards to the best performing students and this year was no exception!

The 2011 awards for overall excellent grades were:

Peter Paul Ochieng, Lukore Secondary School, Form 3, 18 years old

Ruth Mwikali, Mama Ngina Girls Secondary School, Form 2, 16 years old

Elinora Wakio, Mbooni Girls Secondary School, Form 1, 17 years old

The Personality of the Year Trophy was awarded to: **Daniel Otieno**, Mariakani Secondary School, Form 3, 17 years old

Daniel has made tremendous improvements in both his personal and academic performance during 2011

This year the awards ceremony was incorporated into a fun day out at the beach, where all students were invited to celebrate with the winners. We hope this will encourage all our students to continue to work hard at their studies.

There were a number of activities for the students to enjoy during the day including group discussions on subjects relevant to them (e.g. drugs abuse, HIV/Aids, sex education, politics, etc.), a special hygiene talk for the girls in the group and of course lots of swimming, football and touch rugby.

SAAS would like to thank Mama Cecelia who kindly provided some yummy homemade doughnuts!



Fun Day at Mombasa Beach

Donation of Books

SAAS was happy to receive a donation of Mathematics, Geography and History text Books from Bishops Town Community School in Cork, Ireland through their teacher Mr. James Crow. These books will go a long way in helping SAAS students in improving in these subjects. On behalf of SAAS students and SAAS Team we would like to

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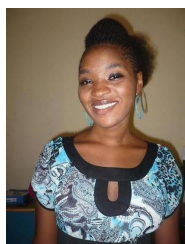
Thank the School for the donations.



*Dear SAAS team has been the best!
Very friendly, loving and caring,
You've been so good to us,
Treating us like your own children,
We pray that you keep up the spirit.
What do we do for people who help us?
What do we give them in return?
Nothing!! Absolutely nothing!!
But we promise them our prayers,
To help them in achieving whatever they've planned.
You have supported some of the schools!
JARIBUNI being the first one you brought computers,
For us to have the knowledge for sure you are the best of all.*

THANK YOU! Bishops Town Community School

Trizah's Corner



Trizah Mghanga is currently partaking in a three months internship at a local radio station (Baraka FM) as a Radio Presenter. She is due to complete her Mass Communication course in September 2012. In her spare time, Trizah continues to shine through her poems...

The Sparkles of SAAS

Celebrating a year now!

SAAS is still shining like star!

For the good things you have done to us

We can never and never forget you.

But to wish you well always!

Education is a better key to success,

Thanks for giving us that key,

Seems that was not enough,

You cater for our personal needs

Surely you are not people of words but deeds

Indeed you save us from the hands of greedy.

You take our parents bundle

Yes! I call it bundle and burden,

Which sincerely they couldn't handle,

But know we are learning without fear

We are not chased at school for fees problem!

Thanks again for you save us oh!

Coming Soon...

- ◆ Touch Rugby at Reef Hotel
- ◆ 1st Term of School Finishes
- ◆ Schools close for Easter Holiday
- ◆ Sponsors Visit during Easter Holidays

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