

February Newsletter

Vol 8 Issue No. 2
2023



St Michael's Students receive a few tips from UK Artist Ganji Drummer

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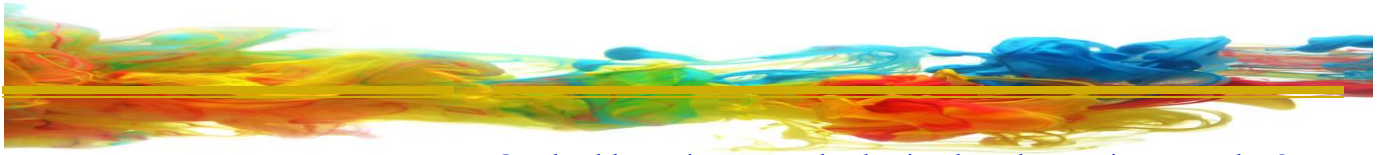
Special Announcements

MPC	28
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Dear Partners, Supporters, Family and Friends,

February was a very hectic month due to the admissions of Form Ones in secondary school and the new junior secondary enrolments in primary schools taking the place of former Standard 7 and 8 classes. The Government delayed in giving clear directions with the way forward for junior secondary cohort. Parents were calling anxiously waiting for news. Last year the Teachers Service Commission claimed that 30,000 new teachers would need to be employed across the country. Up until now not enough teachers have been posted to teach the classes and the new syllabus. Provision has not yet been made for the teaching of science subjects in primary.

Poverty has increased within Kenya and very noticeably in slums. Our social workers are thus kept busy. There is only so much that they can do. Thanks to all the sponsors who help parents keep their children in school. Without you, many more would end up on the streets. A number of the boys in our rehabilitation centre were on the streets due to lack of food and care at home. Some children are sent onto the streets by mothers who lost their jobs and thus lack income. There is very little social welfare here so once a person cannot work, they have no money for necessities. We are grateful to the donors who have helped with empowering parents in 'business start-ups' to care for themselves and their families. Many children are in school and in their own homes due to empowerment of mothers.



Our health services were also busier than the previous month. Some seasons have more sickness than others. In the Rehabilitation Centre every effort was made to have the new dining room completed by the end of the month and we were happy that this was done. A lot of tidying and maintenance was also done by Sr Louise with MPC maintenance staff and those of Songa Mbele na Masomo. The collection and preservation of water was improved.

The Mercy Education Office, led by Sr Mary Kanyi, supported the celebration of the Feast of St Bakhita in the primary school and the children enjoyed the day.

St Michael's Secondary School had a number of contests in science, sport, drama and talent competitions that help to activate the students and their various abilities in extracurricular activities. I am happy to have noted a lot of improvement. This will make an overall difference to the students in their academic performance as they are more alive.

February was also a hard month in our Vocational Training Centre as we had students who will finish in April and others just beginning their courses. As we accept vulnerable youth if we waited until May for the new admission many would already be loitering on the streets and become less able to concentrate due to street life of drugs, alcohol abuse and petty crime. The classes were big, with hair dressing reaching 84! Luckily those preparing for exams in April were mostly practising their skills on clients and being marked and advised where needed. The new admissions were learning the basic skills but benefitted much from seeing their seniors work.

Thanks to all of you who helped in any way. You know yourselves the part you played in our work and achievements.

Sr Mary Killeen
Director



Social and Health Services

Social Services

The month started off on a busy note with school related activities taking the centre stage with 2,955 interventions in February. The admission of new students, follow up on transition of candidates to secondary schools, counseling and support for the needy students for starters. The Department has been committed to making sure that all candidates who sat for their national exams continue with their education. Most of the students joined secondary schools while a few who did not perform well and were willing to do a vocational course were offered a place at Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Centre.

With students coming back from a long school holiday, psychosocial support has been crucial to enable them to know how to manage the 'common' issues they will experience for the next term. The Child Protection Office has worked well with the school administration for students to get access to counseling services in their various schools. The month recorded a tremendous increase in counseling cases with many of the issues stemming from family, anti-social, or self-esteem factors. The various social offices have been able to support the needy students so that they remain in school through provision of school uniforms, hygiene materials like sanitary towels and under garments among other needs presented.

As a Department we are immensely grateful for the support we receive from well-wishers and donors which goes a long way to support the needy and less privileged from Mukuru slums. The sick clients with chronic and terminal illnesses have been able to benefit through the amaranth and nutritional program given to them every two weeks from the St. Catherine's social office. The malnourished babies have also been able to benefit through the program and positive feedback regarding their health progress has been reported.



Nutritional Support for Needy Parents at St Catherine's Social Office



Home Visits for need assessment.

Social and Health Statistics for February 2023

No.	Case type / Activities	Education						Health	Welfare			Total
		St Bakhita	St Catherine	St Elizabeth	Sancta Maria Kayaba	St Michael's Secondary	Vocational Training Centre SKILLS	MPC Clinic	Songa Mbele na Masomo	MPC Rehabilitation Centre	Child Protection	
1	Amaranth Adult Clients		61									61
2	Amaranth Babies & Child Clients		6									6
3	Behavior and Discipline Cases	8			3		2			15		28
4	Business Startup / Booster	2			2	3	3			4		14
5	Child Protection Assessments				1							1
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions		7	11	11	16	38			35		118
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources											-
8	Donations Received		2			1	2		24	15	6	50
9	Fire and Floods Disaster assistance											-
10	Food Distribution											-
11	Home Visits	5	24	15	9	24	3		7			87
12	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)							12				12
13	Malnourished Babies		11									11
14	Medical Cases (to MIC)	17	85	12	56	22	4	57	14	27		294
15	Meetings and Trainings					3	4		2	2	1	12
16	Mentorship Sessions	5	2	1	9	2	6		2			27
17	Mobilization of Resources											-
18	Needy Families' Support (Community)		40		3				1			44
19	Needy Students/Children	20	255	9	7	1	34		87	1		414
20	Networking		4	2	3		3	8			3	23
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions			8	5	2	18		5	14		52
22	New Teenage Pregnancies cases											-
23	Nutritional Support		22									22
24	Placement (job/internship experience)					1	10					11
25	Pregnancy Support Packages											-
26	Provision of Sanitary Towels	242	258	66	591	107	10		5			1,279
27	Referrals (except medical)	6		9	20	3						38
28	Safeguarding Follow Ups						1					1
30	School Visits								1	3		4
31	School Absenteeism/Truancy	5	2	1	12	6	9		50			85
32	Schools Profiles		38	32	18	20	24		5			137
33	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions											-
34	Sponsorship Follow-ups		16	10	46				9			81
35	Uniform Aid	24	4	10	6	2						46
Totals		334	837	186	799	213	171	77	212	116	10	2,955

Various visitors came throughout February and conducted mentorship sessions, hygiene talks, donations of sanitary towels for girls.



