



May Newsletter

Vol 8 Issue No. 5
2023



Sr Mary visits donors in Perth, Western Australia

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Dear Partners, Supporters, Family and Friends,

I am grateful for the opportunity to visit Perth, Western Australia in May and was welcomed warmly by the sisters. Sr Kathy Kettle did an excellent job organizing fundraising events and meet and greets. I was thrilled to reconnect with some staff from Mandurah Catholic, Mater Dei Colleges and Parish groups, whom I hold in high regard for their expertise and generosity. They have much to offer developing nations, and it is a privilege to be part of this partnership. Both partners benefit from sharing and working together, and the encounters were very emotional and joyful experiences.

The rising poverty and unrest in Informal Settlements are worrisome. Politicians often exploit the poor who reside there for their demonstrations and rallies. Unfortunately, the surrounding businesses suffer from looting and destruction while the poor bear the brunt of confrontations with the police, sometimes resulting in fatalities.

The clinic provides essential services to residents who lack income. Collaborating to enhance and expand these services is highly valued, as is the backing for health services. Nutrition is a crucial factor in maintaining good health, and those who supply food to the less fortunate are sincerely appreciated. It's heartening to witness some of the underprivileged individuals thrive in businesses to provide for themselves and their loved ones.

It brings me great joy to witness the progress made by former street boys in various fields such as art, rugby, football, and pizza making. I am grateful to everyone who has supported their extracurricular education. The success achieved by some former prisoners in business and art is a testament to the hard work of staff and donors. It is truly wonderful to see their pride and



happiness in their accomplishments, and it is clear that they have come a long way from their time in prison.

At Songa Mbele, we are proud to see children with different disabilities making progress. To ensure we can provide the necessary services and equipment, we focus on developing and training our staff. We appreciate the support of everyone who contributes to our efforts at Songa.

Currently, there is a significant need for the development of junior secondary education in primary schools. At St Bakhita Primary School, we provided funding for a mobile science trolley, and now the other three schools are requesting the same assistance. Despite lacking laboratories, these schools are still required to teach science. Unfortunately, they do not have enough teachers or resources to do so effectively. The subject was introduced before Government finances were available to support it.

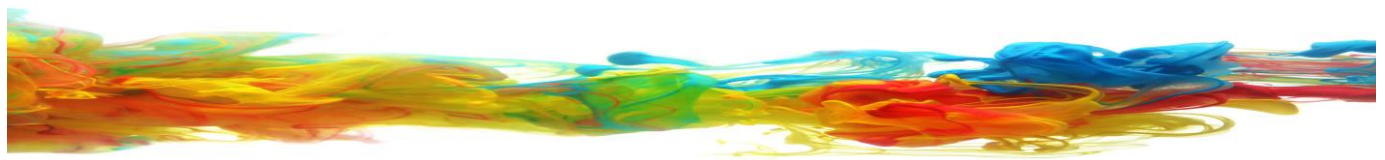
Participating in games, drama, music and visiting local factories and businesses are essential for high school students. However, funding these activities can be challenging for students from low-income families. Additionally, they require resources for both their classwork and extracurricular activities. I am thankful for the efforts of Mr. Bob Paterson, who helps the staff at St. Michael's Secondary School in acquiring local donors, writing proposals and reports, identifying genuine needs and accurately costing them. Mr. Paterson is a valuable patron of the school.

We have a fantastic catering kitchen that has greatly improved the training of our students. This is all thanks to the generous support of the Chantal and Fidel Goetz Foundation.

I am thrilled and delighted to share that St Mary's Viwandani Secondary School has reopened in May. The school will provide education to our past students, particularly those from St Elizabeth's, Lunga Lunga. We are collaborating with the Noble Foundation to ensure the school's success.

I wish to express gratitude to all of you for contributing to the success of the various projects undertaken by MPC departments. Your efforts have enabled children to escape poverty and become self-sufficient adults. May God bless each and every one of you for your participation.

