



September Newsletter

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2022

Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step By Step

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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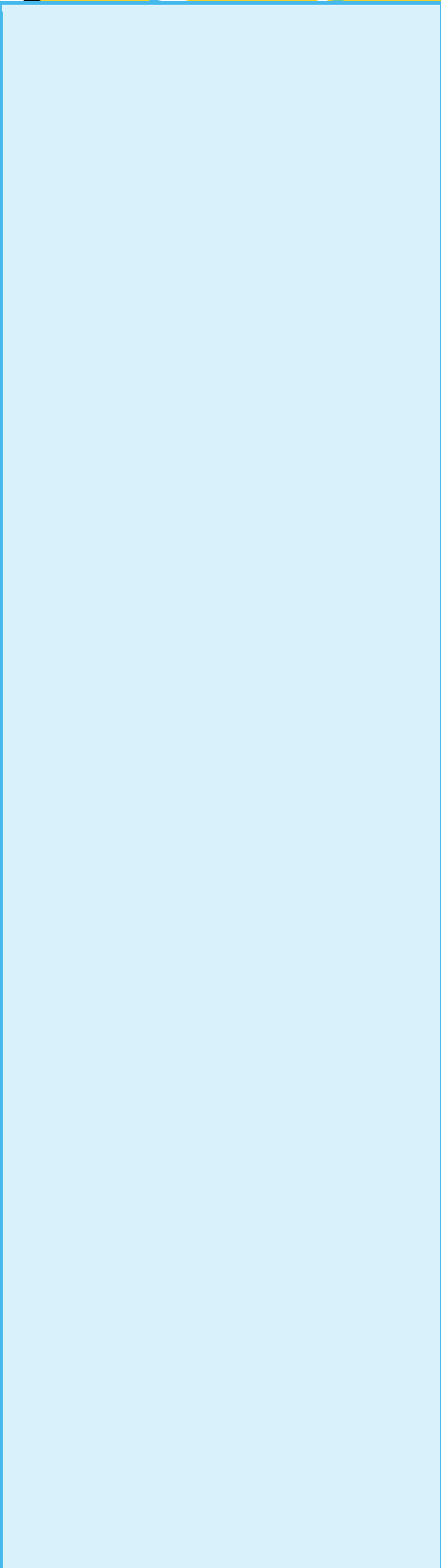
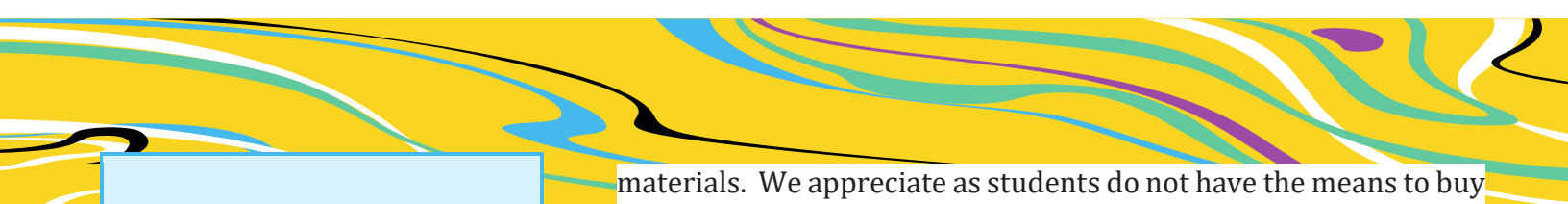
Dear Partners, Supporters, Friends and Sisters,

It is very encouraging for us to receive support from Sisters as far away as Australia and occasionally from the US. Of course, there are a few Sisters from Ireland who support regularly as well as Mercy Solidarity and some of the Provinces. It is good you know what this help means to us, the knowledge that we are in this work together, that we are not struggling alone. Thanks for that.

On September 1st, we received a retired Spanish manager of companies, Antonio Alvarez. He offered his considerable expertise to enhance the overall management by working one on one with each of the Heads of Department. He is currently assisting the HODs to engage staff, to identify appropriate actions, to achieve the strategic plan objectives in each department. It is great to have his help. Normally consultants do not have enough time to really develop the understanding of middle management. We are grateful to Antonio.

