

Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step By Step

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy www.mercymukuru.co.ke Nairobi KENYA

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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

At present we have the following Sisters of Mercy assisting Mukuru Promotion Centre that is spread across 5 different sites within a radius of 7 kms. Sr Louise Roche in Songa Mbele, Sr Patricia Moran, sponsoring vulnerable children, Sr Barbara Dooley, (English Mercy) co-ordinates St Catherine's Social Office. These sisters you may have seen around the projects. We also have Sr Teresia Njoroge who volunteers two days a week at the Rehabilitation Centre for former street boys since 2019. A recent addition is Sr Stella Mutiso who works as the medical social worker in the Clinic.

I am very grateful to the dedicated contribution each of these sisters make to the serving of the poor of the Mukuru slums. The Provincial and Leadership teams also support the centre as well as Sisters of Mercy Ireland, the provinces and individual sisters from Ireland, England, Australia and occasionally the United States. This interest, support and prayer give a great feeling of solidarity to those of us on the ground. May this great spirit continue. Our foundress, Catherine McAuley is alive among us.

It is wonderful to see boys and youth move on from the Rehabilitation Centre to be reintegrated back home, or to go to secondary or vocational training and eventually be employed at an organisation or self-employed. Like any parent or guardian or sponsor it is hard to see them go but great that they have been enabled to take another step to adulthood and to living with dignity by the work of their hands and brain. We thank God and you for your part in their transformation.

Songa Mbele, the Centre for children living with disabilities continues to develop with each week bringing some improvement in equipping the Centre and its sensory and other gardens. What a joy to walk around in the morning noting the changes.

We had a walk on the 11th of March to commemorate International Women's Day and to highlight how far girls and women are still from achieving equal rights in society, church and work situations. The Mukuru residents cheered on the marchers as they made their way from our Head Office to Our Lady of Mercy Primary School. We had challenges to face in getting permission for the march from the various relevant authorities, who fear unrest from very poor, densely populated areas. We were very happy to clear the hurdles and highlight the challenges of girls and women. Noreen Walsh and Mary Richardson, our development partners, addressed the crowd on women's rights, even though they had just arrived from the United States the night before. Thanks to Chantal, who encourages us to lobby for equal rights for girls and women in all sectors.



2022 International Women's Day Marchers

There was great joy from some of the pupils when they received their primary certificate results, while others were worried about their chances of proceeding to secondary. Secondary school is very expensive relative to funds available. The vast majority of Mukuru parents do not earn enough to fund their children to secondary. Thank you so much all of you who enable children access to second level education. Please enjoy the accounts of March in the newsletter knowing that you play a part in the activities through your support.

May God bless and reward every one of you who remember us in prayer or by other forms of support.

Sr Mary Killeen *Director*

Welfare Services

Rehabilitation Centre

As mentioned on many occasions the school calendar will have one more year before it returns to normal. March signified the school holidays. The boys have enjoyed the couple of weeks together and participating in the different activities around the Centre and during the last week 5 boys were returned to their families after completing their KCPE examinations.

	MPC Rehabilitation Centre March 2022											
Classes	Accelerated Learning Class	St Catherine Primary	St. Bakhita	Vocational Training	Secondary	Sponsored Boarding	Totals					
Year 1	29						29					
Year 2	8						8					
Standard 2		1					1					
Standard 3							0					
Standard 4		1					1					
Standard 5		1					1					
Standard 6							0					
Standard 7		2					2					
Standard 8		3	1			2	6					
Grade III				7			7					
Grade II							0					
Form 1					5		5					
Form 2					5		5					
Form 3												
Form 4					1		1					
Total	37	8	1	7	11	2	66					

Congratulations to the 10 candidates who sat their KCPE examinations and performed fairly well. The stand outs were Evans Otieno (328), Dennis Wanyoro (304) and Alex Mogire (296). Two of them had been boarding at St Peter and Paul in Embu while the others attended St Catherine's and St Bakhita Primary Schools.

One of the technology institutes, The Kenya Institute of Mass Communication, came to the Centre to produce a documentary on "Drug abuse and its effects on the victims". Some Centre staff and boys were interviewed for the purpose of raising awareness on the impact that drugs can have not only on the person but on the families and society.

The boys were involved in a series of activities such as art, painting, beadwork, reading, motivational talks and singing. The month's activities had a more left brain focus than normal.

Lewis and Joseph Maina from the Centre attended the Children Assembly that was coordinated by Starehe Sub-County Children's Office. The assembly ran for 2 days and they were able to discuss issues that affect young people in their capacity and they were also able to learn about the rights of Children.