Best wishes
Sr Mary



Perth, Western Australia Visit

In May, Western Australia supporters of Mukuru Promotion Centre were invited to attend a series of events. Sr Mary personally expressed her gratitude to these long-term supporters through various "meets and greets." Some of the events were informal and others a little more formal. Sr Mary managed to catch up with representatives from Mandurah Catholic College, who have supported MPC through student outreach programs and building projects for many years. Several Parish groups provided resources and contributed to faith formation and infrastructure projects. Additionally, Mater Dei College students and staff, who have participated in various mission and cultural outreach programs in Kenya, also contributed to buildings, educational equipment, and cultural programs. The 3 Musketeers Foundation has actively promoted preventative health programs, especially through the CoVid19 pandemic, assisting young teenage mothers, social welfare programs, and hearing aids for the marginalized. The Catholic Women's League also provided assistance with healthcare and sponsorships, while Mercy Village residents, friends, and Sisters of Mercy helped with sponsorships and general donations. The two-week-long event was filled with many engagements and moments of reflection.



Dr Maria O'Shea (3 Musketeers Foundation) and Sr Mary receive more children's hearing aids.



Art and Craft Exhibition



Mater Dei College Students and Staff



CWL's Morning Tea



Some Mandurah Catholic College Current and Former Staff Members

Social and Health Services

Social Services

In May, the Social Office was busy acquiring school uniforms for vulnerable pupils at MPC primary schools. Sancta Maria and St Elizabeth's schools received their uniforms on time, but St. Catherine's and St. Bakhita's uniforms are still on their way. Irish Aid officials visited the Centre for a monitoring and evaluation visit, where the staff presented the progress of funded and completed activities. The officials were impressed and taken on a tour to see firsthand the beneficiaries who received business startups.



St Elizabeth Pupils in their new uniforms

The Child Protection Office has been working diligently to address cases of alleged abuse. The rise in reported sexual abuse cases over the past month can be attributed to the current economic challenges and parental neglect that exposes children to predators. Many cases are still ongoing, with follow-up measures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected children. However, some parents have not been cooperative, causing delays in the legal process.

Our donors have been very helpful in supporting needy families and children in Mukuru. We continue to offer nutritional aid to those in need through the Amaranth Program and other initiatives. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of living, many families struggle to afford even one meal a day, given the lack of jobs. Our social workers visit homes to assess needs and support students in the MPC learning institutions, including mentorship and counseling to help them cope with daily stresses. We are grateful for all the support we have received, and we hope to continue helping those in need.



St Michael's Student Home Visit Assessment

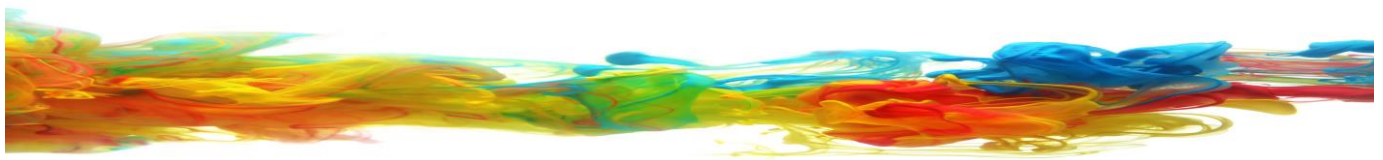


Distribution of Clothes to Needy Families.



Nutritional Support





In May, kind-hearted donors generously provided gifts to the students of MPC schools. These gifts included pencils, candy, and sanitary towels, which have been a great help to parents and made life a little easier. The students are grateful for such thoughtful donations.



Sancta Maria Pupils



St Elizabeth Pupils



St Catherine's Pupils

In May, numerous mentoring sessions were provided for primary school students, secondary students, and Songa Mbele children.