A short video clip of Mr Colm Brophy TD, Minister of State for the Diaspora and Development, visiting Songa Mbele, was shown on RTE news. He was highlighting hunger in the Horn of Africa. After viewing this news clip, Irene Plunkett raised more than €4,000 for those who suffer from extreme hunger. Mrs S Thatthi, my former deputy, in Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, invites me for lunch once a term and gives a donation for sponsorship. She is now in her mid-eighties. It is wonderful to see her keen interest and care.

Crew members of British Airways continue to assist with goods. They help with clothes for fire victims, hairdressing and beauty materials, fabric and patterns for sewing, washable toys and educational material for the youths with disabilities and art



materials. We appreciate as students do not have the means to buy the materials needed for practice. People of short stature (dwarf) have a hard time here due to the belief in witchcraft and curses. Many end up dying of drink. I am happy to note that two of them, whom some of you supported, Daudi and Martin, have become steadier and are doing well. Daudi is now working as a gardener at Songa Mbele na Masomo and Martin just completed his second year of high school.

We are appreciative and thankful to Mater Misericordiae Hospital Nairobi, CEO, Sr Maria Ngui, for the donation of 20 used computers. Our secondary and front office students needed them urgently.

We opened Tenders and chose the contractor for the building of the new dining room for the street boys. Thanks to Paula Cullen, Irene Plunkett, Catherine Nolan, Vera Smith, Adrienne Keeley, Theresa ??, Claire Chambers, Calary Congregation, and their families and friends for this initiative. We also thank people who responded to the appeal that we placed in previous newsletters.

Ministry of Health staff visited and threatened to close our Clinic due to dilapidated conditions. They gave us two weeks to renovate our laboratory. We quickly responded with temporary measures but we hope to build a permanent Clinic one day. The Clinic is a wooden structure that is over 25 years old. Meanwhile, all Departments and activities went on well.

To see at least five past pupils of the Rehabilitation Centre in college and about fifty in secondary school is very satisfying. May God bless our donors as the students could not reach this stage without you. Trocaire assisted some parents of children in rehabilitation to set up small businesses in order to support their children and not have them on the streets. Thank you to the Mercy Education Office for the celebration of Mercy Day with representatives of all schools attending Mass and entertainment with refreshments.

May we work together to alleviate poverty.

Sr Mary Killeen
Director

Welfare Services

Rehabilitation Centre

During the month of September 5 more boys commenced their rehabilitation at the Centre which takes the total number to 66 for the month. The accelerated learning class has 34 students; St Catherine's Primary School has 14 students while 15 attend the carpentry course and a further 3 boys are enrolled in secondary school.

It would seem incredulous that after a disruptive August, schools across the country were given a break in September. The teachers proceeded with teaching and tried to cover the workload as per the curriculum with a very turbulent previous month.

The Grade 3 boys completed the CBC assessments and performed very well with the fun activities such as dancing, singing and playing musical instruments. They also had to wear costumes that they made with a little help from their teachers. The objective for the assessment was to be very creative and colourful. The day wasn't all fun as the serious side required them to sit the traditional test in class.



Grade 3 Students - CBC Assessment



In Class Test

The other Grades had assessments and by the results more work is necessary to improve their marks. A number of boys who performed well received various awards.



Awards Presentation

It was great for the other boys to see actual “success” from a former street boy, James Kamau. James recently joined Muranga University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Mathematics. He was so excited to receive a laptop from Paula Cullen and Friends to enable him to study his course in more depth.



James Kamau

The extra-curricular activities such as the catechism classes, motivational talks, climate marches, rugby practice and friendly matches took place at the Centre with a great sense of enjoyment.



Catechism class



Rugby practice



Crafts



Climate Change March



Gardening



Acrobatics training

Thanks to Trocaire, the finalization for the 'Small Business Enterprise' project for parents was completed. The MPC social workers have been monitoring the progress of the 10 parents who signed onto the project. Out of the ten, 7 parents have commenced, 1 parent has placed a temporary halt on her business while they find a better area for her. The other 2 parents had challenges and failed.



