

I am long overdue in telling you what happened to the children who changed schools this year. 30 out of 36 were admitted to good government secondary schools. Admission is very competitive, and our top scorers won places in some of Kenya's most prestigious schools: for the boys Upper Hill and Dagoretti High School, and for the girls State House, Buruburu Girls and Nembu High. Ng'araria, Ndalani and Masinga boys are not far behind. All these are schools where the students have a real chance of success, albeit in an unforgiving, harsh, competitive world. They get up at 4:30a.m. and are in personal studies by 5. A full day of classes, preps, chores and some after-school clubs typically ends at 9p.m., 6 days a week. There is very little free time, and schools offer a one-track academic curriculum with little variation in classes of about 50. But you honestly cannot imagine how grateful these students are to be in school.



The 6 who struggle more in academics, plus a few new students from the slum, entered Form 1 at our own Neema School, where they will be taught a mixed academic and vocational programme in a small class. After much discussion we managed to persuade the staff to allow the students to begin the day as late as 5a.m., and some of the silent study time has been replaced by group work and discussion. It can be a long, slow road to progress!

The new students at Ng'araria are shown above, and those at Dagoretti below, and underneath some of the Form 1 at Neema. The full list of students is at the bottom of this letter.

Those who left school and are waiting to start college are studying IT at Neema in the interim, and preparing to take the ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence). 8 started at Unity College this week. Lucy Muthoni, Millicent Akoth, Caroline Auma Oduor and Habiba Mohamed are studying Catering and Hotel Management, Purity Magareng Josphine, Elizabeth Nyambura and Leah Wanjiku are studying Tours and Travel, and Mary Wambui Business Administration.

BOOKS AND COMPUTERS FOR KENYA

We are collecting good quality English language children's books, novels, reference books, dictionaries, etc for a shipment in May. We are also seeking computers in good condition (not older than 2005), and we urgently need screens and keyboards for about 30 computers we already have that lack these. Please get in touch if you have something to donate. Note we cannot take clothes, toys or other goods, as they attract taxes and their inclusion would compromise the whole shipment.



NEEMA'S FUTURE

Finally, we are looking for funds to make the Neema dream a reality. To buy land and build a residential school and vocational training centre for up to 500 teenagers from the slums, we will need half a million euros over the next 5 years. If you know of companies or individuals who would want to partner with us in this project, please pass on the brochure attached to this letter, or put them in touch with us directly.

Once again thank you, each one of you, for your support. Even in the face of half a million, every penny counts – and every child sponsored is a child saved.

Here at last is the list showing where our students who left primary school are now. They started in February and are doing well.

Dagoretti High:

Abdulrahim Hassan Abdulrahim
Amos Kisanti Imbiaka
Brian Ochieng
Daniel Osero Elijah
Dennis Musili Kongo
Elijah Mukusya Kivuva
Elijah Otieno Omondi
Joseph Karani Njaka
Kennedy Holi Sirengo
Philip Mwema
Vincent Wadenya

Upper Hill Boys' School:

Jamal Mohamed Juma

Masinga Boys High School:

Ashford Njonjo
Cliff Makori James
Edwin Shikombe Kizito
Lawrence Kariuki

State House Girls' High School:

Maureen Adisa Alfred
Winnie Miruni

Buruburu Girls High School:

Cynthia Khanaitha Mseve (on a full scholarship from Equity Bank!)

Nembu High:

Carolyne Kambua Josphat

Ndalani High School:

Irene Nzilani (her request – the school is near her rural home)

Ng'araria Girls' High School, Thika:

Beatrice Mwangemi
Christine Kavosi
Cyprose Mundesi
Grace Sirengo
Janet Atieno
Juliette Atieno
Nancy Akinyi
Nicolet Muhonja
Shamim Aseda
Stella Mulama

Neema School:

Angeline Auma Onyango
Christine Achieng
Felister Kerubo
Sospeter Simiyu (awaiting admission to vocational college)
Vivian Anyango