Red Cross

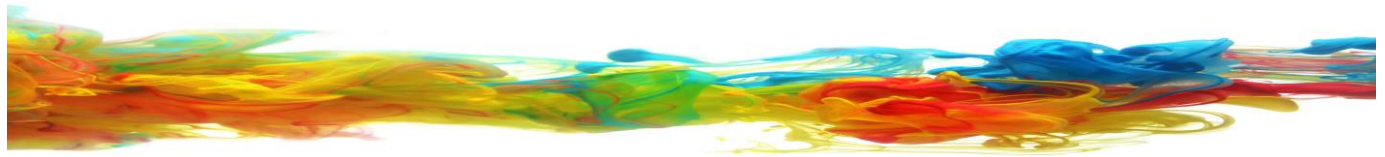


DT Dobie



University Interns





As part of a grant the Conrad Hilton Foundation provided underpants as well as sanitary towels for the girls at St Bakhita Primary School.



The pupils at St Bakhita School recently lost everything through a fire in the village. The pupils received new uniforms, shoes, socks and jumpers. They are delighted not to be missing out on school.

When life is more predictable for parents the children benefit with standability, contentment and happiness. The Irish Aid grant assisted MPC to organize an empowerment program that helps parents generate their own income through entrepreneurship. Parents are identified and given some training in conducting their own business. The social workers conduct monitoring visits each month to support the parents.



James Mbithi, local shop owner sells electronics and plastic items.



Nancy Wanjiru

Nancy attends her trading space and sells candy, biscuits and drinking water.



The clinic welcomed Dr. Dominika Strakova for a period of 6 months. We are very grateful to St Elizabeth University, Slovakia for their continued support of many years. Dr Dominika's presence at the Clinic will further the expertise and provide lots of opportunities for the current staff to exchange medical knowledge.

The clinic registered 1,698 patients in February, marking a 13% increase from the month of January. Most of the patients presented with respiratory complaints with gastrointestinal conditions ranked second. There were another 292 clients attending one of the six clinics offered. The MPC Clinic is one of the central health facilities within Mukuru slums that provides affordable access to healthcare services for Mukuru slum dwellers at a subsidized rate. MPC students receive free medical services and February recorded an increase in the number of students who were treated at the facility with most cases relating to stomach problems due to a recent Cholera outbreak.

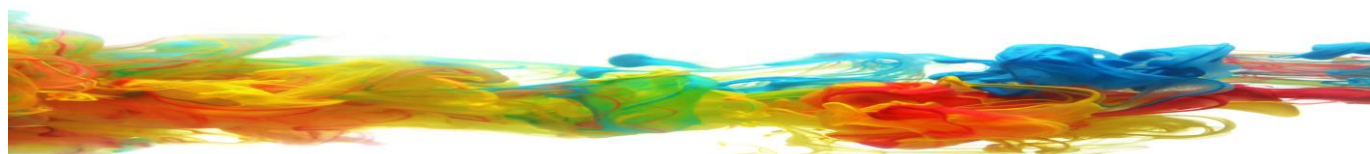
Staff received further training on the HIV national guidelines to ensure that the comprehensive care clients benefit from the latest management requirements in line with current NASCOP HIV guidelines.

February Registrations 2023

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	97	48	61	150	43	16	3	418
	Male	91	49	47	95	40	12	1	335
Subtotal		188	97	108	245	83	28	4	753
Revisits	Female	179	54	59	183	69	21	7	572
	Male	144	55	33	65	39	34	3	373
Subtotal		323	109	92	248	108	55	10	945
Total		511	206	200	493	191	83	14	1698
Percentage	<i>Female</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>58%</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>42%</i>

Clinics in February 2023

Clinics								
ANC	0	0	6	54	0	0	0	60
Immunizations	138	0	0	0	0	0	0	138
Nutrition	88	0	0	6	0	0	0	94
Comprehensive Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non Medical (Mental)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Referrals to Medical Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Clinics	226	0	6	60	0	0	0	292
Total	605	203	198	519	185	81	13	1804



Diagnosis in February 2023

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	172	50	35	101	32	19	3	412
Gastronintestinal	84	40	40	72	43	15	0	294
Cardiovascular	45	25	57	48	30	21	7	233
ENT	20	24	12	18	1	1	0	76
Genitourinary	0	0	5	0	24	3	0	32
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	0	0	14	0	1	0	15
Musculoskeletal	3	15	12	36	24	14	0	104
Integumentary (Skin)	19	11	10	17	3	2	0	62
Dressing	4	14	3	11	14	2	0	48
Other Diseases	32	24	18	142	14	3	3	236
Subtotal Outpatients	379	203	192	459	185	81	13	1512

February 2023 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	1	23	3	0	0	27
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	6
Bilirubin Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blood Group	0	1	4	3	0	0	0	8
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)	0	1	5	8	15	8	2	39
Brucella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BS for MPS (Malaria)	32	15	9	19	10	1	0	86
Calcium Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Creatinine levels	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Du test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Haemogram	14	18	10	15	7	5	1	70
HbA1c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Helicobacter Pylori	0	4	16	28	23	5	0	76
Hemoglobin Levels	10	6	14	6	1	0	0	37
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy	0	0	0	12	7	0	0	19
Lipid profile	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Liver Function Test	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pregnancy Test	0	1	8	10	2	0	0	21
Rheumatoid Factor	0	0	1	2	3	6	0	12
Salmonella	0	2	1	3	2	2	1	11
Stool Analysis	25	31	26	40	20	8	1	151
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Uric Acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urinalysis	2	12	5	79	24	5	1	128
Urine Culture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urine multudrug test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VDRL/Syphilis	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	9
Total	83	96	101	261	121	40	6	708
<i>Average Tests Per Day</i>	<i>34</i>							

Welfare Services Rehabilitation Centre

February signals the recruitment drive exercise that assesses the probability of street boys who desire to turn their lives around. If prudent assessments are not carried out well there will be the chance that some boys will only stay for a few weeks before returning to the streets. The more care that can be taken in the beginning stages, the higher the rate of success in rehabilitation program. The social workers walked the streets engaging with many street boys to gauge their receptiveness to a residential program with rules and regulations. By the end of February there were 45 boys residing at the Centre with another 3 sponsored at secondary school through the sponsorship program. There are 17 former boys who were exited from the Centre in 2022, are still under MPC sponsorship and attend various secondary and tertiary level education institutions.