Selling chickens - Agnes Karen Ochieng



Clothes stall - Mary Wangari



Fish shop – Mary Okoth

As mentioned before the 'Home Tracing' program is important as it helps identify and corroborate the boys' stories. In September the social workers started on the home tracing and hope to complete everything by the end of the October. There are 23 more home traces to do.

During the short holiday period the boys received several visitors and shared with them some personal stories, singing, dancing and demonstrating some sporting moves.



British Airways crewmembers enjoying the entertainment



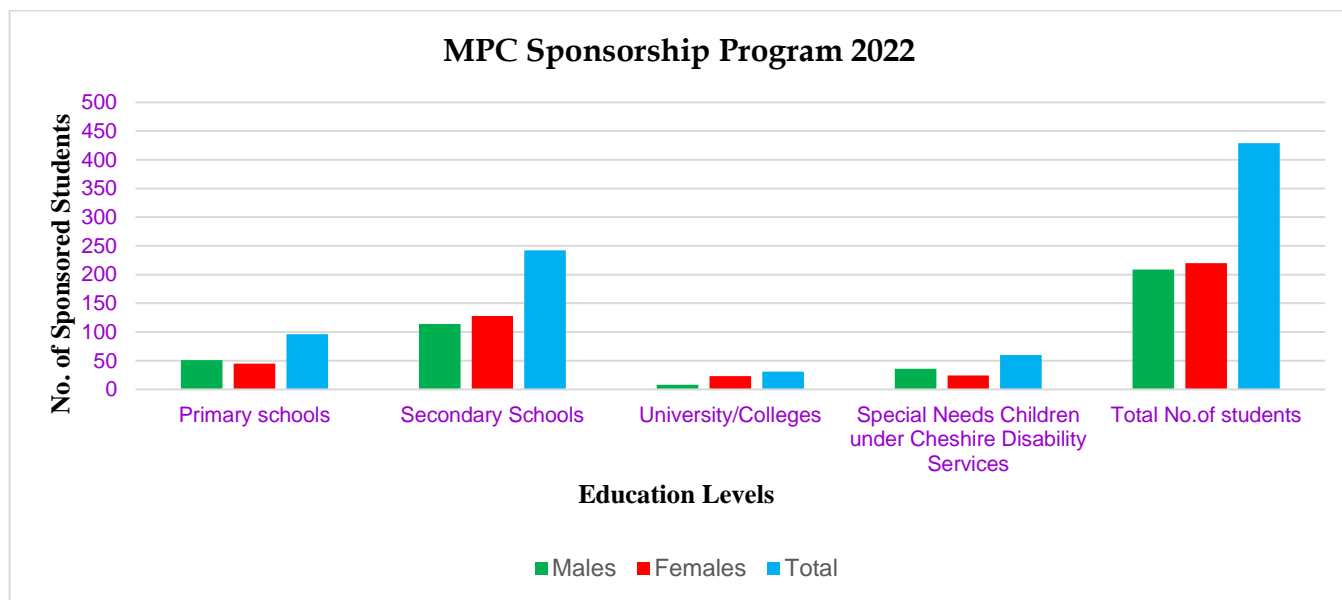
Action in Focus

The Centre is very grateful for the continued support of food provisions from local people.



Sponsorship Office

While the primary and secondary schools closed for a week's break in September, it also marked the beginning of a new semester for the tertiary students. The sponsored students have written their appreciation letters to their donors and the school reports were collected to inform the donors on the student's academic progress.



For children from the slums to reach university / tertiary level education is a mighty mammoth effort. Generous people from many parts of the world have enabled this to happen. Recently there were 4 sponsored students who finally reached this amazing milestone. James Kamau will commence a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Mathematics at Muranga University, thanks to Paula Cullen and Friends; Dennis Ongango will study Electrical Engineering at Nairobi Technical College thanks to Beverly Cheresem; Edward Mokua and Emmanuel Wekesa will study at Masinde Muliro University and at Kirinyaga University; Simon Mwangi will attend Kirinyaga University thanks to the Raja Charitable Trust Foundation.

During the holiday breaks the Office organizes sensitization days or mentorship sessions for the sponsored students. The guest speaker for September was a former sponsored student of St Michael's, Dennis Otieno. Dennis graduated in March 2022 with first class honours in a Bachelor of Science and Microbiology from Eldoret University. Dennis was sponsored by Jim and Lorin Morvich.