St Michael's Students



Mentoring Sessions

St Elizabeth Pupils

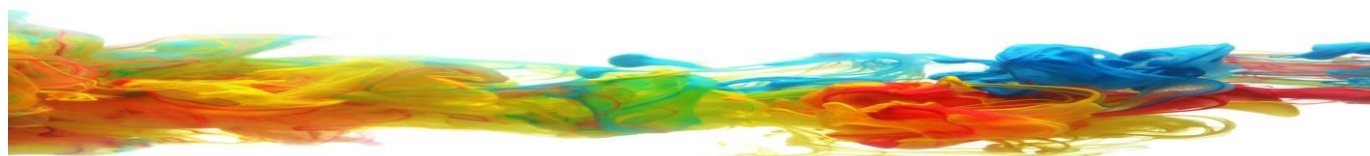


Sancta Maria Kayaaba



Unit 3, Songa Mbele children.

The Clinic has experienced a surge in patient numbers during May due to a flu outbreak. This is a common occurrence around the world this year, as people are moving around more after the COVID-19 pandemic. Many students have reported experiencing fever and headaches. Fortunately, needy families and children with chronic illnesses can access basic healthcare at the Clinic and receive referrals to other hospitals if needed. Due to tough economic times, community members struggle to access affordable healthcare in public hospitals, as they must purchase medication from outside. As a result, they prefer to seek medical services from the heavily subsidized Clinic.



Social and Health Statistics for May 2023

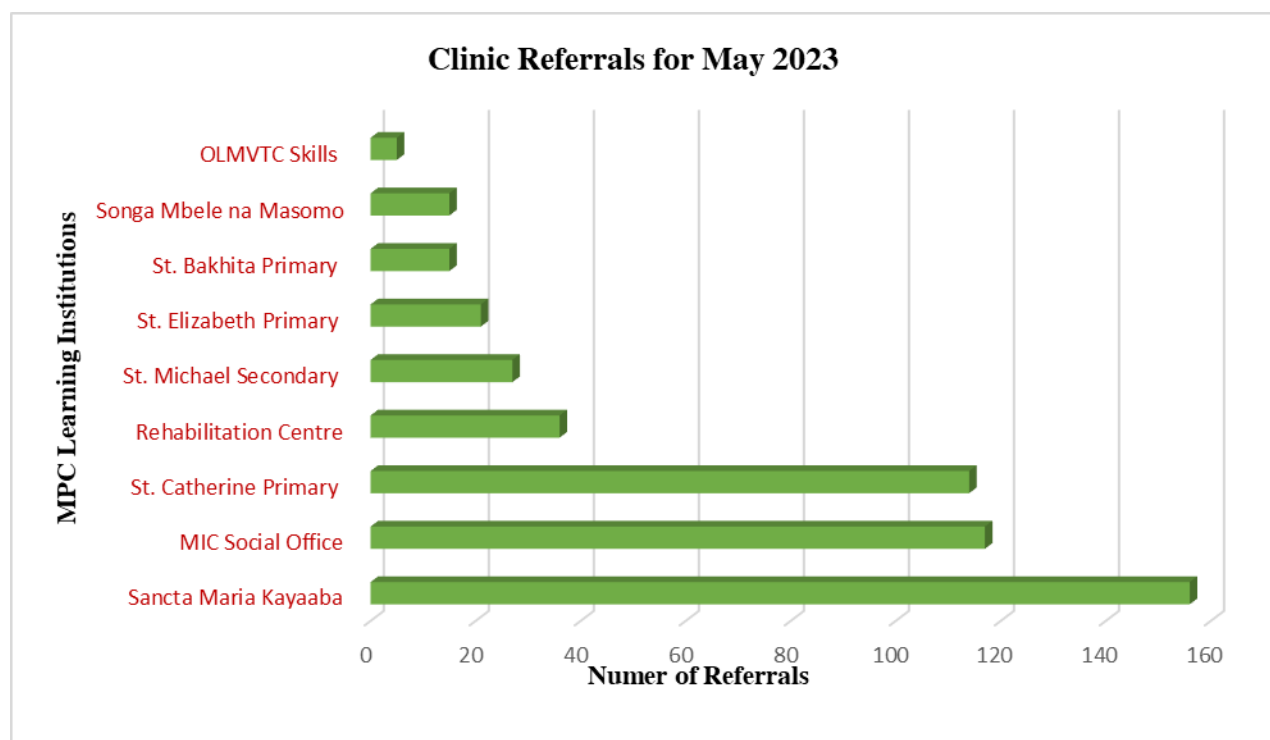
The current medical cases and needy children and their families require a great deal of assistance, and MPC is working diligently to meet their needs. The poverty levels have risen significantly due to the CoVid19 Pandemic, which has had a significant impact on the economy. Unfortunately, it is often the poor who bear the brunt of the consequences and suffer the most. The cost of living has increased significantly in Nairobi. Only through the generosity of people can some of the urgency for these families be alleviated. In May over 2,000 individuals and families were assisted.