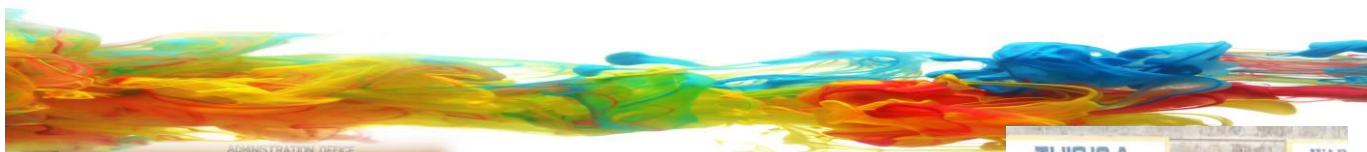


Kelvin chats with the Street Boys

Rehabilitation Centre Composition February 2023

Classes	Accelerated Learning Class	St Catherine Primary	Vocational Training	Secondary School	Sponsored Boarding	Total
Year 1	15					15
Year 2	20					20
Standard 2						
Standard 3						
Standard 4		5				5
Standard 5						
Standard 6		1				1
Standard 7						
Standard 8		8			1	9
Junior Sec.		1			1	2
Grade III						
Grade II			8			8
Form 1						
Form 2				1	1	2
Form 3				1		1
Form 4						
Total	35	15	8	2	3	63

For the newly recruited boys, life is full of promise. Much counselling was carried out initially to get the boys geared towards the regulated life. School, for many of them, is a new demand that will challenge them. The teachers prepared them well during the month to help them settle into classroom life. The accelerated learning class is crucial as most of the boys are aged between 14 and 15 which reduced the window to complete the national examinations KCPE. Five of the boys who performed well in the preparatory internal examinations joined St Catherine's Primary School. The five boys have been sponsored by Paula Cullen and Friends.



A very joyful, former boy from the Rehabilitation Centre, Cizil Okoth with his mother, Agnes Onyango and MPC Welfare Officer, Susan as he joins Babadogo Secondary School in Nairobi under Paula Cullen and Friends sponsorship.



Lamech Odour, George Malenya, Clinton Maparo, Sebastian Omondi and Samuel Wainaina

The carpentry boys were really engaged with the construction of the green shade for the Healing Garden sponsored by Rebecca and the team. The trainee carpenters helped in the construction of the picnic tables that will be used at the new dining hall that has also been sponsored by Paula Cullen and Friends.



Swaleh helps with Picnic table.



The boys help to construct the Greenhouse.

Apart from the recruitment drive the social workers followed up with the 17 boys who were exited from the Centre after their successful completion of the program in 2022. The 4 boys who sat for their KCPE have joined secondary schools near their homes apart from one boy. The social workers are following up to establish the safety of the boy under his uncle's care.



Lent began in February this year and the Centre attended the Ash Wednesday Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, South B. Prior to the Mass the boys received a few faith formation sessions with the local catechist and teachers who spoke about the principles of the Lenten season.



Ash Wednesday Mass



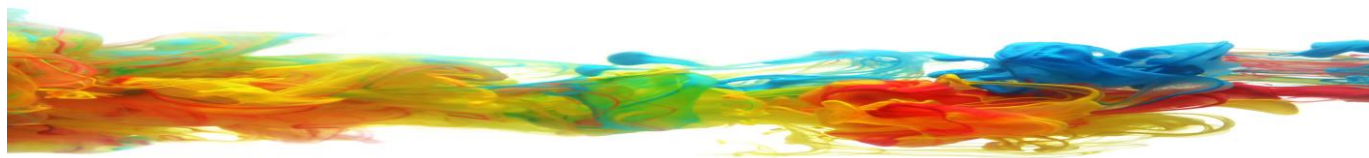
The Rehab boys and French School Nairobi Boys

The rugby program at the Centre continues to go from strength to strength thanks to the support of Paula Cullen and Friends. The boys were invited to a tournament held at the French School, Nairobi. There were 2 teams. The Centre boys first played against each other where Team B won and then played against the French School and won again. The boys remarked on how fun the tournament was and that they made new friends. .

The new Dining Hall, sponsored by Paula Cullen and Friends was completed in February and handed over to MPC. The construction took 16 weeks to finish and the end results are magnificent. The official opening will be held in March when Paula Cullen and Friends visit the Centre.



Front view of the Dining hall and Assembly Area



Inside Dining Hall



Outside Sinks



Completed Dining Hall

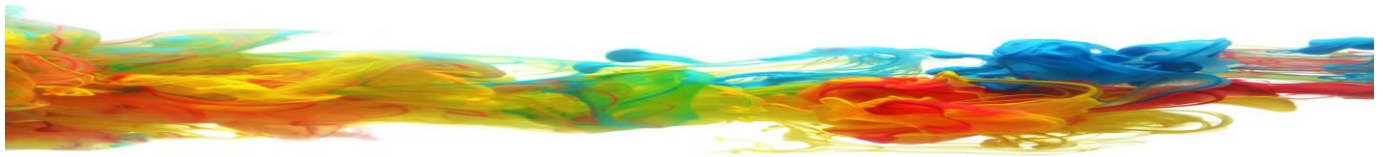


Inspection



Mr Vinod hands over the keys to Sr Mary and Mr. Mwanje

The practical completion of the new dining hall was achieved in February. After an inspection of the project, the contractor, Mr Vinod from Anshi Builders handed over the keys to Sr Mary Killeen and William Mwanje



MPC obtained funding from Trocaire to empower the parents of the former street boys. One of the potential issues that causes conflict for the parents is their ability to earn an income for their family which has an impact on the probability of successful reintegration. Four sponsored businesses were visited during the month to ascertain their progress. The parents are managing their businesses well.



Damaris Muthike sells charcoal, ground nuts, popcorn, bananas, soap and kerosene.



Onyango Agan sells charcoal and eggs at Kiambio

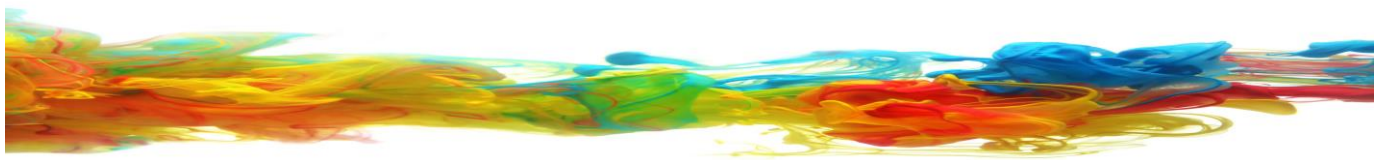


Mary Wangari sells footwear.



Agnes Karen Ochieng Okoth sells chickens and fries in the evening along the roadside at Korokocko.