Returning to his high school provided much uplifting encouragement for the students at St Michael's. Dennis' advice to the students was to remain positive and concentrate on improving their weak subjects especially sciences and mathematics, which seem to challenge many of the students.



Dennis Otieno speaks to Sponsored students on mentorship day

Some of the sponsored students joined MPC staff from different departments to do their community service. They were assigned duties to carry out as an expression of gratitude to MPC and its sponsors.



Community Service



Milka and Robert (Mukuru Alumni) and Mr Obiri, Principal

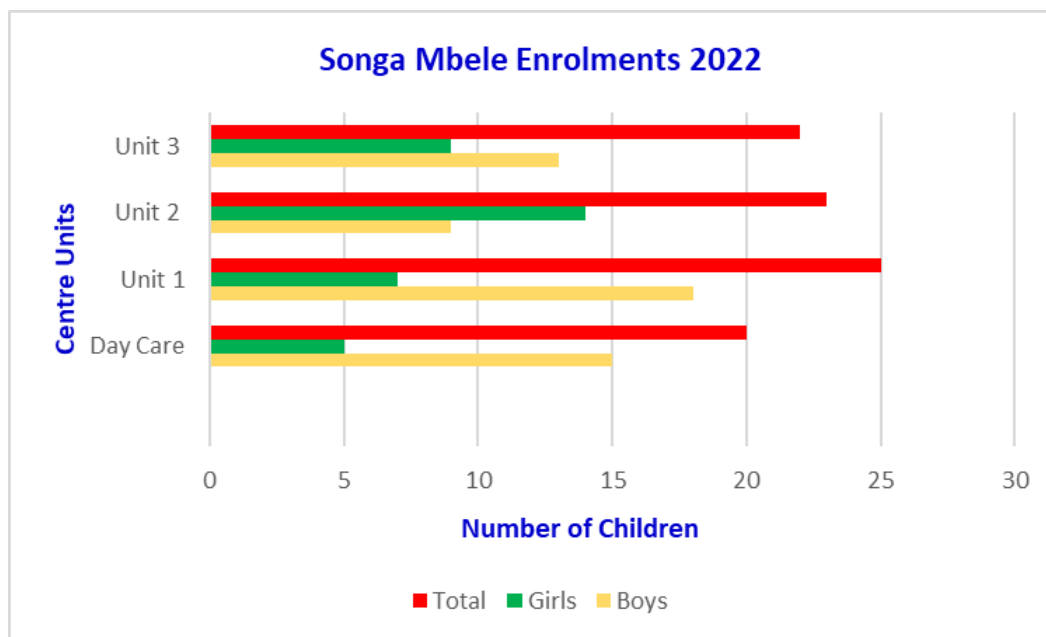
The opportunity for sponsors to visit and interact with their students is limited. In September, representatives from the Mukuru Alumni managed to spend some time at St Michael's Secondary School.

Through the support from donors, MPC endeavors to uphold the dignity of the very vulnerable in society, one particular group in society is former prisoners. An entrepreneurship skills workshop was conducted with the identified 10 women and 2 men with diverse talents in art and painting to start their own small businesses. It is hoped that they will be able to earn a decent livelihood. Also, plans are underway to empower 10 young women who recently graduated from Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre. These single mothers are the best performers. We propose to purchase some working tools that will enable them to advance their skills in hairdressing/beauty, dress making and plumbing. We thank the donors for their commitment in offering opportunities to the marginalized.



Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

September was a beehive of activities that included many visitors from various schools and institutions such as the British Airways crewmembers, Evergreen Christian group, Kenya Kids and CBC Highschool. The total number of children enrolled at the Centre is now 90 including 1 new 4 year old child with autism, Calvin Nyakundi.



Each of the Units at the Centre are assisted with caregivers and university students on placement from RAFA Homecare College. All children received therapy sessions to improve their various levels of mobility. The Centre has the capacity to conduct 12 sessions a month for each child. In September 20 children managed 10 sessions or more with 62% being males and 38% being females.

