

East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

Edition 109 Sept 27, 2016

---- MINDFUL ----



drab, the daily presentations.

Every day I see or hear something that more or less kills me with delight, that leaves me like a needle in the haystack of light.

It was what I was born for - to look, to listen, to lose myself inside this soft world - to instruct myself over and over in joy, and acclamation.

Nor am I talking about the exceptional, the fearful, the dreadful, the very extravagant – but of the ordinary, the common, the very

Oh, good scholar, I say to myself, how can you help, but grow wise with such teachings as these – the untrimmable light of the world, the ocean's shine, the prayers that are made out of grass?

~ Mary Oliver ~ (from the collection Why I Wake Early)

——— PRAYERS REQUESTED ———

For Theresa "Aterry", cousin of Br John Paul and Mr Samuel Omondi, paternal uncle of Br Lawrence Agalo.

May the Lord rest their souls in eternal peace.







—— CAPACITY ASSESSMENT MEETING -

Many Brothers are aware that, over the past two months, a capacity assessment process has been going on across our ministries. This is a step towards assessing what we need to do across the District to strengthen our ministries, so that we can put together an Action Plan for the next few years. The Action Plan will be the basis of seeking funding for a programme of Capacity Development in EAD's mission. The overall aim is to make our ministries more sustainable as Edmund Rice ministries.



Ministry Leaders who gathered at Mary Ward on Monday 26th Sept

Today representatives of all the ministries, except for Star in Yambio, gathered at Mary Ward Centre with the consultant, Edwine Ochieng, to respond to Edwine's interim report. It was hard work, and many of us are having to learn the language of project management and capacity development: for example, do you know what "M&E" refers to? However, it was worthwhile as, by the afternoon, we were getting a clearer sense of what our priorities should be.

This process will take another step forward next Saturday, when the Brothers in Kenya gather at Mary Ward for a Cluster meeting. The morning session will enable the Brothers themselves to contribute their ideas about how we support and shape our EAD ministries over the next few years.

Tony Shanahan







- CAREER TALK AT BROTHER BEAUSANG -

Eddy Sheehy has been visiting Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC) annually from Ireland since 2003. Last week Eddy carried out a Career Motivation Workshop for the outgoing form 4 students. He invited some of BBCEC's successful alumni to speak to



the students. This workshop was the culmination of a Curriculum Vitae Writing Program that Eddy had been conducting for the past two

From left to the right: Peter Shanahan (Principal), Margaret Maina (Head girl), Daniel Kuria(Alumni), Grace Wangare (Alumni), Catherine Mumbi (Alumni), Henry Kimiywi(Head Teacher), Mary Muthoni (Alumni), Francis Kiganti (Alumni), Alex Maina (Alumni), Hezron Chege (Headboy), Eddy Sheehy (Kenya Education Project Ireland).

weeks.

The Career motivational workshop did not disappoint. All the alumni in attendance attested that it was BBCEC that had propelled them to the levels of success they had achieved. All the alumni shared their stories and emphasized the importance of discipline. Daniel Kuria, a 2010 graduate stole the show with his mind-provoking Power Point presentation about his old days at the Centre and his current position with KPMG, one of the Big 5 international accounting firms. He said that originally he had aimed at joining Mangu High School, an elite school. After he had been expelled from a nearby school for being a ring leader in a strike (a charge he vehemently denies) he found an even better substitute in Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre. He impressed his audience when he told them that all the resources needed by any student to excel were available in Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre.

By the end of the talk the form 4 students were fired up and ready to do well in their upcoming exams and to make a success of their lives as had their counterparts.

Eddy Sheehy was impressed by the progress that the centre was making on its way into the future.

Mercilinus Ounde







WOMEN ON THE FARM PROJECT ELDORET -

The invitation to reach sustainable development goals through sustainable agriculture projects is possible if people in local communities are well engaged. The Yamumbi internally displaced women are doing exactly that through their poultry project which they started as an income-generating project to meet their families basic needs. What has inspired us most in this women's poultry project is that they **take full responsibility** for its smooth running. Their progress is inspiring other local women groups. This project would not have been possible without the support of **Edmund Rice Foundation Australia (ERFA)**, so we take this opportunity to give thanks to ERFA on behalf of women for their continuous support.