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	3	1	1					6
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		62									62
3	Amaranth Babies & Child Clients		7									7
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases	5	3	5	9	3				7		32
5	Business Startup / Booster	1	1		2	3	3			4		14
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions		6	7	8				6	16		43
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources											-
8	Donations Received	1	3	1	1	1	2		24	7	7	47
9	Fire and Floods Disaster assistance		1	1			1					3
10	Food Distribution											-
11	Home Visits	3	6	13	14	13	3	2	9	9	1	73
12	Hospital Visits							16				16
13	Malnourished Babies		9									9
14	Medical Cases	15	114	21	156	27	5	117	15	36		506
15	Meetings and Trainings	1							4	1		6
16	Mentorship Sessions	2		2	5	2	2		3	6		22
17	Mobilization of Resources											-
18	Needy Families Community Support	27	69		2	4						102
19	Needy Students/Children	7	4	9	14	2	1		85		9	131
20	Networking		5	1	8			15		1	6	36
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions		27	5	4	3			4			43
22	New Teenage Pregnancies					1						1
23	Nutritional Support		6							2		8
24	Placement (Job/Internship experience)											-
25	Pregnancy Support Packages					1	1					2
26	Provision of Sanitary Towels	30	101	65	15	21	10		2		26	270
27	Referrals (except medical)	2		1	5	1			2			11
28	Safeguarding Follow Ups				2	2						4
29	School Absenteeism/Truancy	19	7	9	21	22	2		42			122
30	Schools Profiles	18	43	61	31		29		3			185
31	School Visits											-
32	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions											-
33	Sponsorship Follow-ups		26		52	50				2		130
34	Uniform Aid	7	4	61	50							122
	Totals	138	504	263	402	157	60	150	199	91	49	2,013



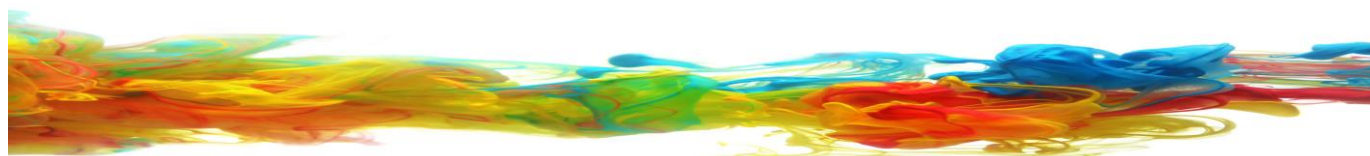
In the month of May, the Clinic had a record number of patients - 2,200 in total - with an additional 348 clients visiting one of the 5 clinics. Many of these patients suffered from respiratory problems, likely due to the high number of flu cases. Shockingly, almost 30% of these patients were children under 5 years old. Despite this, the number of immunizations administered over the year has continued to increase. Unfortunately, 3 adults were diagnosed with Tuberculosis and are currently undergoing treatment. This brings the total number of Tuberculosis patients who visit the facility for regular follow-ups to 25.