From the Daycare Unit, Maxwell who has cerebral palsy showed great improvement. He was admitted in February 2021 when he was 4 years old with hypertonic muscle tone of both upper and lower extremities. Maxwell had little head control, trunk stability, walking ability as well as no facial expressions. He was unable to play with toys and had limited speech but after continuous therapy Maxwell can now smile, weight bear on his elbows independently and sit with assistance. His hypertonicity has reduced and he enjoys partial trunk stability, making cooing sounds as he reaches for the toys. This is a great experience for the parents to see their child striving to achieve the basics.



Well done Maxwell!

The Sisters of Mercy around the world celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy in September. Many Mercy institutions around the globe would have a focus on outreach as an expression of Mercy especially to the poor. Staff members from the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Nairobi visited the children at Songa and distributed items such as assistive devices, food provisions and bead bangles. The hospital also committed to send a physiotherapist once a week to assist with the training and programs.



Some Mater Misericordiae Staff at Songa Mbele

The social workers conducted 16 home visits to assess the progress of children who are sponsored to other disabilities institutions in different counties. It was noted in reports that there was a decline in some of their academic performances. After meetings with teachers and parents it was agreed to combine efforts to ensure the children study harder.



CDSK Workshop Participants

Several meetings and workshops were held in September. The Cheshire Disabilities Services Kenya (CDSK) held 2 engagement forums targeting Parents and Boys on Adolescent Reproductive Health Rights and Services. Over 20 parents and 20 boys were led through an empowerment process to raise and talk about sex and sexuality without feeling shame as well as gender based violence prevention. The other workshops held were the Kenya Sign Language course and Disability Awareness.

Social and Health Services

Social Services

During September, the Department saw an increase in the number of clients who came to seek assistance in the various social offices across our institutions. With the hard economic times, most people are unable to afford basic necessities, hence depend on MPC services to keep going. With many clients seeking nutritional support St. Catherine's Social Office plays a significant role to ensure that they receive this support with whatever is available. The Amaranth program has been very instrumental in making sure the chronically ill clients get a weekly nutritional package to boost their immune system.

With the school academic year almost ending, there have been various activities in regard to student follow ups. We recorded an increased number of absenteeism cases from our schools due to various factors ranging from family issues to a lack of access to basic needs, illnesses and truancy. The Child Protection Office, in collaboration with the social workers played a significant role in ensuring the students receive some form of mentorship as well as guidance and counselling. The sessions help provide tools to reduce anti-social behavior in our institutions and also provide other forms of support.

MPC partners and donors enable the Department to serve the children and families in our institutions as well as other community members. The recent clothes donation went directly to the fire victims and their families. Come and meet some of the hundreds of people who were assisted in September.



A needy parent and her son, from St. Bakhita, during a home visit in Kayaaba moments before being evicted from her home.



A sick parent from Kayaaba receives a Home visit.



With many calls through the social offices the social workers go out into the community for home visits to make assessments on how best the parents / families can be helped.

St Bakhita parent received a home visit in September.

Fires and floods are a frequent occurrence in the slums. With fires everything is destroyed.



One of the needy fire victims receives some clothes.

The teenage mothers are assisted with care essentials for their newborn children.



Teenage mothers receive items of basic care for their babies

A sick client with depression was rescued from the streets with her child. Mother and child were assisted with food, clothes and diapers. The mother was referred to a specialist medical support centre for her depression.