Mary Wangari sells shoes, slippers, crocks and socks. So far, she is doing well with her business and has managed to add other items.



The Centre is very grateful to the many well-wishers who visit from time to time and provide practical donations. Donations in February were food provisions, clothing, firewood, educational resources, pencils and colouring books.



Some of the February Donations



The British Airways crewmembers donated books and spent the day engaging with the boys.



Sponsorship Office

The Raja Trust Foundation donated funds to purchase 15 uniform sets for St Bakhita pupils who were impacted by the recent fire outbreak. The Trust also donated some fabrics to the Garment Making Class at the Vocational Training Centre and sponsored 5 girls at St Michael's Secondary School. MPC is very appreciative of the Raja Trust as they have been long term supporters of education for many years.



St Bakhita pupils



As if life was not already difficult, the increased inflation rate and general economic state in the country has greatly impacted the daily lives of the Mukuru residents. Families are struggling to survive with the rise in joblessness, parents are not able to sustain their families with basic needs. Affording school materials has proven punishing, leaving pupils out of school. Millicent Cheberich is a beneficiary of learning materials. Millicent dropped out of school due to the prohibitive costs but through the social workers follow ups Millicent was identified as very needy and assisted with books, school bag and other items. She is delighted to be able to continue attending primary school thanks to a generous donor.

Two secondary students, and former Rehabilitation boys, received sponsorship, donations of school bags and learning materials thanks to Paula Cullen and Friends. The boys, Cizil and Lewis were enrolled in schools near their homes. One in Nairobi and the other in Nyeri.



Cizil Okoth



Lewis Mwangi



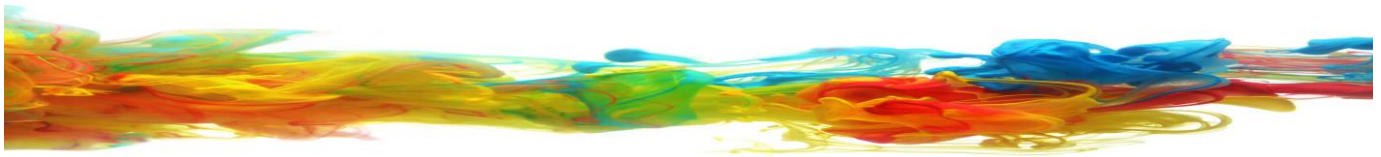
Henry Kochwa and Kevin Ngare

The Form One (secondary school) selection process continued in February at St Michael's Secondary School. The overall enrolments at St Michael's are steadily increasing thanks to the generosity of people.

Two rehabilitation boys were gifted with various revision books and new uniforms. Both secondary students, Henry Form 3 and Kevin Form 2 were delighted.

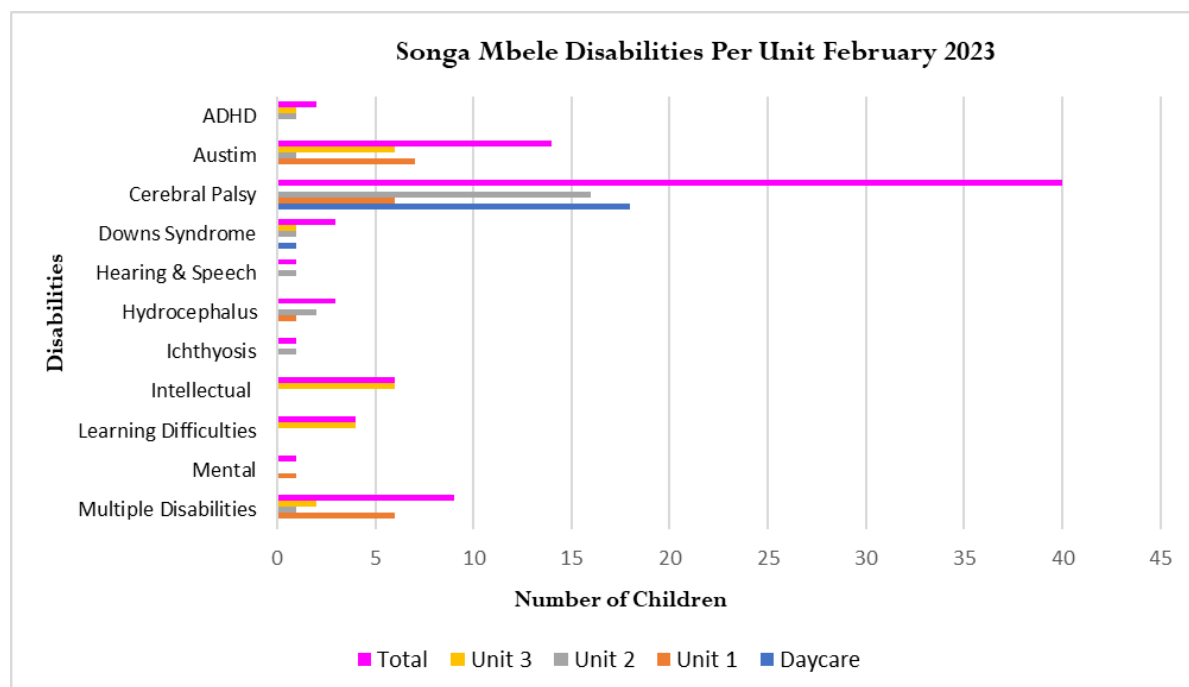
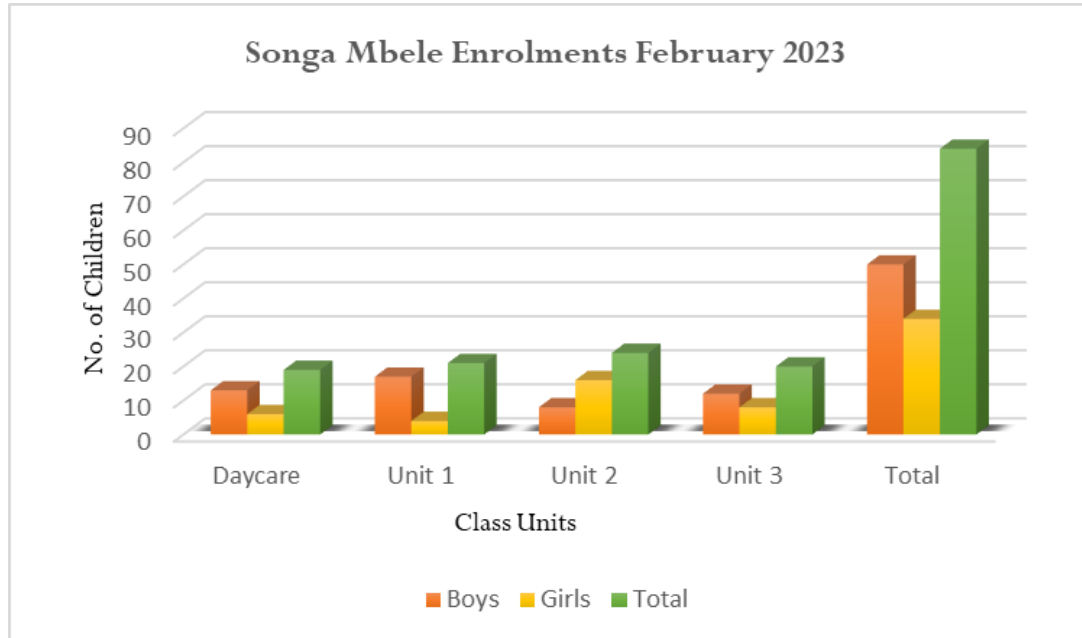
Two little boys from St Elizabeth also received new uniforms.





Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The children at the Centre applied themselves well and established affective routines to follow with the different daily activities. The Centre enrolments remained steady in February with 2 new children with cerebral palsy admitted and 2 children with hearing impairments transferred to specialized schools. The current enrolments are 84 children with 50 boys and 34 girls. The Centre continues to service the needs of children living with 11 different types of disabilities with Cerebral Palsy with the highest number.





Parents at Autism Awareness Training

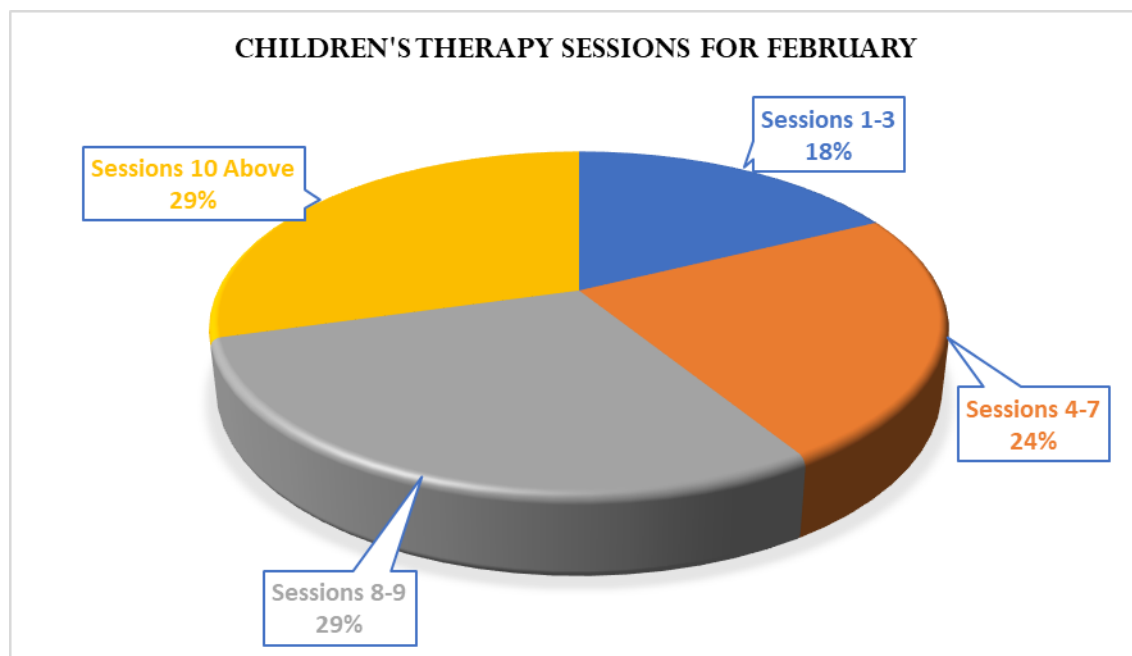
The occupational therapists staff received training on the autism spectrum disorder. Autism can be managed by ADLS training sensory integration and speech facilitation. Regular therapy is the key to reaching milestones. In February 68 children received regular therapy sessions. There were 10 external children who also attended therapy. The Daycare Unit received the most sessions closely followed by Unit 1 and Unit 2 with 65:35 ratio favouring the boys.

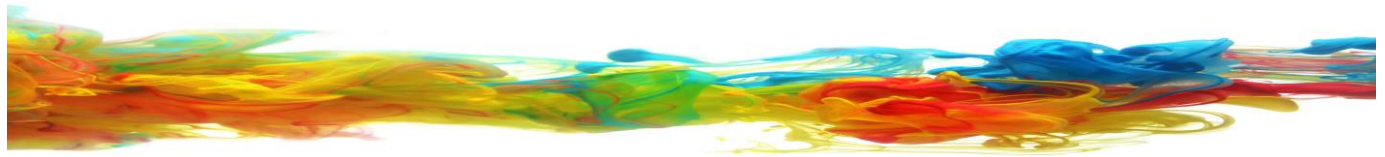


Mercy working hard.

The child who achieved a marked improvement in February was Mercy Mingashu who is 9 years old. Mercy's difficulties are on her left side with poor balance, muscle stiffness, limited fine motor skills. After consistent and continuous therapy, she has achieved partial proper posture and gained balance, partially achieved fine motor skills on the left-hand. The exercises involved resistance and balancing exercises that improved posture and coordination.

Nearly a third of the children received 10 sessions or more during February and another 29% received just under 10 sessions. In total over 500 sessions were conducted. The consistency of therapy sessions makes the milestones all that more achievable.





Another child who demonstrated improved speech development was Emmanuel Omwoha who lives with an intellectual disability. After undergoing speech therapy for 6 weeks, he can now pronounce certain sounds and words. The Centre provided 185 speech sessions to 38 children in February. Getting the children into a routine for speech therapy is certainly proving beneficial for them.



During February 9 learners received school fees under Cheshire Disability Kenya Sponsorship program to facilitate learning in their respective schools.

Unit 3 Girls

Education Primary Schools

Admission to Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) was the big activity for schools right across the country. The MPC pupils received their leaving certificates and results slip to take to their new schools. Some students will be sponsored while a large percentage of children will not be able to attend secondary school as their parents' means are limited. The number of teachers required and promised were 16 however only 12 actually arrived. The graduate teachers in the primary section were assigned responsibilities of handling Grade 7 students as schools wait for the promised teachers by the Government. The Grade 7 textbooks were delivered in schools for common subjects while the rest will be delivered later. The JSS enrolments:



St. Elizabeth JSS students

MPC Junior Secondary Schools Enrolments 2023						
Primary School	Boys	Girls	Total	Streams	Teacher Sent	Teacher Deficit
St. Bakhita	73	78	151	3	2	1
St. Catherine	84	81	165	3	3	0
St. Elizabeth	148	176	324	6	4	2
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	113	103	216	5	3	2
Total	431	452	883	17	12	4

The rest of the primary school pupils were settled and carried out the term's syllabus. Schools have registered a slight increase in pupils compared to last year due to the closure of some private schools that were not compliant with Government regulations.