Due to the prevailing economic hardship, there has been a significant increase in the number of people in need. This has resulted in a rise in waivers, with May recording a 23% increase compared to the previous month. The total amount of waivers granted was over 35,000 KHS (€230). The highest number of cases referred were from Sancta Maria Kayaaba Primary School, with pupils making up the majority of those granted waivers. One MPC institution referred over 500 children to the Clinic. A 19-month-old male was diagnosed with phimosis and referred to Mbagathi Hospital for further management, with the assistance of MIC Social Office. The MIC social worker is currently following up on 20 referred needy patients in total.



We express our gratitude to Airtel-Kenya for their donation of sanitizers, which will help promote good hygiene. In addition, the Mater Misericordiae Hospital has generously donated ferrous sulphate tablets for pregnant mothers attending antenatal clinic checkups.

Airtel Kenya donated hand sanitizers.

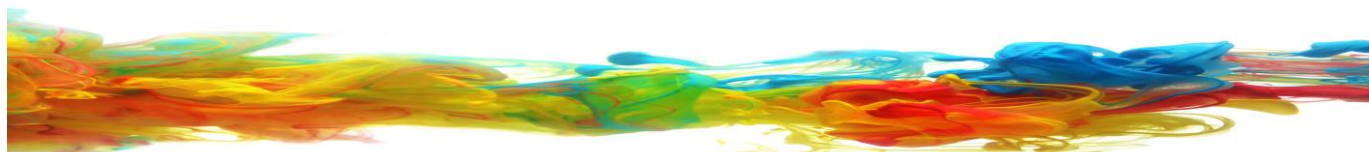


May 2023 Registrations

Category	Gender	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	> 64 Yrs	Total
New cases	Female	124	70	43	231	73	19	1	561
	Male	101	67	38	132	34	25	6	403
Subtotal		225	137	81	363	107	44	7	964
Revisits	Female	229	73	43	233	93	27	6	704
	Male	200	59	52	112	67	33	9	532
Subtotal		429	132	95	345	160	60	15	1236
Total		654	269	176	708	267	104	22	2200
Percentage	<i>Female</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>58%</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>43%</i>

May 2023 Diagnosis

Diseases	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above	Total
							64 Yrs	
Outpatients								
Respiratory	284	70	39	172	81	27	9	682
Gastronintestinal	93	63	39	69	40	12	2	318
Cardiovascular	50	29	16	73	47	24	2	241
ENT	19	26	18	16	4	4	0	87
Genitourinary	6	14	13	180	25	10	1	249
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	0	0	15	6	1	0	22
Musculoskeletal	6	21	21	59	29	12	4	152
Integumentary (Skin)	33	20	3	16	8	2	0	82
Dressing	6	1	4	7	3	3	3	27
Other Diseases	38	18	22	65	18	1	1	163
Subtotal Outpatients	535	262	175	672	261	96	22	2023

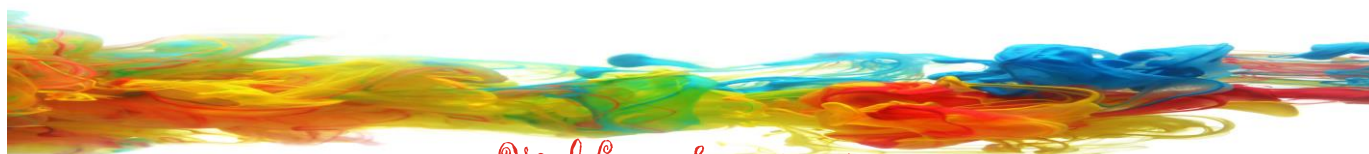


May 2023 Clinics

Clinics								
ANC	0	0	0	87	0	0	0	87
Immunizations	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	155
Nutrition	88	0	0	9	0	0	0	97
Comprehensive Care	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Non Medical (Mental)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Referrals to Medical Facilities	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Subtotal Clinics</i>	<i>244</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>348</i>
Total	779	262	175	771	265	97	22	2371