Picture: Women tending the new bunch of chicks they purchased for the project.

Paul Mutuku and Elly Sakwa

——— EDMUND RICE ELDORET CAMPS ——

It was another Eldoret camp day filled with activities. Children from Langas community came as early as 8:00 am to show their commitment to, and love for, the camp activities. It was not a business-as-usual camp day, as we had invited some local actors (Eagle Group) to present a life-skills stage show for the children. After some game activities and some refreshments, we formed a circle and were entertained with different skits. Some children were so overwhelmed that they were eager to share what they had learned





from the skits: respect for elders, care of the environment and the importance of education.



Picture: children being entertained by one of the skits. By Elly Sakwa and Paul Mutuku

- EDMUND RICE KARIBU CAMPS FOR KIDS, TRAINING DAY, SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2016 ———



The Training day held at the wonderful Regina Pacis
University field attracted over 50 members. Camp coach
John Muisyo revised new games both in the larger circles and small groups.
Participants were required to present at least one game to other group members.
Different ball games were

rotated and finally the participants were challenged to produce a mosaic followed by an inspiring artistic presentation. The latter still proves a big challenge for members; we need an art therapist!! Members went home very happily with 4 pages of games' description. Will they reinforce what they learnt?

Br. PETER COLE

----- INDIAN FLAVOUR IN EAST AFRICA -

Abhiroopsen and Rashi are the first couple from India to volunteer within the East Africa District. Having met with Vincent Mallya in India in 2005, they have come to volunteer at Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School. The couple has visited East Africa over the years. This year they brought their first-born baby girl, Mia, to the Weston Hotel in Nairobi for her Annaprashan





Annaprashan is a Sanskrit term that refers to the Hindu custom of celebrating the first day of feeding solid food to the baby. Also known as the baby's first rice-eating ceremony, it is celebrated with much happiness. Usually it takes place after the age of six months and before the baby turns one. An Indian priestess or pundit was present for the Annaprashan ceremony. The baby was dressed in new clothes called dhoti kurta or lehenga choli. The festivities began with a pooja and a havan where prayers were offered for the baby's long and healthy life. That was followed with the baby being fed solid food by everyone present taking turns. Each of us also put a red mark with the ring finger on the forehead of the baby. We then blessed and showered the baby with gifts and good wishes.



Brs Gerald Mgalula and Vincent Mallya with the family during the ceremony

The priestess placed a pen, money and clay in front of the baby. Then the baby was encouraged to pick any object from the array of items placed before her, which is believed to show the child's area of interest or the direction the child will take in the future. Mia picked up the pen. Everyone cheered the baby and enjoyed watching the antics of the little one.

Vincent Mallya and Gerard Mgalula were honoured to attend the ceremony.

Vincent Mallya



Chapter 2014



REMAINING BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER:

SEPTEMBER 27 ALLAN SHUNZA (2nd year novice –

Tamale) - Happy Birthday

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 29 DLT Meeting

OCTOBER 1 Cluster Meeting – Nairobi
OCTOBER 3 VALIDATION MEETING
OCTOBER 8 Cluster meeting – Arusha
OCTOBER 10-12 Formation Committee Meeting

OCTOBER 12 DLT Meeting

OCTOBER 14-16 AP Workshop - Arusha

OCTOBER 26 DLT Meeting

OCTOBER 28-29 Community Leaders Meeting

NOVEMBER 8 DLT meeting

NOVEMBER 21-24 PLT meeting (Freetown) NOVEMBER 26 First Profession (Tamale)

NOVEMBER 30 DLT meeting

DECEMBER 3-7 DLT away for end-of-year review and planning

DECEMBER 12 Jamhuri Day DECEMBER 16-18 District Assembly

Many blessings

George