MPC Primary School Enrolments for 2023			
Primary School	Boys	Girls	Total
St. Bakhita	517	506	1,023
St. Catherine	647	651	1,298
St. Elizabeth	977	1,013	1,990
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	834	818	1,652
Total	2,975	2,988	5,963



The Ministry of Education (MoE) has continued to conduct its monitoring and evaluating exercises to ensure that expected levels of learning is achieved. Headteachers attended professional development sessions organised by the MoE. The 3-day workshop looked at ways to improve school programs. Two of the four MPC schools qualified for the Government's School Improvement Funding for infrastructure being St. Elizabeth and St. Catherine. The other 2 schools will apply for the next funding season.



Mercy Education Director Sr Mary Kani

St. Bakhita Primary celebrated its feast day on 8th February. The life story of St Josephine Bakhita was read to children and different speakers gave short speeches on her life encouraging children to follow her example.

After the presentations the children shared refreshments sponsored by the Mercy Education Office.



Parent Meeting

All primary schools held parent meetings as per the government guidelines. With the increase of drug use and drug courtering by children, parents were encouraged to be vigilant especially with after school hours. Head teachers committed to work with the relevant authorities to have slum drug dealers arrested.



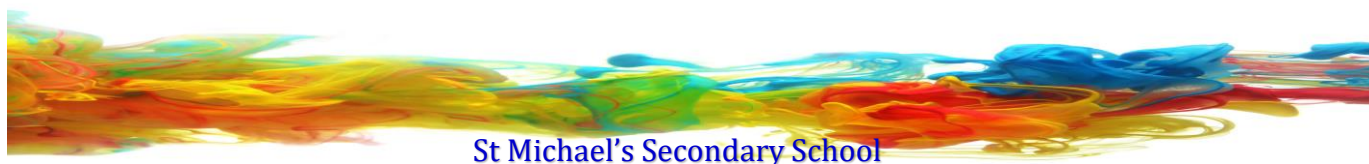
The Lenten season began in February. Lent is a 6 week period where Christians pray, fast and give alms to the poor. A Mass was held with all the learning institutions at the MPC Head Office campus. Fr ?? offered a focus for a change of heart for the students.



Sponsored by the Mercy Education Office, staff were invited to participate in a faith formation day held at the Resurrection Gardens. The retreat theme was ***'Finding Christ within us.*** The teachers found the day beneficial and requested one day each year. The Catholic Archdiocese of Nairobi also organized an annual Student Council symposium for all Catholic sponsored schools within Nairobi, titled ***'Formation of a united family, strong in faith, journeying together in spirit and truth'***.

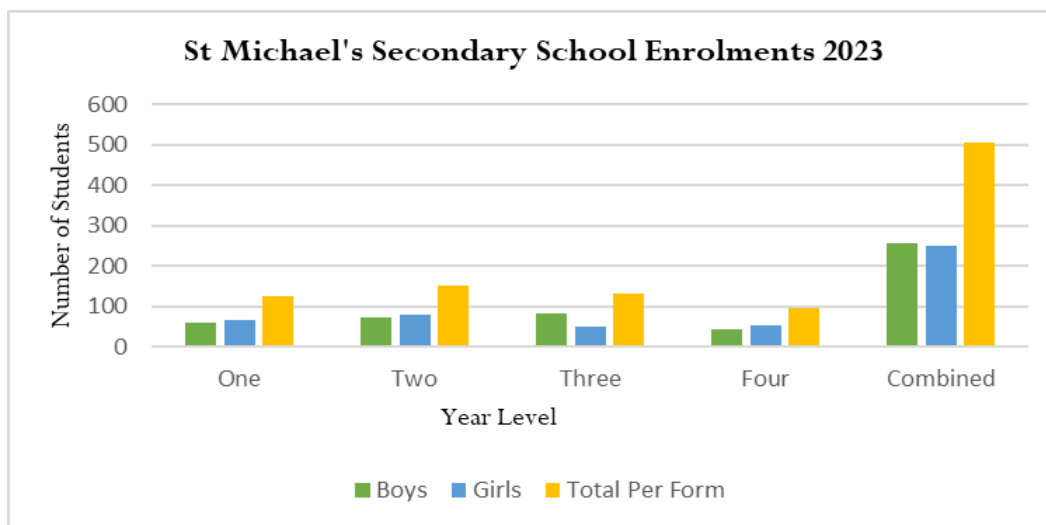
MPC donors continued to support the needy children through donations in kind. St. Bakhita Primary received blue sweaters and toys for the young learners to stimulate learning.





St Michael's Secondary School

The organized pattern of school life has returned in 2023 at St Michael's and February marked the admission of Form Ones to the school. The overall enrolments have increased to 505 for the first time in its history, which is terrific for the students. The gender ratio is fair even with Form 3 boys being a little higher than the girls. The target for the end of the term is 550.



The new Form One students were welcomed officially at the school's assembly with the Girls Scout Group leading the ceremony with the flag raising. The whole school held its Term One Opening Mass in February. Prayers were asked for God's blessings and a good year for the staff and students.



Whole School Assembly welcomes Form Ones



The Dean, Mr. Musa Okoth taking the parents through the academic programs.

With a new school, new timetables and new structures secondary school can be a little overwhelming for students and even the parents. For the new parents the school held a Parent Information Meeting which had a terrific parent turnout of 90%. Parents were inducted into the school system, policies and ethos as well as some common issues for students transiting from primary to secondary schools.



Form One Parents

February was a full month of many different activities for the students, parents and staff. One of the exciting events for the students was the inaugural Science and Engineering Fair. The fair had 2 categories: formal presentations followed by practical demonstrations. The students developed 3 talks and 19 practical projects. The purpose of the fair was to encourage students in mathematics and science.



Judges listen to student presentations.

Generally, the hard sciences in schools have less appeal than humanities subjects for students. At St Michael's under the direction of the new principal, Mr Eric Waweru, a strong focus has been put in place to raise the profile of the hard sciences so students can improve their overall KCSE results. Some of the winning presentations were very innovative. The students thoroughly enjoy the fair and hopefully spark enthusiasm for science and mathematics in the school.

The Winners



Electrons distribution in a Cell by Edwin Muriuki, Form 3



Form 4s How to preserve food for low-income earners.



Amir Hussein of Form 4s Curbing global warming.



Ian Kiarie, Form 2 Helicopter come Drone.