Social and Health Services Statistics

For the September 2022

No.	Case type / Activities	Education						Health	Welfare			Total
		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	Child Protection	
1	Abuse Cases				1	1					1	3
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		66									66
3	Amaranth Babies & Child Clients		8									8
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases	4	5	3	15		1			15		43
5	Business Startup / Booster				1	2				2		5
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions		2	7	11	9	6			17		52
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources											0
8	Donations Received		3		2				16	25	4	50
9	Fire and Floods Disaster assistance		3				3					6
10	Food Distribution						42					42
11	Home Visits	11	59	4	24	6	5		7	18		134
12	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)							20	1	2		23
13	Malnourished Babies		14									14
14	Medical Cases (to MIC)	10	41	4	21	17	10	25	18	37	4	187
15	Meetings and Trainings					1			9		1	11
16	Mentorship Sessions	2		3	4	2	7					18
17	Mobilization of Resources											0
18	Needy Families Support (Community)	5	43		8		5		154		22	237
19	Needy Students/Children	37	22	47	11		5					122
20	Networking		3	2	4		2	8		1	5	25
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions		5						3	5		13
22	New Teenage Pregnancies cases											0
23	Nutritional Support		4		29							33
24	Placement (job/internship)											0
25	Pregnancy Support Packages	3	2									5
26	Provision of Sanitary Towels	9		30	5	26	2		1			73
27	Referrals (except medical)	3		2	2	17	7					31
28	Safeguarding Follow Ups			1		2						3
29	School Absenteeism/Truancy	18	6	10	23	10	6		68			141
30	Schools Profiles	50	17	7	11	8	27		3			123
31	School Visits								3			3
32	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions								454			454
33	Sponsorship Follow-ups		25			29	8		34	1		97
34	Uniform Aid		6	4	4	2						16
	Totals	152	334	124	176	132	136	53	771	123	37	2038

The various treatments and clinics continued throughout September. There was a slight increase in the number of patients treated in the month with 30% percentage of children under the age of 5 having respiratory issues followed by 80% of people in the Cardiovascular disease category with Septicaemia which is nearly double the statistics in August.

September 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	61	52	34	154	47	17	3	368
	Male	56	43	20	85	27	19	1	251
Subtotal		117	95	54	239	74	36	4	619
Revisits	Female	162	35	32	144	70	21	6	470
	Male	127	47	30	92	42	24	3	365
Subtotal		289	82	62	236	112	45	9	835
Total		406	177	116	475	186	81	13	1454
Percentage	Female	55%	49%	57%	63%	63%	47%	69%	58%
	Male	45%	51%	43%	37%	37%	53%	31%	42%

September 2022 Treatments

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	136	51	37	77	35	15	2	353
Gastrointestinal	67	23	15	53	20	10	1	189
Cardiovascular	54	34	28	112	53	37	9	327
ENT	8	14	3	7	2	2		36
Genitourinary	1	5	4	92	16	2		120
Sexually Transmitted Diseases				3	5			8
Musculoskeletal	5	13	9	29	32	6	1	95
Integumentary (Skin)	16	7	6	13	3	1		46
Dressing	1	4		3	4			12
Other Diseases	7	22	7	14	5	3		58
Subtotal Outpatients	295	173	109	403	175	76	13	1,244

Clinics

ANC			3	44				47
Immunizations	124							124
Nutrition	57			7				64
Comprehensive Care								0
Tuberculosis				5		2		7
Non Medical (Mental)								0
Referrals to Medical Facilities								0
<i>Subtotal Clinics</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>242</i>
Total	476	173	112	459	175	78	13	1,486

September 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				17	3			20
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)	1			4				5
Bilirubin Levels				1				1
Blood Group				2				2
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)		1	3	16	6	8	3	37
Brucella								0
BS for MPS (Malaria)	22	14	1	15	4	4	0	60
Calcium Levels	1		1					2
Creatinine levels								0
Du test								0
Full Haemogram	38	25	20	49	26	9	1	168
HbA1c								0
Helicobacter Pylori	2	11	15	26	9	6		69
Hemoglobin Levels	1	1		2				4
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	1	1		2				4
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy			1	17	6	1		25
Lipid profile								0
Liver Function Test								0
Pregnancy Test				13	3			16
Rheumatoid Factor			1	4	7	4		16
Salmonella		1		7	1	1		10
Stool Analysis	24	28	11	46	11	5		125
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)							1	1
Uric Acid						2		2
Urinalysis	2	12	11	98	34	8		165
Urine Culture								0
Urine multudrug test								0
VDRL/Syphilis				4		1		5
Total	92	94	64	323	110	49	5	737
<i>Average Tests Per Day 37</i>								

Education

Primary Schools

September marked the end of term 2 and the start of term 3. The primary school enrolments have remained constant, however, the number of teachers decreased placing further stress on the pupils. The rate of absenteeism increased as a few children spend time roaming in the slums with no clear reasons for being absent or with claims of sickness.

Out of the 4 MPC primary schools, the ones with the highest number of teacher shortages are St Catherine and St. Bakhita. A high ratio certainly impacts negatively on learning and teacher delivery. All the primary schools are well above the recommended Teacher's Service Commission ratio of 1:50.