Dancers entertaining guests during graduation



Lewis and Joseph Maina presented at the Assembly



Scouts Parade at the Graduation Ceremony

The 2021 Graduation Ceremony was held in March and 12 boys were exited from the Centre and reintegrated to their families. It was a wonderful celebration involving the boys, families, donors and MPC staff. The boys provided the entertainment for the guests and families.



Left: Dennis Wanyoro and his Grandfather



Right: Justus Puka and his mother



Dinah Maina EDO congratulates Shadrack Muuo.

Graduation certificates were presented to each of the 12 boys. Shadrack has just completed his Grade II Carpentry NITA examinations. They were filled with pride on completing the 12 month residential program. At the end of each group the process of starting again commences with the new recruitment drive to offer young boys on the streets an opportunity to reassess their lives.

The recruitment process began in March and so far the Centre has 21 new residents who hopefully will take full advantage of the program to turn-around their lives and look towards a brighter future full of hope. The new recruits have settled well at the Centre.

All new boys will undergo the various health checks and academic assessments to ascertain the right fit for them. Each will receive new clothes, shoes, meals, bed and a safe place to call home for the next 12 months. We wish them all well and every success.



Some of the new recruits

The reputation of the Centre as a place of development, goodness and success continues to appeal to donors and well-wishers. There were several visitors during the month as well as other donors who have supported the Centre for years.



Paula Cullen's group sent pizza to celebrate St Patrick's Day for the boys





The national dish in Kenya is 'Goat' Nyama Choma, really appreciated by the boys. Dawoudi Bora provided the feast for the boys.

The Baps Charities also provided many food provisions.





Team Pankaj also provided huge amounts of vegetables each week to the Centre. As many mothers know, growing boys seem to have

'hollow legs', the food donations are a great help

A long time donor, Action in Focus continued with their generosity and provided a wonderful amount of vegetables – carrots, green peas, butternuts, broccoli, onions, spinach, egg plants, French beans, cucumbers and biringanyas. The boys will receive very healthy meals.



Agatha Njeri also brought some onions, cabbages and tomatoes during the month.



to feed 60 boys each day.

Staff members of the KCB Bank – Industrial Area visited the Centre and donated juice, biscuits, shoes, clothes and offered some words of wisdom to the boys.



KCB Staff Members



Also, Big Joe donated basketballs, bags and shoes to the boys.

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Apart from the nutritional side the students from USIU (United States International University) donated hand sanitizers, cooking oil, washing powder, metallic plates and cups, rice, geisha bathing soaps, maize flour, sugar, tea leaves, biscuits, chapati flour, toothpaste, toilet paper and shoes.



We are grateful to other well-wishers like St Catherine's Small Christian Community, Jumuia Suleiman, Mary Bushells, Krishan, Sonia and the British Airways crew members who provided other essential items of hygiene and sanitation, drinks, breakfast cereals, bread, lentils, fruit and clothes.



Bananas



Football T-shirts



Bread donations



Donations from Sonia Birdi







Celebrating International Women's Day

Like millions of people around the world, MPC organised a walk to celebrate International Women's Day. The boys accompanied others on the walk as they were promoting the rights of the women in the society, such as *Freedom from Torture and Degradation* and *Equal pay for all*.

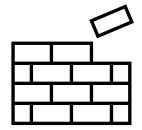
The boys attended the Rugby Tournament at Impala Grounds. They were divided into 2 groups MPC A: Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre and MPC B: St. Catherine Primary School. After competing with other teams, they both reached the finals where they played against each other. The winner being MPC! Thev were issued with certificates. It's great to see how well they have developed.



Winners MPC!

We are very thankful to Paula Cullen's group for providing support.

Just a reminder about last month's appeal for the Dining Hall Project. If you would like to donate by buying a €50 brick please use the **website donate button** – <u>www.mercymukuru.co.ke</u> The target is €15,000.



Sponsorship Office

Schools closed on 3rd March 2022 for third term 2021 academic year. The Sponsorship Office followed up on academic reports and updated the database for easy access by the donors. The reports are to enable us to follow-up on the students' progress so as to advise and guide them, especially to improve on the dropped subjects.

Our practice has been, during the long school break, to have 'Sensitization Day' for all the sponsored students. A number of guests were invited to give mentorship talks to the students, among them were Strathmore University students. The topics included Career Guidance, Self-Identity, Peer Pressure, Substance Abuse and the key to achieving university success.



