

DECEMBER 2017 PROJECT UPDATE

December is always a very busy month for us. This is the month children move to the next classes. We also have holiday tuition, Christmas presents for both children and parents etc.

Below are a number of activities we undertook during December holidays.

a) Admission of new children

The Government is planning to change the old system of Education whereby “baby class” will no longer exist. Instead, we will have a day care which will be under the Ministry of Gender and social services. The department of social services must register these young-child caregivers.

During the month of December we decided to have childcare as of 2018. We have admitted the first class of 2018. These are required to be 3 years old so that by the time they are 4 years old they can join our kindergarten class. All pupils and students from kindergarten to university will be under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education.

According to the Ministry, children in day care will not be subjected to serious learning. They will just have basic learning, games and naps. Mattresses for naps are a basic requirement. The children we admitted will begin daycare in February 2018. This is the time we are expecting their classroom to be fully constructed.



Sharline Chepkoech one of the childcare pupils

b) Holiday Tuition

We normally have holiday tuition immediately after schools close. This enables our children to revise what they have learned and prepare them for the next term. Weak learners are also helped to catch up with the rest.

Schools closed on 27th October. After seeing our visitors from Germany and Holland off, we had a break of 3 weeks. Children and teachers reported back for holiday tuition on 27th November until 22nd December. During this period children

reported to school at 8 am and left at 3 pm after learning, playing and enjoying a warm and nutritious lunch.

Apart from helping children improve in their studies, this holiday tuition also helps us to keep children in school instead of them going to the streets. Especially our feeding program keeps children in school. We especially thank FEED A SMILE in Second Life and the many sponsors and donors for this.



Teacher Phyllis during tuition



Children playing games after classes



Children enjoying a meal after classes

c) Parents meetings

Parents are important stakeholders in our project. Since our main objective is to provide education to needy children, we have to involve parents at any stage of our development. We have to help them to understand the value of education for their children. We normally have regular meetings with them to update them on our progress and our future plans. Their input is also very important to the smooth running of our project.

Our last meeting was on 15th December. We called them to give them this year's progress and next year's program.



Parents and LLK staff listening to the project manager

d) Students Graduation

We have children at all level of education- from nursery school to university. This year we had over 10 students at the university. Two of these finished their studies this year-Robinson Kenga and Holiness Kishagha.

Robinson was studying Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at Mombasa Technical University while Holiness was doing her Bachelor of Commerce at Technical University of Kenya. We are expecting two other students to graduate in 2018. I thank all sponsors and donors who are making all of this possible. With our motto being 'Education is the Key to the Future' - such graduations motivate other students to work hard at school.



Robinson Kenga on his graduation day in Mombasa



Holiness Kishagha on her graduation day

e) Construction of Class 6 of 2019

On 15th December we began construction of another classroom, staffroom and head teacher's office. This will be the 7th classroom including the one we have partitioned to create offices.

We are very appreciate to *GlobalGiving* , sponsors and donors from Europe especially Germany and the USA for their generous support through donations. Through these donations the classroom is scheduled to be completed by February.



Above and below photos showing masons at work on classroom.



f) Christmas Presents

Christmas presents are given to both our children and parent every year. This allows them to feel just like other able people in the society. It is good for them to enjoy Christmas, too.

This year parents received live chickens, vegetables, rice and maize flour. Children received a warm blanket as their Christmas presents along with sweets. These presents were given out on 22nd December before we closed for Christmas holiday.

Both parents and children were very grateful for the presents and thanked sponsors and donors from around the world, especially from Germany and other parts of Europe and the USA. They danced on streets of Nakuru in praise of LLK.



Children with their warm blankets



Happy parents/guardians with their Christmas presents

g) Departure of our Head teacher

After working with us for the past 3 years, Linda Wanyonyi - our head teacher, decided to leave us. She joined her husband in Namanga. She was the pioneer teacher at Live and Learn in Kenya Education Center. Everybody enjoyed working with her. Parents and children were shocked when I informed them about her departure. We wish her well in her new position in Namanga.

Staff organized a farewell party for her on 23rd December. They gave her presents for the good work and she received a bonus from LLK in Germany.



LLK staff giving a present to outgoing head teacher

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