Primary School	No. of Teachers	Pupils	Teacher: Pupil Ratio
St. Bakhita	16	1,803	1:68
St. Elisabeth	27	1,803	1:67
Mukuru Kayaba	29	1,666	1:57
St. Catherine	17	1,285	1:76
Overall Ratio	89	5,837	1:65

Whilst MPC welcomes the deployment of new teachers at its primary schools, the gap still remains. St Bakhita did receive 2 new teachers and St Elizabeth received 1. St Catherine's and Sancta Maria Kayaaba did not receive any.

The Sub-County ball games were carried out during September. The 6 best boy players were selected to form a County team and among them was 1 boy from St. Catherine's and 5 boys from St. Bakhita. The team went to Machakos County for a 5-day tournament where they played against other Counties. The winners then proceeded to the National level matches. Nairobi County team lost to Kajiado County.



Boys football team at Machokos County

The Music festival group proceeded to Westland's Primary School for a 2 day regional competition. The high caliber competition saw St Bakhita Primary pupils lose by 2 points and did not advance to the National levels.



Students dancing during Catholic Education Day Mass



Music festival team at Westlands Primary school

Catholic Education Day 2022 was held at Mang'u High School where each school sent 5 pupils and one teacher. Sancta Maria Kayaaba Primary was awarded a trophy for having taken part in most of the Catholic activities in the region. Other pupils participated in the liturgical dancing. The theme was ***"Catholic Education: formation of people through participation and communication in the mission of evangelization for a synodal church."*** The keynote speaker, Lt Col (Fr) Moses Karanja-Chaplain, Dean of Student National Defence Forces University-Kenya and Mass was presided over by His Eminence John Cardinal Njue.

The Sisters of Mercy associated and sponsored schools celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy. The focus for the year was ***"Show your instructions in actions"***. The 4 MPC Primary Schools participated in the event held at St. Catherine's Primary School. Each school was presented with a Mercy cross as a gift from the Sisters of Mercy.



St. Bakhita entertain the guests



Sancta Maria Kayaaba and St. Elizabeth schools receive their Mercy Cross



As the term came to an end teachers completed the practical lessons and uploaded pupils' marks on the KNEC website. Grade 3 and 6 pupils completed all their CBC projects work and are now preparing for the National exams scheduled to take place in November.



St. Catherine and St. Bakhita Primary Grade 5 pupils demonstrate their cooking skills



Children continued to enjoy the delicious and nutritious meals from Team Pankaj with strawberry porridge.



Mukuru Primary Self-defense class

The social offices in the schools are very aware of needy children and families. The families of the pupils who are not able to afford school bags, pants and uniforms were identified and assisted. A big thank you to the donors who make it possible.



St Catherine's Grade 1 pupils



St Bakhita Grade 4 and Grade 5 pupils



St Elizabeth pupils

St Michael's Secondary School

There were few extracurricular activities in September as it was month for examinations at St Michael's; mock exams for the Form 4 students and the End of Term exams for Forms 1 – 3. The month commenced with the whole school Mass celebrated by Fr Gabriel from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, South B.



Father Gabriel presides at the whole school Mass

The summary results from the examinations indicate that several subjects need consistency across the year levels. The best performing subject for Form 1s was Agriculture; Form 2s was Kiswahili; Form 3s was Business Studies and the Form 4s was Geography and Computer Studies.

End of Term Examinations Results					
Form 1 Subject	Points	Grade	Form 2 Subjects	Points	Grade
Agriculture	8.05	B-	Agriculture	4.24	D+
Biology	5.95	C	Biology	3.08	D
Business Studies	5.54	C	Business Studies	5.04	C-
C.R.E.	5.82	C	C.R.E.	6.06	C
Chemistry	8.54	B	Chemistry	5.03	C-
Computer Studies	4.10	D+	Computer Studies	3.85	D+
English	3.97	D+	English	4.47	D+
Geography	4.73	C-	Geography	4.28	D+
History And Government	4.40	D+	History And Government	5.64	C
Kiswahili	7.97	B-	Kiswahili	8.05	B-
Mathematics	5.02	C-	Mathematics	3.15	D
Physics	3.43	D	Physics	3.64	D+