Roseline addresses the students during Sensitization Day

The sponsored students participated well during the community service days as a way of appreciating the support they receive from our donors in payment of their school fees. They assisted in various duties around the 5 MPC sites. Some of the activities included general cleaning as well as gardening.



Students engage in community service

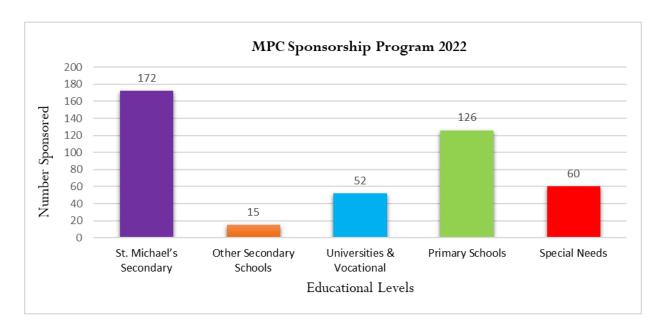


Special thanks to Irish Embassy and Port Cross for their kind donations of refreshments that were served at the Sensitization Day.



One of our donors, Mr Salvatore sponsored 20 needy boys: 19 at St Michael's Secondary School and 1 at the Vision Institute's Diploma in Information Technology. This is such an encouraging gesture as there is a gap in boys' empowerment. In addition, 4 more girls were sponsored at the vocational training centre through Mrs Elizabeth Kunzl's sponsorship. Sincere gratitude to all our donors for their wonderful support to the needy students.

The total number of students being sponsored for 2022 amounts to 425 which is a mighty effort.



The Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examinations were held in early March and there were 18 sponsored pupils who scored over 250 marks. Hopefully we can identify sponsors for them to join St Michael's Secondary School. The pupils who scored over 340 marks are likely to receive commercial sponsorship from Banks and some NGOs. There are further detail results under the primary school section.

Congratulations to the top 3 sponsored MPC primary school KCPE 2021 achievers:

Hillary Nyaga (341), Kennedy Mboko (332), Ben Otieno (302).



Kennedy, Ben and Hillary

Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

All the children underwent assessments during the month and improvements were scored at an increasing rate showing capabilities of doing better in learning, communication and daily living tasks. The focus for March was to enhance the coordination of the Centre's work and to enable consultants to foster a more conducive environment for the children by helping them meet their needs, facilitate medical support and parent meetings.

The Centre comprises of 4 units with a 60:40 ratio of boys to girls. The most numerous disability is cerebral palsy. In March there was one new admission being a young girl with cerebral palsy. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention state that cerebral palsy affects 1 – 4 children in 1,000 globally with cerebral palsy being the most common motor disability in childhood. The World Health Organization claim that the numbers of cerebral palsy were declining but now are increasing in both developed and developing countries. Although there are no official statistics in Kenya on the prevalence of cerebral palsy some experts calculate that there is at least **1 in 100** children with the condition (source: https://www.enableme.ke).

One little girl, Yasmin, has been progressing well with her therapy sessions and can now crawl independently. The mother is delighted to see her daughter manage her own weight with the exercises.



Hope Kids Team



Yasmin on the move

The Centre received a visit from Millicent Akumu from Hope Kids who donated some food provisions for the children. All food provision donations ensure good quality and nutritional meals for the children each day and we are grateful to Team Panjak who provide monthly supplies. The hygiene and sanitation donations from Angelica Industries contribute to a clean and healthy Centre.



Donations from Hope Kids



Tree planting



Lunchtime with Hope Kids

After a two-year absence due to CoVid19 pandemic Lucia Jantosovicova from eRko, Slovakia, visited Songa Mbele for a monitoring and evaluation meeting. Monitoring and evaluation meetings are scheduled each year which helps with feedback for the Centre. Lucia was amazed at the new facility and how the children are engaged in the classrooms. From the beginning of Songa Mbele na Masomo eRko Slovakia has been a long-term partner and contributes substantially to the operational costs of the Centre.



Lucia with some MPC Staff at the M&E visit



Lucia is introduced to the one of the classes

More and more of our donors both national and international are returning to see the new facility. In March we received Noreen Walsh and Mary Richardson from USA. A timely visit as we celebrated **International Women's Day**. Sr Mary Killeen addressed the group before the start of the march in the multipurpose hall.



USA Visitors: Noreen and Mary address the crowd



The march commenced at MPC Head Office and walked along Likoni Road, down pass Balozi onto Hazina Estate towards Songa Mbele where the guest speakers addressed the group.



