



22nd April 2016

Dear Parents,

It is a pleasure to give you an update of life in the Junior School as we approach the end of the month of April.

Profiles from our new teachers

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have had two new teachers join us in the Junior School; Andrew Jones and Christine Robertson. Both Andrew and Christine join us from Canada on secondment from their posts in Ontario. Part of their roles during their time with us for the next 15 months, will be to support the ongoing development of our Literacy and Mathematics programmes. Their attached profiles give you an outline of their experience and expertise. We are delighted to have them join us and since arriving, have been initiated to Mombasa in many ways, including a tuk-tuk ride on their first day here. They also accompanied the Year 4 students to Shimba Hills last week.

Year 4 field trip to Shimba Hills

Of the two days of the year to choose to go on a field trip, we could not have chosen two wetter ones! Despite the rains last week, Shimba Hills was a wonderful learning experience for the Year 4's. The students had an opportunity to interview a Kenya Wildlife Services ranger and through their questions, learnt how the coastal rainforest is an important interconnected ecosystem in our environment. During the game drive the students were curious and had informative conversations with the tour guide. The students spotted buffalo, two types of warthog, different types of antelope, fish eagles and monitor lizards, not to mention diverse flora and indigenous trees such as the *mvule*. Apart from the educational experience, it was the students' first time on an overnight school trip. They returned to school having enjoyed and benefitted from the experience. The student reflections and photos below give a more detailed account of the Year 4's time away.

Samples of Student Reflections:

- *This trip helped me with my Kiswahili as I am now able to understand and use new words like, shambi (sable antelope), mifupa (skeleton/skull/bones). During the game drive on the first day, our guide Nick, explained to us the various animals that live in Shimba Hills and also some of the habitats of the ecosystem. In the evening he showed us skulls and described them. We also interviewed a ranger from Shimba Hills. We had different roles, such as recorder, interviewer, translator and two scribes. My role was to take the video. Although I could not understand everything that he said in Kiswahili, in the end we gathered and he clarified our doubts. One of the most memorable things was to see a python's skull; it was huge!*



- *'Ranger alisema vitu vinavyoweza kuathiri mazingira ya Simba Hills ni kutupa 'garbage' kwa maji na 'open fields', kukata miti, kupiga kelele, na kadhalika. Tuliuliza maswali na ranger akajibu. Ranger alisema Sheldrick Falls ina miaka 3 million! We had a great time!'*



Year 4 Trip to Shimba Hills

Learning in Year 1 - What have we been up to? (From the Year 1 team)

We introduced our unit, **'Story time'** under the theme, ***How We Express Ourselves***, with oomph! Students explored *what stories are, where they come from, why stories are made, and how they are told*. Through the use of video clips, students were able to see the different ways stories are told, their favourite being a mime of *Charlie Chaplin and the Lion in the Cage*. Right now we are in our second line of inquiry; students are inquiring into what makes a good story. This will lead us to investigate elements that make stories effective. We are also looking closely at how to describe characters using appropriate adjectives.





Year 1 Learning – Story time



Exhibition Updates (From Year 5 Teachers)



On Tuesday 12th April, the Year 5 parents came into school to have a chat with their child and other students on how far along they had come in their exhibition journey. The session was fruitful with many parents sharing thoughtful suggestions with the students and teachers, to help move things forward. The second checkpoint is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 26th April from 1:50pm to 2:50pm, followed thereafter by the Year 5 Transition meeting at 3:00 pm in the Junior School Library.

Currently, students have completed their 'finding out and sorting out' phases of the PYP Exhibition inquiry cycle, having already collected data from both primary and secondary sources. They have drafted answers to their main questions in their journal as well as referenced their sources of information using a graphic organiser. The Year 7 students played the role of big brother or sister whereby they helped Year 5 students to focus on their inquiry questions by making connections to the AKA strands as well as engaging in peer editing. The bi-weekly meeting with teacher mentors focused on helping the students to identify any possible misconceptions, misinformation and over-generalizations they may have made, while also guiding them towards better information sources and having them do further reading where necessary.

During this and next week (27th- 29th April), the students will be working through the **Proposal for Action** stage wherein they will be preparing a written proposal for their action component. They will present to a select panel of teachers what action they have planned to take, basing this on their actual findings. They will then work on the feedback given by the panel to make the necessary changes. Guiding questions have been shared with the students to help them write their proposals.

Students have also been involved in on-going assessments of themselves on the knowledge, skills (subject-related as well as transdisciplinary) and learner profile attributes and attitudes that they have displayed, developed and applied during their journey.

At this stage, parents can support their children in the following ways:

- Ask questions around their topic to help them **assess and solidify their knowledge base**. In case they have doubts or gaps, students can still research and learn more about their chosen issue.

- Discuss the **practicability and sustainability** of their action plan. Children will be challenged further by reflecting on the success criteria for their action plan and what will make their action more fruitful for them and their community.