The creative minds of the students were in full swing with all students participating at some level. The Principal and Deputy show Sr Mary the many stations around the school.



Mr Waweru Mrs Loice Chege and Sr Mary



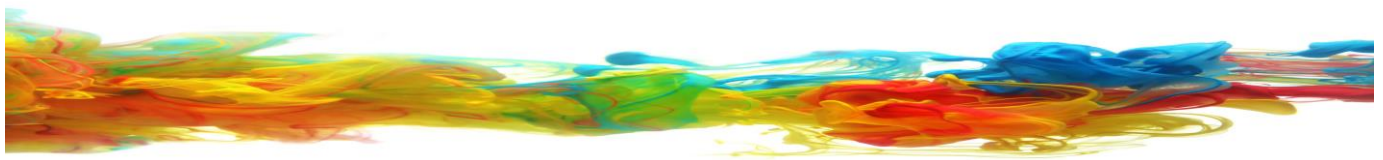
Sr. Mary samples delicacies from the Home Economics Project.

The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) held a conference for Form 4s regarding Youth Chastity Program. St Michael's sent 25 students who spent a short time on a campus tour before attending the keynote address by Professor Wahome Ngare, a consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist who presented on "Responsible Human Relationships". The question and answer sessions followed. The other speaker for the day was Tabitha Oyango, an English Literature teacher from Moi Forces Academy whose topic was "No Apology Being Chaste". The students had time to mingle with other students from other schools in Nairobi.



All the participants received certificates of participation and subscription to the Youth Chastity Program magazine. In one of the previous 'Chastity' magazine issues there was story from a former St. Michael's Secondary School student, Deng Athian who featured in the magazine which advocates the importance of chastity for youths.

There is little gender equality in the slums. Over the last few years MPC has been raising awareness throughout all its learning institutions. St Michael's takes girls' education seriously and has various mentorship days throughout the year thanks to the Fidel Goetz Foundation. Not to ignore the boys MPC managed to access some funding for a boys' mentorship program as well. Education is the best way to raise the topic, raise the profile as well as equity for all peoples.



Both girls and boys participated in the mentorship programs.

The sessions were coordinated by St Michael's teaching staff Mr Tanui and Miss Rose Nyangweso.



Students received packages at the end of the day.

Great interest shown by the students.

After one set of examinations the school held its athletics carnival. The day begun well in the morning with the track and field races. All the winners were awarded accordingly. Form One students emerged the best year group overall. Through the competition the Sport's Department was able to select its athletics school team to represent the school in the sub-county competitions.



St. Michael's Secondary School Athletics Day



The Drama Club hosted the UK artist Ganji Drummer and his Production Team and had the opportunity to showcase their talents. Lead by the School's Music Director, some of the students performed a Christian song. The Ganji Team were impressed with the performances and indicated that they would return to help train the music performers and dances.



Choir Performs



Ash Wednesday Mass at the MPC Square

Being a Catholic institution, MPC marked the beginning of the Lenten season with the Ash Wednesday service. The season of Lent invites us to change our hearts and renew our lives. It offers us the time (40 days) to think about how much the Gospel means to us and how well we are living up to God's law of love. St Bakhita Primary, Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre, Head Office and St Michael's gathered at the MPC Square as one community.

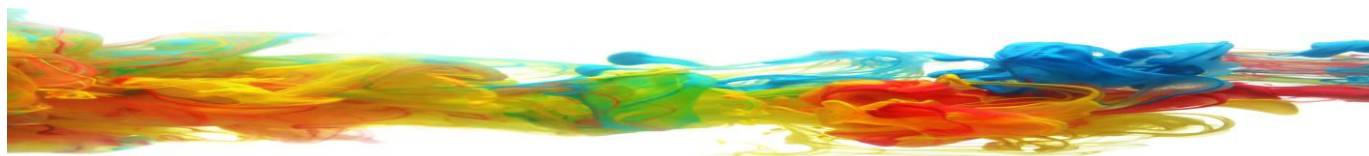


Students received their ashes.

The Association of the Sisterhood Kenya (AOSK) convened a 'Train the Trainer' workshop, for the St. Bakhita Partnership for Education (BPE) project stakeholders in Kenya. The two-day seminar drew participants from head teachers of the targeted project schools and the BPE project coordinators. The workshop provided an opportunity to train the stakeholders on Child-Friendly and Responsive Schools and build the capacity of the trainers with the appropriate competencies to facilitate participatory training.



Kevin Mwanza and Annet Aseyo



Seven teachers attended the professional development session on Recollection, Roles and Skills of a Teacher held at the Resurrection Gardens in Karen. The day provided capacity building for teachers to be more engaged with their students. Other teachers attended the Science seminar on modern teaching and the role of technology in a diverse world at Moi Girls Secondary School, Nairobi.

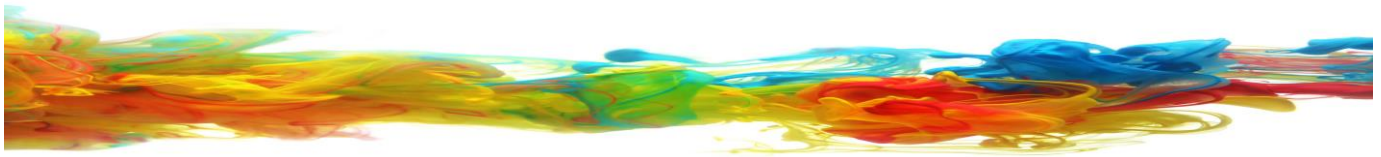


St Michael's Teachers

All schools have until 31st March to complete the KCSE registration process for candidates. St Michael's has 96 candidates so far. We wish all our students well as they prepare for their last year of secondary school, which has been a major achievement in itself.



During the busy month, maintenance staff were fully occupied with repairing school furniture, classrooms, clocks, noticeboards and the IT equipment.