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Group entering Our Lady of Mercy Primary School grounds



Outside the gate at MPC Head Office

New Likoni Road

Social and Health Services Social Services

The Social Services Department continue with the various tasks for the different MPC projects. Not surprising that the big numbers are found in food distribution, nutrition and needy support to families. The impact of CoVid19 continues to cascade through to the everyday items.

One of the cases during the month involved an orphan Class 8 pupil living with HIV/AIDS. The girl is currently living with relatives in the slums. It was decided to return the pupil to the grandparents. Unfortunately, the grandparents will not be able to support the girl into secondary school. Sadly, the she is in need of a safe place to live so that she can continue her education. The case was referred to the Child Protection Office for further follow-up.

			ı	Mukuru Pro	motion Cer	itre					
			Socia	l and Healtl	n Services S	tatistics					
			Fo	or the Mont	h of March 2	2022					
		Education	n					Health	We	elfare	
No.	Case type / Activities	St Bakhita	St Catherine	St Elizabeth	Sancta Maria Kayaaba	St Michael's Secondary	Vocational Training Centre SKILLS	MPC Clinic	Songa Mbele na Masomo	MPC Rehabilitation Centre	Total
1	Abuse Cases				1						1
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		73								73
3	Amaranth Babies & Child Clients		10								10
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases					4	1			9	14
5	Business Startup / Booster	2		1	3	2	2		1	10	21
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions			5	4		8			15	32
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources									53	53
	Donations Received	1	3	1		3	2		10	35	55
	Fire and Floods Disaster assistance			2							2
	Food Distribution		77				101				178
	Home Visits	5	9	7	16	2	4	5	6		54
	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)					_	1	3			4
	Malnourished Babies		18								18
14	Medical Cases (to MIC)	2	10	3	5	10	10	60	7	31	138
15	Meetings and Trainings	1	1			2	3	1	8	2	18
	Mentorship Sessions		7			1	2		1	1	12
17	Mobilization of Resources					1					1
18	Needy Families Support (Community)	2	5		5		1				13
	Needy Students/Children	2	19		2	18	1		64	23	129
20	Networking	2	4	2	2	2	2	3		3	20
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions								2	21	23
22	New Teenage Pregnancies cases		1								1
23	Nutritional Support	1	3								4
24	Placement (job/internship experience)										-
	Pregnancy Support Packages										-
	Provision of Sanitary Towels	1		11		200					212
	Referrals (except medical)	1		2		1	1		1		6
	Safeguarding Follow Ups				2	2					4
29	School Absenteeism/Truancy	1				3	5		57		66
30	Schools Profiles	15	11		12	19	7		1		65
31	School Visits					1			1		2
32	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions								36		36
33	Sponsorship Follow-ups		12			1	2		13	1	29
34	Uniform Aid										-
	Totals	36	263	34	52	272	153	72	208	204	1,294

Over 50 home visits were conducted in March. The home visits remain an essential activity as it aids the social workers access to vulnerable clients. Many people who were visited in March received food donations. A number of the children were found to be sleeping on the dirt floors or on tattered clothes and cardboards with old sheets as blankets. The social workers also identified a Grade 6 pupil who is 3 months pregnant. This case was referred to the County's Child Protection Office. Other children were discovered with injuries that had not been treated and others with disabilities, both groups were referred to the appropriate places.



Home visit

The social workers also assisted some families to complete forms to a number of agencies providing secondary school scholarships. Follow-ups were carried out on the young mothers who had recently given birth and provided with baby packages.



The other follow-ups covered the sick in their homes to check if they had the medications they required. At times a person is diagnosed with an illness such as hypertension and receives some medications from the Clinic but then sells the medications for food. MPC staff stress the importance of taking the medications and to watch their intake of sugars and salt. Others who are sick are encouraged to attend the different programs at the Clinic to improve their health or receive a medical referral to another health institution. There are

always unplanned tasks from the home and hospital visits.

Pupils receives food package

Often the medical follow-ups become cases where a person has already been tested, diagnosed and referred to another hospital with greater capability but the referred hospital will not accept the results from other hospitals and the person must undergo the same tests again which makes life pretty difficult for people who simply do not have the funds. These could be simple x-rays or CT scans and at times a fracture may not be aligned correctly.