Important Dates:

- Second checkpoint: **Tuesday 26th April, 2016: Time – 1.50pm – 2.50pm**
- Staging of the Exhibition: **Thursday 5th May - 5.30pm (Official opening)**
Friday 6th May: 8.30am – 12.00pm and 1.00pm – 2.30pm

Exhibition – Student Reflections

- *“I decided to select a topic on Adult Health. This is because in my family, there is a history of diabetes and cancer. I wonder whether the cause of these diseases is based on their life style or not. This research will give me a platform to help me identify the reasons for these diseases. Although I am enjoying the exhibition process, I must say that I am finding some parts in the journey challenging because the primary sources have not been as helpful as I thought they would. I am now working on my action plan to present to the panel of teachers. For my action I plan to work with the SRC members to create a club where the students of AKAM know the importance of being healthy and learn how to make healthy decisions and grow up to be healthy adults in the future.”*
- *“Exhibition is one unit where we get to pick our own topic and take action, which is an important part of the PYP. The issue I selected is ‘Internet Security’ which is a branch of Computer Security, where the goal is to establish rules to prevent attacks on the internet since many people are unaware of the many dangers that there are on the internet. I have really enjoyed the exhibition so far, I have learnt a lot, my knowledge has expanded. I have learnt the importance of citing sources using the correct format and in this case, the APA format. I am now working on my action which I plan to spread awareness and to inform other server companies like Hypixel to promote internet security too.”*
- *“The issue that I am addressing is that Computer Programming/Coding should be introduced in schools as a subject. In my opinion, this is a big issue and it must be addressed because if it is taught to children from a young age, the kids will be more innovative. The exhibition has been a fun learning process for me so far, it has made me think deeper about my issue. I have also learnt more about the AKA Strands and made connection to the strand of Economics for Development. For my action, I plan to run an enrichment club which will teach students how to code.”*



Exhibition checkpoint



Year 5 with Year 7 students in big brother/sister roles



Sports News

The physical education lessons, enrichment programme, school teams and personal enrolment in sport activities continues to provide an opportunity for students to engage in various physical activities this term – swimming, football, netball, basketball, table tennis, gymnastics, zumba and yoga, tennis, tae-kwon-do and skating. Indicated in the calendar below are the upcoming dates for the swimming championships and football and netball fixtures. We wish the competitors all the very best in the personal and team achievements.

Swahili Day – Friday 29th April 2016

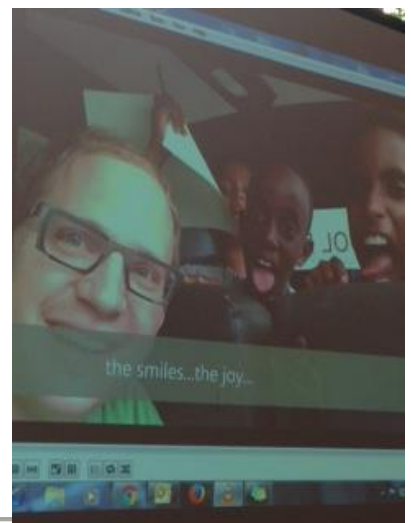
On Friday the 29th April, the AKAM community will celebrate its annual Swahili Day. The theme for this year is “*Mswahili na Utamaduni*” (The Swahili people and their culture). In a nutshell, the theme seeks to promote the use of Swahili language as a tool to gain insight into the culture and tradition and of the Swahili people, in the 21st Century. We will also be celebrating Kiswahili as a language of communication within the school and the community. Swahili culture can be expressed in different facets such as in the dressing, food, language and artefacts.

On this day, students are encouraged to come to school dressed in Swahili attire. The day will start off with our morning assembly at **7.45am**, in the Commons. During break time, there will be *heena* painting at a minimal fee and Swahili snacks will be on sale at the school canteen. In this regard, you may wish to send your child with approximately 200 shillings to spend. We welcome you to join the assembly.

Assembly - Earth Day – a Student Representative Council (SRC) Initiative

Today the students in the school came in dressed in ‘earth’ colours, an initiative taken as part of Global Earth Day. The assembly started off with the Year 4s making a link between today’s celebration – Earth day, and their unit on Ecosystems. They also shared photos and videos capturing highlights of their trip, and it was great getting a glimpse of how the Shimba Hills trip went. It was very touching to see that the Arts Week experience continues to influence our students in positive ways, as the Year 4 play still used the idea of ‘Akinyi’ travelling through Africa to help save the ecosystems.

Our SRC executives are now solidly confident when it comes to presenting in front of an audience, and their Earth Day presentation, including the reminders of what we can do to help on daily basis, was well prepared.



Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 26 th April	Year 5 Exhibition 2 nd Checkpoint (1.50pm – 2.50pm)
Tuesday 26 th April	Year 5 to MYP Transition Meeting for Parents: 3pm – 4pm
Friday 29 th April	Swahili Day – (students to dress in Swahili attire)
Saturday 30 April – Sunday 1 st May	CASA Junior Swimming Championships – U11
Monday 2 nd May	Labour Day holiday (school closed)
Tuesday 3 rd May	Triangular U11 Netball Vs Braeburn and Shree (A)
Tuesday 3 rd May	Triangular U11 Football Vs MSB and Coast Academy (H)
Thursday 5 th May	Year 5 PYP Exhibition – Official opening at 5.30pm
Friday 6 th May	PYP Exhibition (8.30am – 12.00pm & 1.00pm – 2.30pm)
Tuesday 10 th May	U11 Netball Vs MSB (H)
Tuesday 10 th May	Triangular U11 Football Vs Oshwal Vs Mombasa Academy (A)
Friday 13 th May	Half Term holiday
Tuesday 25 th – Friday 27 th May	Year 5 field trip to Muhaka Camp, Shimba Hills
Tuesday 31 st May	U11 Netball Vs Mombasa Academy (H)
Friday 27 th – Sunday 29 th May	CASA Inter-Clubs Invitational Swimming Championships
Friday 3 rd June	Year 5 Party
Tuesday 7 th June	U11 Netball Vs Oshwal Academy (H)
Friday 10 th June	Year 5 Graduation
Wednesday 15 June	Semester 2 Reports to parents
Friday 17 th June	School closes (12 noon)

As always, wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Kind Regards,

Junior School Leadership Team

