

Issue No 24.

AUGUST HOLIDAY

This time round students had a short break in August which lasted for a period of 3 weeks. During this time most of our students utilized the library facilities since they knew they had very limited time before their end of year exams. They also found time to inform us of their academic updates in school and also seek guidance towards their challenging areas both academically and personally.

MATHS CAMP

We also had our annual Maths Camp during the month of August which was held at the SAAS office & compound. It is worth to note that this smaller annual maths camp has marked 3 years since its inception. For the previous 6 years, we ran a larger Maths camp in a local school. We witnessed a lot of improvements in terms of student's attendance as well as their method of study. Compared to previous years, this time round students decided to involve themselves in small discussion groups where they could pick a problem and solve it together, a clear sign of team work amongst them. The SAAS youth group were also there to help them through whenever maths problems arose. Among those who were present were Sheila Luganzo, Alan Ouma, Cyril Munyoki and Daniel Otieno (Danny Boy). The office was able to provide stationary and support for a smooth running of the maths camp. Much appreciations goes to the SAAS directors and donors for ensuring that this event was a success. We are looking forward for next year's camp.



Danny helping out the form four in solving maths problem: A group photo of From 3 students

MOMBASA AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION

This time round the theme of the Mombasa exhibition was “Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth.” This event is held at Mkomani area situated at the North Coast of the Coastal City of Mombasa. The show is 20kms from the Moi International Airport. Mombasa International Show (MIS) was elevated in 2002 to an International status to attract investors and players in agriculture, trade and tourism sectors from all over the world.

Most of our students attended the show in order to learn and to have fun. It's always officially opened by the President of the Republic of Kenya in an environment filled with pomp and colour. The exhibition is a very good environment for our students to practically learn in their area of study and field of work. This time round some of our college students were able to present their projects in front of the president and also to the citizens who thronged the exhibition in their numbers. According to Danny Otieno who was among the lucky students, mentioned that it was very enjoyable to practise what they were learning in college.



Left; some of the students present their project during the show; Right; Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta during the official opening of the Mombasa show

SCHOOL OPEN FOR TERM THREE

Students went back to school in early October. This term was shorter than normal due to the changing of the educational calendar and input of some other examination policies in the education sector by the Ministry of Education. This was done with the aim of allowing enough time for the Form 4 students to do their final exams in a peaceful and quite environment.

Cake Selling

SAAS in Ireland was able to organise another cake sale/ bake off; a charity project whose aim is to help SAAS with sponsoring more students. It was a very successful event (many thanks to EBS and AIB staff that work with Gina Woods) which raised a lot of funds which was channelled to paying bursaries fees for a few of the needy students, send one SAAS staff and 2 tutors on a 3 month Camara Computer maintenance course in addition to purchasing extra chairs for the SAAS computer lab. SAAS family would like to give a million appreciation to Fiona Sheridan, who organised the event and to all those who participated in it.

DONORS VISIT

During the month of September, the SAAS office was honoured to host Gina Woods together with one of her work colleagues/donors Rory O'Flynn from Ireland. They were here to foresee SAAS projects in general and also to meet some for the SAAS students and their families. During that time they were able to visit some of the nearby schools, church and even the SAAS family members. They learnt a lot from them including their lifestyle, daily routine and also learn first hand the challenges which the families have to go through to sustain themselves. This gesture gave the families to share their dreams and hopes in life. Gina Woods and Maria Nekesa also celebrated their birthday together since they both have the same birth date in September.



Left Mr Rory O'Flynn helping primary school pupil to solve maths problems; Right Gina Woods chatting with some SAAS students at the Mombasa office.

NEW INTAKE OF COMPUTER STUDENTS

We were able to enrol 15 new students for the compute classes. A large number turned up for the intake, this is an encouragement since this proves that many people are yearning to be computer literate. It's good too as SAAS youths are ever ready to take them through the 3 months course. Most of the students who attend the programme are those who have finished Form 4 and are looking forward to go to Vocational Training, College or University hence the knowledge will be useful to them in school. In that regard, some even managed to secure their dream jobs with the knowledge.

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR DECEMBER HOLIDAY

In October students were able to close school for their long holiday of two months. During this time some spend it visiting their relatives in up country whom they have not seen for long time. Some students make use of the SAAS library to do their private tuition and keep on top of their studies.

COMMENCING OF NATIONAL EXAMS

The national exams for both Standard 8 and Form 4 students commenced early with Standard 8 exams starting in early November and Form 4 in late October. The Form 4 examinations went through the whole month of November. SAAS is lucky to have 14 students who are doing their final exams and we are looking forward for the best results, since all of them are very hard-working students. We would like to wish them all the best as they await their results.



Top photos; The form 4's sitting in an exams room

Coming soon

- **SAAS fun day and graduation of computer student**
- **Schools re-open for 1st term in January 2017**
- **New intake of computer students**