Young boy receives clothes



Teenage mother receives care package

MPC Clinic

Raising awareness about good health practices was the focus of the Clinic in March. The staff provided health education sessions on nutrition and hygiene to the community to improve on their general knowledge. Seminars were conducted at Mariguini Village and the major challenge identified was caring for newborns and infants. We are grateful to Slovak Aid for supporting such initiative.

Nutritionist giving a demonstration on proper positioning for infant feeding.





Public health officer giving a talk on hygiene and sanitation.

The Ministry of Health Sub-county Tuberculosis Coordinator visited the Clinic to review the practices and records of the therapy program. The important dimension of this particular program is to ensure that those identified with TB will return to the Clinic and receive check-ups and medications provided by the Government. It also helps the Government to stay on top of any potential outbreaks in the community.

The Clinic received medical donations from Dr Grammaticus from Karen and Mary Richardson who visited from USA. The items will make a difference to the Clinic and the patients as the cost of medical items is forever increasing.



Mary presents the donations





Nebulizing machine, blood pressure machine and theatre packs

March Registrations 2022

Category	Gender	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above 64 Yrs	Total
New cases	Female	105	27	26	177	50	16	5	406
	Male	61	24	23	88	33	15	1	245
Subtotal		166	51	49	265	83	31	6	651
Revisits	Female	165	10	7	135	57	34	4	412
	Male	94	26	12	74	37	48	4	295
Subtotal		259	36	19	209	94	82	8	707
Total		425	87	68	474	177	113	14	1,358
Percentage	Female	64%	43%	49%	66%	60%	44%	64%	60%
	Male	36%	57%	51%	34%	40%	56%	36%	40%

March 2022 Laboratory Tests

Laboratory Tests	0 - 5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	> 64 Yrs	Total
ANC Profile	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	15
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)	0	0	0	6	1	1	0	8
Bilirubin Levels	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blood Group	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)	0	1	1	4	7	10	2	25
Brucella	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
BS for MPS (Malaria)	26	10	5	38	9	1	0	89
Calcium Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Creatinine levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Du test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Haemogram	18	2	3	25	8	6	1	63
HbA1c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Helicobacter Pylori	0	4	7	34	14	9	0	68
Hemoglobin Levels	10	3	6	8	3	0	0	30
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy	0	0	0	16	1	2	0	19
Lipid profile	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Liver Function Test	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pregnancy Test	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	12
Rheumatoid Factor	0	0	0	6	7	6	0	19
Salmonella	1	0	1	12	4	1	0	19
Stool Analysis	25	17	17	73	24	7	1	164
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uric Acid	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Urinalysis	14	7	8	96	29	11	1	166
Urine Culture	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Urine multudrug test	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
VDRL/Syphilis	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Total	97	44	49	354	112	56	5	717
Average Tests Per Day	34							



The largest group of patients were treated for respiratory issues and the bulk of them being children under 5 years. The children's immunization program continues to achieve high numbers each month. The living conditions often play an enormous role in the health of children.

We welcome Sr Stellah Mutiso to the Clinic as a volunteer to assist the staff.

Summary of Treatments For March 2022										
Diseases	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above 64 Yrs	Total		
Outpatients										
Respiratory	119	18	8	62	27	13	2	249		
Gastronintestinal	64	15	11	80	26	11	1	208		
Cardiovascular	66	23	17	99	52	51	9	317		
ENT	4	3	7	5	2	1	0	22		
Genitourinary	9	4	5	116	18	8	0	160		
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	0	0	12	5	1	0	18		
Musculoskeletal	2	6	7	30	22	10	0	77		
Integumentary (Skin)	25	9	3	15	3	3	2	60		
Dressing	2	1	2	4	4	2	0	15		
Other Diseases	29	2	3	11	5	2	0	52		
Subtotal Outpatients	320	81	63	434	164	102	14	1,178		
Clinics										
ANC				50	0			50		
Immunizations	128							128		
Nutrition								0		
Comprehensive Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3		
Non Medical (Mental)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Referrals to Medical Facilities	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1		
Subtotal Clinics	128	0	0	54	0	0	0	182		
Total	448	81	63	488	164	102	14	1,360		

Education Primary Schools

The Kenya Certificate Primary Examinations (KCPE) were held in early March and followed by the long break (7 weeks' holidays) to distinguish one academic year from another. All institutions were ready for the national examinations as thorough preparations were conducted prior. Tight examination rules were observed to ensure no interference or cheating. While MPC schools had 748 registered candidates only 744 were able to sit the exams. Congratulations to the 5 boys who attended one of four primary schools and achieved distinguished scores over 400 marks with Fidel obtaining the highest with 405 marks out of 500.