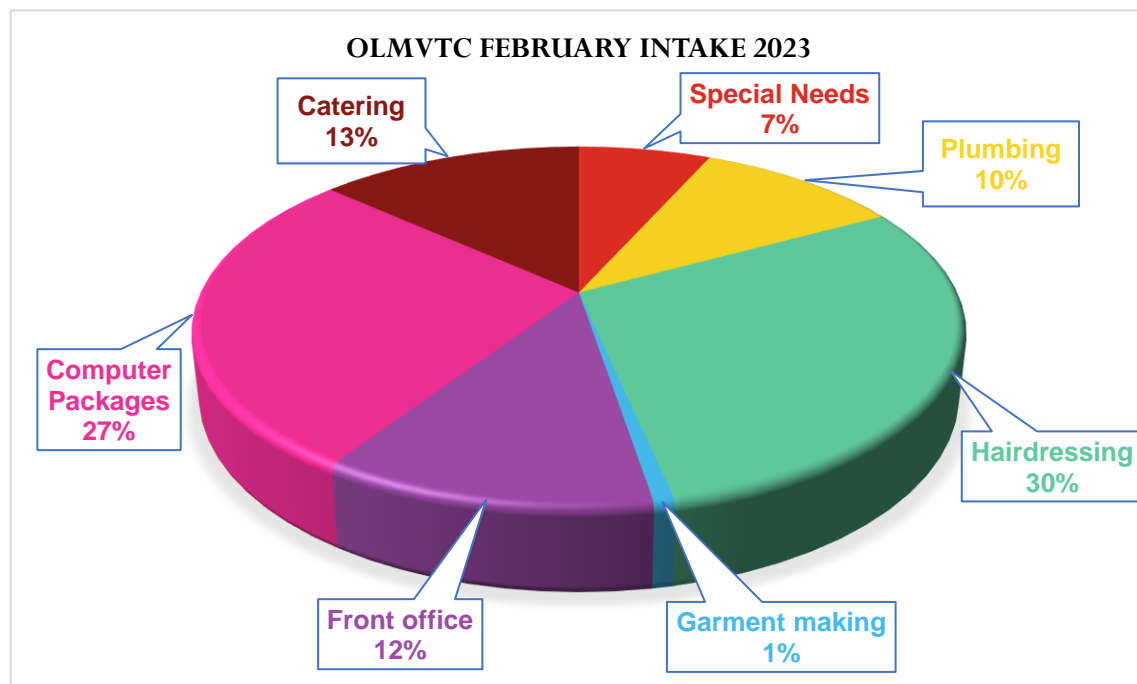


Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

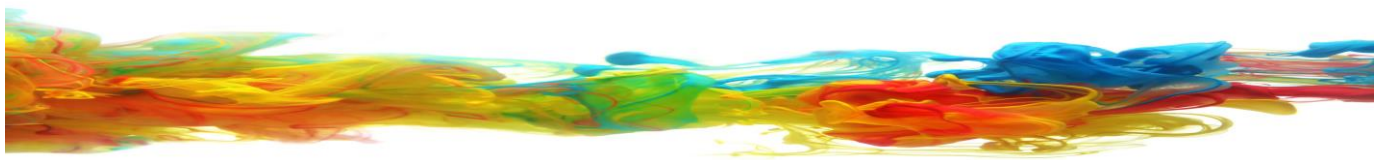
February welcomed more students to the vocational training Centre. The 135 new students received an orientation to help them get to know the Centre and its facilities. The Computer Packages course continues to be very popular as it is a must have knowledge for prospective employees. For the first time the gender ratio is 65:35 favouring girls. The Fidel Goetz Foundation has sponsored 43 young women from the slums with the largest number doing Hairdressing and Front Office. Irish Aid has sponsored 15 needy students, with most of them learning Plumbing.



Orientation Day



The impact of CoVid19 pandemic is still with the Centre and many students have struggled to pay for course fees. A close look at the backgrounds of the needy students resulted in identifying 34 students with extenuating circumstances to access different levels of sponsorship. It is imperative that students who have completed the course are able to sit the NITA examinations to gain qualifications. The Centre registered 168 candidates to sit the NITA examinations later in the year (*National Industrial Training Authority*). The students involved are from Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, Food and Beverage Production, Food and Beverage Service, Dressmaking, Tailoring, Plumbing Pipe Fitter and Masonry.



In collaboration with the Child Protection Office, the Centre conducts empowerment sessions each Tuesday to assist the students in their personal development. Some of the topics range from self-esteem and peer pressure, social media to sexual reproductive health.

The Centre was fortunate to host the team from “Doctors without Borders” organization. The Team urged the students to value their self-worth and how to exercise self-control when faced with temptations. They were also given advice on what to do in the case of rape and how to react when faced with such a scenario. The counselors were able to engage the students in personal views and sexuality.



Doctors Without Borders Presentation



Special Needs Parents Meeting

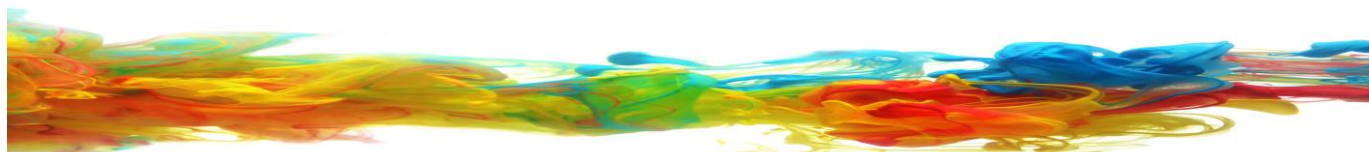
The Centre held a meeting with Parents who have Youths with Special Needs. The meeting was aimed at discussing some of the issues emerging for the students. Some of the issues involved discipline, personal hygiene, tardiness, medications, emergency contacts and course content. The Centre policies were also discussed to ensure that parents were made aware of the rules, regulations and exit plans.

The staff attended a Teacher’s Recollection Day at Resurrection Gardens in Karen where they spent time looking at how to be better teachers and have a positive impact on students. Teachers do hold a position of trust with young people and it is very important to constantly reflect good communication and encourage students to reach their potential.



Teachers’ Recollection at Resurrection Gardens





The catering renovations got under way in February just in time for the commencement of the new term. The students will have individual workstations to do their practicals. The electrical and gas piping had to be carried out first for the installation of the workstations and benches. The re-design will improve the learning environment immensely as before there were only a few spaces for the all the students.



Floor Tiling



Installation of Workstations



Worktop granite benches

As mentioned in other departments, donations provide the Centre with much needed hands on experiences. The British Airways crewmembers donated hair and beauty products, fabrics, sewing machines, personal hygiene materials, storage containers and clothes. All of these items are very costly and we are very grateful to them for giving the students lots more experience to carry out their practicals with confidence.



Students receiving the sanitary towels



Sewing Machine



British Airway Crew members visit and interact with Special Needs students.



Special Announcements

Other activities in February were:

- ❖ 'New Beginnings' a charity started by Rose Snedeker visited the Centre and brought donations.
- ❖ UK Team Ganji Drummer Foundation visited MPC schools to shoot a musical video incorporating some of the children from Mukuru Reuben.
- ❖ Mrs Abishai from Absa Bank, Mombasa Road Branch donated baby items.
- ❖ Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) held a workshop at MPC. An invitation was extended to MPC to attend the International Health Conference in Mombasa due to its involvement in the 4 year research project, Tupumue Project (Let's Breathe).

Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step By Step

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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