End of Term Examinations			Mock Examinations		
Form 3 Subject	Points	Grade	Form 4 Subject	Points	Grade
Agriculture	6.55	C+	Agriculture	4.95	C-
Biology	5.00	C-	Biology	5.07	C-
Business Studies	8.30	B-	Business Studies	4.88	C-
C.R.E.	5.76	C	C.R.E.	4.60	C-
Chemistry	2.72	D	Chemistry	3.30	D
Computer Studies	6.45	C	Computer Studies	7.25	C+
English	3.63	D+	English	4.55	C-
Geography	6.59	C+	Geography	7.21	C+
History And Government	6.52	C+	History And Government	6.26	C
Kiswahili	4.05	D+	Kiswahili	4.92	C-
Mathematics	2.73	D	Mathematics	2.64	D
Physics	3.54	D+	Physics	3.92	D+

Summary Results Per Class

Form 4	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	X	Students	Mean Marks	Grade
North	0	0	2	1	1	4	7	5	9	5	4	0	4	42	45	C-
South	0	0	1	2	1	3	3	11	10	7	1	0	1	40	44	C-
Combined	0	0	3	3	2	7	10	16	19	12	5	0	5	82	44.5	C-
Total	0	0	6	6	4	14	20	32	38	24	10	0	10	164		

The Form 1 and 2 students will have time to improve as they are at the early stage of secondary school. However, the Form 3 and Form 4 students have only 2 and 1 terms to make changes to increase the probability of gaining entrance into tertiary institutions.

A Form 4 teacher / parent meeting was held to help the candidates work on study techniques in their final term before the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examinations in November.



Mr Mbogo with one candidate and her mother

Students wait for teacher / parent meeting with their respective teachers.



As the examinations approached the other year groups attended various mentorship sessions during the month. The Macheo program also continued with its cohort of sponsored students.



Form 4 Girls Mentorship session



Mentorship for Parents



Form 4 Boys Mentorship session



Peer Helpers serve students bread during break

The Peer Helpers at St Michael's assisted fellow students. The senior students are trained to help the younger students and to be a 'big' brother or sister to them. Knowing that someone else is 'looking out for you' at school is a great comfort to the students.

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

The Vocational Training Centre had a full workload in September to make sure that the adjusted syllabus and practicals were completed without any further disruptions.

MPC is delighted to be partnering with the Fidel Goetz Foundation to develop and implement innovative strategies for gender equality and social justice. The Foundation's goal is to empower young women professionally and economically so that they can engage in global leadership roles. The Foundation has sponsored 50 former female students from St. Michael's Secondary School in vocational training courses and participate in the mentorship program. Chantal Goetz visited OLMVTC in September to personally meet each of the participants.



Chantal Goetz at Skill's Pride Restaurant

A professional communications school called Linz, Austria and OLMVTC have teamed up together for a video project. The project is titled **"Don't mess with my rights"** and will focus on children's rights and violations and what can be done to improve the current situation. The 16 students are divided into groups of 4 and meet every Tuesday through zoom. The violation of human rights and other issues are discussed in the 2 hour forums. The main objective is to raise awareness of children's rights and see how best to strengthen practices. The 4 groups are expected to produce a music video, documentary or fiction film that will be shown in December 2022 at **"This Human World"** film festival in Vienna and in Linz Upper Austria.



Skills Video Team and the film makers

A former Skills student, David Safari, shares with the Video students some tips about putting content together for filming with the Linz project.



The Students get to work on preparing the script for filming with the Austrian School



During the month the Centre received several donations and visitors from British Airways crew members. The Vocational Training Centre is really grateful for the continued support.



Special Needs students



Hair and beauty class



Young mothers



Donations and artwork





Collins, Christina and team visit Skills



Monthly food packages to Skills students



The Plumbing and Masonry students were out in the field for practice. This is part of the curriculum of NITA.



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.

- MPC received 20 used computers from the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. All the computers will be checked to ensure that they have all the necessary bits and pieces prior to their placement in the secondary school and vocational training centre.
- The land case has been adjourned to another date that will be communicated later.