Top KCPE Achiever Felix Sharp (417 marks) with proud Dad, Jim.

The Sponsorship Office will do its best to ensure that the boys secure sponsorship to continue their education.



Fidel Okatch, Gregory Ouma, Felix Sharp, Samuel Isavwa, Brian Musyoki. (All are 15 years old)

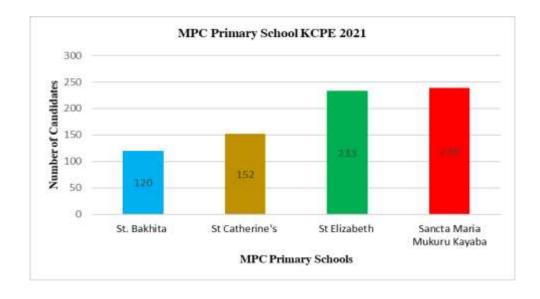
Top Achievers for 2021 KCPE

Fidel 400 (St Catherine), Brian 401(St Bakhita), Samuel 409 (Sancta Maria Mukuru), Gregory (Sancta Maria Mukuru) and Felix 417(St. Elizabeth).

Stories from the parents:

Jim Sharp (**Felix Sharp's father**): recalled the many challenges for Felix when he tried to study because of their small house and the many power outages that are frequent in slum. My wife and I struggled constantly to help Felix go to school. When it rained, the flooding affected Felix both at home and when going to school. Felix borrowed books from his peers to be able to read as the father had no stable income due to CoVid19 to purchase revision materials.

John Odhiambo (**Gregory Ouma's father**): shared that he had challenges paying the school fees for Gregory but realized that he was a very bright boy since nursery. At one point Gregory could only go to do one term and the teachers immediately promoted him to a higher class due to his abilities. I would always try and get him secondhand revision books to read.



MPC Primary Schools Results Analysis

Name	English	Kiswahili	Math	Science	SSRE	School Mean 2021	School Mean 2020
St Bakhita	52.33	48.37	47.80	50.88	47.88	247.26	248.81
St Catherine	57.49	58.88	50.98	51.41	54.29	273.05	260.66
St Elizabeth	52.84	50.95	47.34	50.32	49.46	250.91	244.44
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	53.61	50.54	47.43	49.21	51.40	252.19	229.81
Averages	54.07	52.18	48.39	50.45	50.76	255.85	245.93

The focus that MPC primary schools had over the last 18 months is paying off as English was the best subject followed by Kiswahili. The science subjects on the other hand need further attention.

At a primary school level there were improvements in the mean score for Sancta Maria Kayaaba Primary with 22.39 points, St Elizabeth increased by 6.48 points and St Catherine's was up by 12.43 points. St Bakhita was the only primary school that decreased its mean score by 1.65 points. These results were brought about by good coordination between teachers and pupils. Parents also played a part by giving encouragement to their children at home.

KCPE 2021 Marks Distribution Analysis											
School	400+	399- 350	349- 300	299- 250	249- 200	199- 150	149- 100	99 -0	Total		
St. Bakhita	1	7	20	31	28	27	6	Nil	120		
St. Catherine	1	14	39	42	36	16	4	Nil	152		
St. Elizabeth	1	16	45	56	56	46	13	Nil	233		
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	2	21	34	57	72	38	15	Nil	237		
TOTAL	5	58	138	186	192	127	38	Nil	744		

The marks analysis shows that 52% of the candidates scored above 250 marks which means that 52% will have access to secondary school while the other 42% will struggle to enrol in a secondary school. The reasons for 42% scoring under 250 marks are many and these pupils will be expected to enrol in a vocational training centre or start some type of casual work. The National or Extra County Secondary schools will be relucant to enroll the pupils as it will impact on the overall academic results for that particular school.

The Gender Analysis demonstrated a number of points for the MPC primary schools. For the first time more girls sat for their KCPE than boys (52:48). The percentage of girls (196) who scored 250+ marks was 50% while the other 50% scored below 249 marks. The percentage of boys (191) who scored 250+ marks was 54% yet the boys scored higher in the categories above 350+ marks at a rate of 68% compared to the girls at 32%. While no girls scored above 400 they out performed the boys in the 300 - 349 category at a rate of 55%.

