



# SAAS

SPONSOR AN AFRICAN SCHOLAR

Issue No. 6

## **SAAS Student Award Ceremony 2008.**

For the third year running SAAS has been hosting a student award ceremony that takes place in the office. The awards were given to the Form 1, 2 and 3 best academic students and 4<sup>th</sup> best personality student.

This is to the students who put effort in their academic and also attitude. Congratulation to all the students and especially to all the students who received the awards, Namely; Form 1- Josphat Mbuu of Mombasa Secondary School for the physically Handicapped, Form 2 – Margrate Akaranga Gwikuvu of Jaribuni Secondary School, Form 3 – Moses Zachariah Ishmael of Miritini Secondary School. The personality award went to Dominic Osieko of Rise & Shine Academy.



**From Left: Josphat Mbuu, Margrate Akaranga, Moses Zachariah & Dominic Osieko**

## **Completion of Second Level.**

Congrats to SAAS first secondary students who cleared High school in November 2008. they are awaiting for their results and they looking forward to joining college in mid this year

## **Congratulations to Ahmed and Ebby.**

Towards the end of December Ebby Soinani (SAAS staff) and Ahmed Abdallah of Muslim and Welfare Association (MEWA) graduated in the course they were taking in Diploma in Counselling.



## **SAAS visitors from Ireland.**

Gina and Henry visited Mombasa on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 and stayed for two weeks. During their stay, they spent an extensive time working tirelessly on a daily basis both in the office and the field. They also visited Jaribuni Secondary School (a school in the remote area of Mombasa) as there is a project that SAAS is funding in building a staff house. The reason as to why the house is being built is because the teachers live very far from the school and thus makes it difficult for them to arrive in school on time and also have evening classes with their students.



Mary Kizale & Bonface Anjejo taking a photo with Gina & Henry

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## ***Maria joins the SAAS team.***

Maria Nekesa, who is one of our most successful students has decided to take up a job with SAAS in Mombasa. Maria knows most of the students and will bring her warm bubbling personality to the office. We are delighted to have her on board.

## ***Christmas Holidays: a busy time at the SAAS office.***

The Kenyan schools and colleges closed for the month of December for the Christmas break and during this time the students returned to their homes and were reunited with their families and guardians. At this time, we ask the students to attend at the SAAS office in order to speak with the SAAS counsellor. We feel that this is important as it gives students the opportunity to speak face to face with a person they trust and in comforting and safe environment. During the first week of January, the SAAS office was a very busy place. Students came with their school reports. Some came for counseling. Some simply dropped in for a chat and to be reunited with their friends.

## ***Teachers asked for harmony in their salary.***

Most teachers who are working for the government decided to boycott classes until the government agrees to increase their salary which to them it's very low. This affected some of our students as they were forced to study on their own without teachers. Eventually they came to an agreement with the government and resumed work on 30<sup>th</sup> January 09.



**Teachers signing agreement to end strike.**

## ***SAAS students attend Computer Training course at MEWA.***

Having finished their final school exams in December, you might think that the students deserve a well earned break, but SAAS students are hungry for knowledge. So a group of our students have been attending a Computer training course given by our friends at MEWA.

The course covers all of the basics of using a PC together with training to use the most common software packages. Although it is hard work, all of our students said they enjoyed it and that they have gained really valuable skills.

## ***New Staff house in Jaribuni nears completion.***

The new staff house in Jaribuni School is nearing completion. This is a project which SAAS have sponsored. When the staff house opens it will provide accommodation for 2 additional teachers at the Jaribuni School and will provide even more support for the students there. During their visit, Gina and Henry visited the school to see the progress that has been made.

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## **Christmas fundraising for SAAS.**

During the Christmas Period in Ireland we had a number of very successful fundraising activities. David Mulligan and Alan Coyne organised backpacking in Galway and raised €6,554.

Sarah O'Connor raised €500 by braving the cold conditions and swimming in Cork on St. Stephen's day.

Over €500 has already been raised by selling SAAS calendars. These are still available and can be purchased from us for €10 plus postage. Please email [info@saas.ie](mailto:info@saas.ie) if you are interested.

## **Anglo Irish Bank Generously support SAAS.**

We were delighted to receive a very generous donation of €2,000 from Anglo Irish Bank. Even in these difficult financial times it is lovely to see such Corporate Social Responsibility in action. We wish to acknowledge this donation and express our deep gratitude.

## **Maths Camp 2009: the planning begins.**

After the success of Maths Camp '08 we are now starting to plan Maths Camp '09. This year we hope to increase the number of volunteer teachers coming from Ireland and to run the camp for a full week. The first week of August is the likely time and we will be posting details of the event on our web site in the next few weeks.

## **SAAS Calendars now available.**

We still have a number of SAAS calendars available for this year. If you would like some please email us at [info@saas.ie](mailto:info@saas.ie). We are selling the calendars for €10 each plus a small charge to cover postage.

## **Triza's Corner**



### **TRIZAH MGHANGA (19)**

Trizah completed her secondary level in 2008. She is very delighted and looking forward to joining college. This month Triza shares one of her latest poems with us.

### **We are able.**

We are able, yes we are!  
We can make the world a better place  
We can make it a better place for children  
We can make it a better place for all of us,  
If only we try, women we can do it.

Where was it written that women are weak?  
Where was it written that women cannot do it?  
Where and when was it written that men should always be the conquerors?  
When will the world be a good and best place for women?

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Most women, yes most of them in Kenya,  
Get married; they are always left at home,  
Because they are women they have no say,  
No say to their husbands, they can't go to work  
Because they are married to take care of  
the house.  
I have a question, who said that when  
married,  
A woman should not go to work? Why  
always women

Women to be left behind? We have to say  
No, say a BIG NO,  
We have to stand firm men should know  
that women are capable,  
Capable of being as they! Capable of  
being best ladies

**Coming Soon.....**

- **Easter holiday**
- **Donors visit Kenya during Easter holiday.**

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