May 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			1	33	5			39
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)	2	3	3					8
Bilirubin Levels								0
Blood Group			1	2	1			4
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)		2	2	13	11	14	2	44
Brucella								0
BS for MPS (Malaria)	17	11	5	29	5	7	0	74
Calcium Levels	2							2
Creatinine levels				1				1
Du test								0
Full Haemogram	32	25	15	58	24	5	2	161
HbA1c								0
Helicobacter Pylori	1	6	11	15	9	2		44
Hemoglobin Levels	4		1	3	1	1		10
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)				1				1
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy				23	5	1		29
Lipid profile								0
Liver Function Test								0
Pregnancy Test			1	18	1			20
Rheumatoid Factor			2	3	4	7		16
Salmonella		1	3	7	5	2		18
Stool Analysis	21	44	26	54	15	6	1	167
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)					1			1
Uric Acid								0
Urinalysis	7	14	10	104	22	12		169
Urine Culture								0
Urine multudrug test								0
VDRL/Syphilis				5		1		6
Total	86	106	81	369	109	58	5	814
<i>Average Tests Per Day</i>								<i>37</i>



Welfare Services Rehabilitation Centre

Throughout May, 63 boys living at the Centre have continued their program and activities. Thanks to Trocaire, Home Tracing for 29 boys was made possible, allowing for the documentation and verification of their stories, as well as briefing their parents on their status. As it is the time of year for exam registrations, eligible boys have been enrolled accordingly.

After a short break, the two intern teachers kept the boys on track while the Centre's teachers took a break. Some of the new recruits, aged 14-16, have never been to school, which presented a challenge as they are too young to work and too old to return to Grade 3 primary school. Due to the lack of formal education, remedial teaching was necessary, and further advice was sought from the Sub-County Education Office at Makadara. This situation is typical at the Rehabilitation Centre since many boys have had limited formal education.

The staff attended an in-service day on the new Children Act (2022) and joined other Departments to learn about the changes. The Centre also observed the International Day of Missing Children at Shalom House, Koinonia Community Centre, along Ngong Road. The Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Florence Bore, and her Permanent Secretary revealed that there were 6,841 cases of missing children between July 2022 and May 2023 in Kenya. The Minister encouraged parents to take their responsibilities seriously to prevent kidnapping cases by perpetrators who use 'dynamic strategies'. Meanwhile, the boys participated in activities like a drawing competition while the adults were engaged with the Minister.



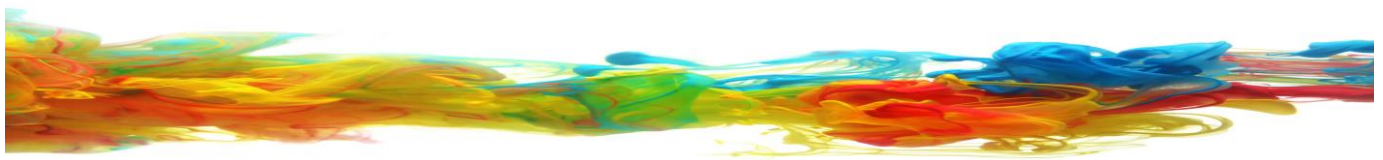
Benjamin, Tatua, Melvis and Kinuthia at the Koinonia Community Centre.



Sustainability is a top priority at the Centre. The boys and staff planted a few fruit trees at the centre to help supply the boys with good sources of vitamins. For some boys, this was their first time at planting and were thrilled to participate. It also provides a learning opportunity as they watch the 4 pawpaw, 2 orange, 8 passion fruit and 4 avocado plants take root and flourish.