KCPE 2021 Gender Analysis										
Primary School		400+	399- 350	349- 300	299- 250	249- 200	199- 150	149- 100	99 - 0	Total
St Bakhita		1	7	20	31	28	27	6	Nil	120
	M	1	6	10	13	14	15	3	-	62
	F	-	1	10	18	14	12	3	-	58
St Catherine	Total	1	14	39	42	36	16	4	Nil	152
	M	1	9	20	22	16	7	-	-	75
	F	-	5	19	20	20	9	4	-	77
St Elizabeth	Total	1	16	45	56	56	46	13	Nil	233
	M	1	11	20	26	22	21	7	-	108
	F	-	5	25	30	34	25	6	-	125
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	Total	2	21	34	57	72	38	15	Nil	237
	M	2	12	12	25	26	25	6	-	106
	F	-	9	22	32	46	13	9	-	131
Total	Total	5	58	138	186	192	127	38		744

Sponsorship for many pupils in Mukuru slum is critical as it will often affect how their futures will be determined. Interviews were conducted by the St Philip Neri Primary School for Grade 3, 4 and 6 pupils. Over 30 pupils attended the 2 day activities: St Bakhita 9; St Catherine 2; St Elizabeth 10; and Sancta Maria Kayaaba was 9. Sponsorship is based on the pupils performance and family background. We wish all the pupils who attended every success.

Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) refers to an education program that is based on demonstration of learners' ability to apply the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they are expected to acquire as they progress through their education. The shortage of trained teachers and inadequate teaching materials are frustrating the implementation of the CBC. The challenges are related to provision of resources needed to successfully implement the CBC. The majority of schools face delayed distribution and delivery of textbooks. Parents are forced to pay for the resources. MPC has supplied the primary schools with some teaching and learning materials that will lessen parents' burden but the sheer numbers of pupils make it prohibitive to cater for everyone.

The Government is still in the process of filling the gaps left behind by teacher transfers. MPC has approached the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to employ 2 of the existing teachers at Sancta Maria Kayaaba. We hope that TSC will absorb these teachers so that MPC can employ other teachers to reduce the teacher:pupil ratio.

St Michael's Secondary School

St Michael's closed in early March to prepare for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education national examinations. There were 123 Form 4 students registered to sit their last examinations.

Their confidence was high and the results will be released sometime in April. The Mass was celebrated before the end of term and the whole College prayed for the Form 4 candidates.



Father Gabriel prays over the Form 4 Candidates



After the Mass and part of the farewell the students show cased their talents to the other students. It was entertaining to watch them dance, sing, rap, acrobatics and MCing showing an abundance of talent.

This year's KCSE started with Computer Studies examinations paper one and two. The candidates were happy finally to sit for the exam after a long wait.



Candidates sitting for the Computer Studies exam in the computer laboratory.

Last month the Form 3s sat their end of term exams and the best results lie with Computer Studies. More work needs to be carried out to improve the humanities and sciences. To obtain university entrance the students will need to achieve at least C+ depending on the course. The other Form classes also had end of term exams which are listed below. The results have identified that more improvement needs to occur for most of the students.

Form 3 End of Term Examination Results 2021						
Subject	Mean	Grade				
English	4.20	D+				
Kiswahili	5.69	\boldsymbol{C}				
Mathematics	3.35	D				
Biology	4.71	<i>C</i> -				
Physics	4.50	<i>C</i> -				
Chemistry	2.20	D-				
Geography	6.12	C				
History	5.76	C				
CRE (Christian Religious Education)	6.27	C				
Agriculture	4.74	C-				
Computer Studies	8.08	B-				
Business Studies	4.48	D+				
Average	4.73	C-				

Form 2 End of Term Examination Results 2021						
Subject	North		South			
·	Mid Term	End	Mid Term	End		
English	6.00	6.00	5.30	5.80		
Kiswahili	5.22	3.13	5.28	4.08		
Mathematics	1.54	1.67	2.00	2.97		
Biology	5.96	4.04	6.35	2.00		
Physics	5.14	3.50	4.23	3.67		
Chemistry	2.18	1.79	2.62	2.25		
Geography	1.90	3.55	2.29	3.81		
History	9.04	5.58	10.19	7.41		
CRE (Christian Religious Education)	7.38	6.00	6.28	5.06		
Agriculture	6.87	6.87	6.85	5.73		
Computer Studies	5.41	9.72	5.74	8.87		
Business Studies	3.27	8.33	5.66	11.25		
Average	4.99	5.02	5.23	5.24		