Planting Fruit Trees



The Centre is very fortunate to have its own art instructor, Samuel Waweru, who is sponsored by Paula Cullen and Friends. Samuel's creativity and delivery of engaging classes offer much learning for the boys. This month's project was candle making. With the cost of electricity tripling, it will be a great skill to have for when they leave the Centre.



Samuel teaching the boys the art of candle making.



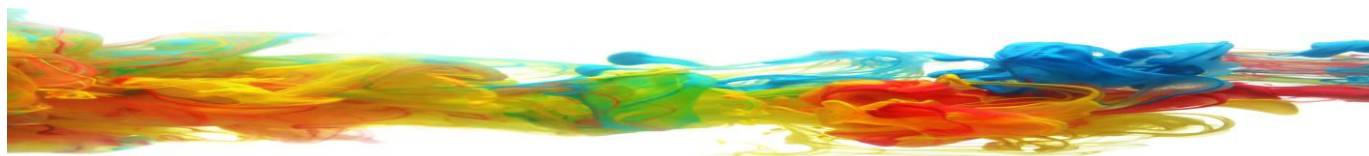
Another special event for the boys in May was to attend the Ghetto Classics Orchestra held at MPC multipurpose hall and facilitated by Australian opera singer Breana Stillman. The Centre's choir was given the chance to train with instruments each Saturday. The orchestra and choir had the privilege of performing for the Barbados High Commissioner, Sweden Ambassador and Australia's High Commissioners to Kenya along with their families and friends. The students were delighted with the opportunity as they sang, performed and danced for a few hours.



Breana Stillman



Barbados, Sweden and Australian Ambassadors attend the concert



All contributions help to provide a good healthy learning environment for the boys. MPC is very grateful for the donations received in May.

Several organizations and individuals, including British Airways crewmembers, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Catechism team, Bakers Corner, Felix Wambua, OLQP Parishioners, Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Pembe Industry, Soghani Team, Kalasingah and Team Pankaj, donated various items such as clothes, food provisions, meat, bread, burgers, cooking oil, milk, porridge flour and vegetables to the Centre.



BA crew members



Catechism team



Bakers corner



Felix Wambua



USIU Krish (Former Intern)