Form 1 End of Term Examination Results 2021							
Subject	North		South		East		
	Mid	End	Mid	End	Mid	End	
	Term		Term		Term		
English	7.70	6.36	8.88	8.02	7.78	6.54	
Kiswahili	6.97	4.04	8.59	6.83	7.64	5.14	
Mathematics	2.42	4.65	3.40	4.19	3.60	5.28	
Biology	3.78	4.70	4.28	3.45	4.52	4.57	
Physics	4.10	3.75	3.83	3.92	4.59	5.02	
Chemistry	7.43	6.07	7.23	7.14	6.71	6.19	
Geography	7.22	4.60	6.65	2.66	7.73	5.92	
History	8.21	5.47	7.42	5.10	4.40	4.38	
CRE (Christian Religious Education)	7.22	5.00	8.28	7.97	7.16	6.92	
Agriculture	3.02	5.36	4.30	6.16	4.66	6.54	
Computer Studies	3.56	4.35	5.23	5.35	3.80	6.50	
Business Studies	4.82	5.78	5.64	5.97	4.04	5.28	
Average	5.54	5.01	6.14	5.56	5.55	5.69	

Before the examinations commenced the MPC social workers identified a number of students who required food provisions of bread, milk, rice, green grams and margarine. The Child Welfare Society of Kenya donated provisions so that the students could receive food during the breaks in between exams. Over 200 girls were also issued sanitary towels from Krisha Sumariya, an intern from Strathmore University.



Students receive food provisions



Girls received sanitary towels

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

March was characterized by feelings of excitement, fear and anticipation among students. Excitement because of the opportunities they see ahead of them as they complete school but fear because of the unknown. All 117 students registered to sit for NITA examinations.



Last day of community service for the Strathmore group

The Strathmore University interns completed their placement at the Centre. They will be missed by the students as they provided encouragement especially Krisha Sumariya who also donated various provisions for the students.



We are grateful to Team Pankaj who donated lots of vegetables to the Centre, not only for the examinations, but the whole year, so that the students would not be hungry during their examinations in the different courses.







Team Pankaj prepared the vegetables for the lunches for needy students at the Skills Centre.



The Skills students participated in the International Women's Day march organized by MPC. They came in large numbers to raise awareness and support women's rights. Many of the posters were created by the art students.



International Women's Day March

Like the other educational institutions, the vocational training centres also had examinations. At the end of the exams many of the students will be applying for jobs in the workforce. We are pleased with the work the students have completed and now that they are ready for the next stage in their employment journey. The students have been equipped with sufficient skills to make them competitive to enter the employment world.



Computer Class



The Catering students did their last practical which comprised a three-course meal. They completed a two-course meal due to budgetary constraints. We thank all our donors especially Fidel Goetz Foundation for supporting the Catering course. The computer packages course completion rate was 67% as 4 students had to defer until next term due to various personal reasons. The Front Office course had a completion rate of 90%.

Last practical for 2021 catering class



Demonstration by the Catering Instructor



Food Service is part of the training

The Association for Persons with Disabilities Kenya APDK conducted a 3-day workshop for Computer trainers for Inclusive digital participation project (SIDP) sponsored by the British Council. Teacher David, our computer teacher at St Michael's Secondary school attended. The focus for the trainers was on how to utilized computers for students with special needs.

MPC received donations from Raja Trust Foundation and KLM representatives. These donations included a variety of stationery items and uniforms that would benefit the students during their practical classes. KLM items are so beneficial to the hair dressing and beauty students and support of the vulnerable students at the Skills. We are highly grateful for this.





Donations muchly appreciated by the students

Announcements

There are many activities that continue throughout the month that are not reported but are very necessary to maintain the outreach services of MPC.

- Celebration of St Patrick's Day at the Irish Embassy Residence.
- Overseas Visitors Noreen Walsh, Mary Richardson (USA) eRko Slovakia (Slovakia), Fidel Goetz (Germany) Out of the Box, KLM and British Airways Crew.
- Maria Kidney and Rose Kioko from Out of the Box consults assisted MPC in preparation of the Empowering Young Women leaders and African adolescence program sponsored by the Fidel Goetz Foundation.
- The first MPC Board Meeting held in the new Skills building. The room is bright, breezy and fully equipped with the necessary technology for meetings. We are very grateful to Manos Unidas who contributed to the construction of the new Skills building.



- The Kenyan Child Foundation extended an invitation to the Ireland Ambassador to Kenya, Fionnuala Quinlan to be the official guest at the opening ceremony at Songa Mbele na Masomo in July 2022.
- The St. Catherine's Primary School land case hearing was scheduled for 30th March but was postponed as the judges were away for a meeting. The new hearing date will be communicated soon.