Parishioners



Pembe Industry



Mater Hospital



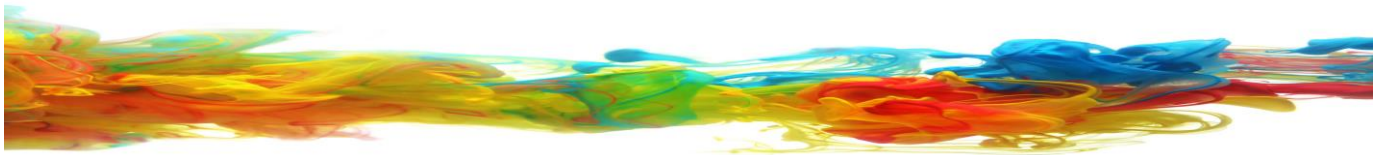
Soghani Team



Kalasingah



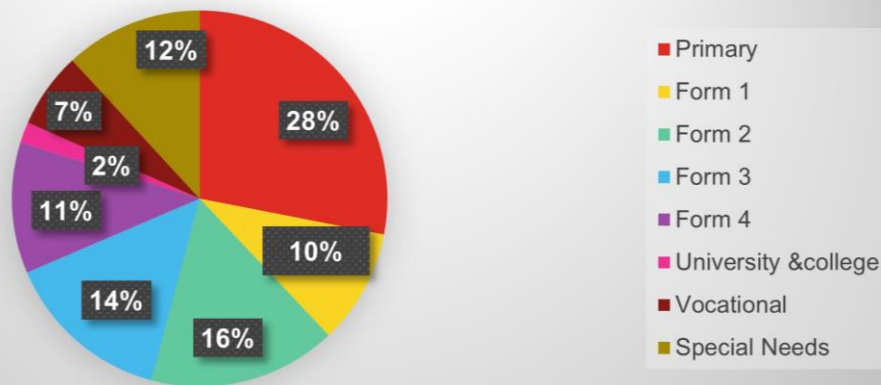
Team Pankaj



Sponsorship Office

The second term of the academic year 2023 commenced on May 9th, following a brief two-week break. The school office was bustling during the first week, as they processed fees, and prepared payment slips, vouchers, and cheques. Moreover, students who were heading to boarding schools were given bus fare and shopping allowances. The reports and appreciation letters for term one were uploaded to the database for sponsors.

Sponsorship Data May 2023



In 2023, a total of 506 pupils/students will be sponsored. The data breakdown for secondary students shows 50 Form One, 82 Form Two, 73 Form Three, and 57 Form Four students. Primary school figures show 142 pupils, while universities have 10 students, and 60 Special Needs children. After assessments are completed, MPC plans to sponsor an

additional 33 students at Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre. MPC is grateful for the support from the Association of Sisters of Kenya and Irish Aid sponsoring 15 girls and 20 boys at St Michael's Secondary School, respectively.

It was exciting to have one of our beneficiaries, James Mutugi, exhibit his artwork at the Kenya National Museum. James had served 10 years imprisonment and was released in 2020. In prison, James spent time developing his skill as an artist. After receiving support from MPC through his sponsor, Noreen Walsh, his creativity was the catalyst for his rehabilitation and bright future. Providence had it that Damien Linnane, an Australian novelist who was attending a conference, was doing some sightseeing at the National Museum in Kenya and came across James's work. So impressed by his work and story that Damien wrote a feature article in his magazine, *"Paper Chained"*. James is now trying to raise some funds to attend the exhibit scheduled later in the year in Sydney.



James Mutugi



Another MPC beneficiary, Dennis Omariba, life changed after being sponsored to do hairdressing. Dennis had dropped out of school due to fees arrears as his parents could not afford to send him to school. After the death of his parents Dennis came to Nairobi with no one to take care of him. He had a passion for hairdressing and after graduating, he received a business start-up kit. He opened a small barber shop in Umoja Nairobi and now has expanded to include a beauty parlor.



Dennis Omariba



Michelle Mwende (hairdresser) and Jacinta Mbaika (food vendor) are former inmates who served 3 years in prison. They both had dropped out of school due to lack of funds and joined a criminal gang, thinking that was the only way to survive in their neighborhood. They soon realized that they had made a terrible mistake. In prison, they both faced many challenges and hardships, but they also found a new purpose. They enrolled in an educational program that taught them basic literacy and numeracy skills.

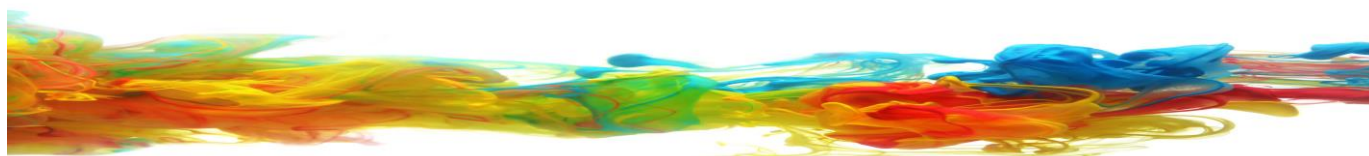
Michelle Mwende

Upon their release, they received help at MPC through the basic business and entrepreneurship skills' program. They learned how to write a business plan, manage finances, market products, and communicate with customers. They were later provided with a small business startup kit in December 2022. Both have sustained their businesses well and are empowered to support their families' needs. Michelle has successfully sustained her salon, while Jacinta is thriving well in her food business. She cooks and supplies to the surrounding companies.



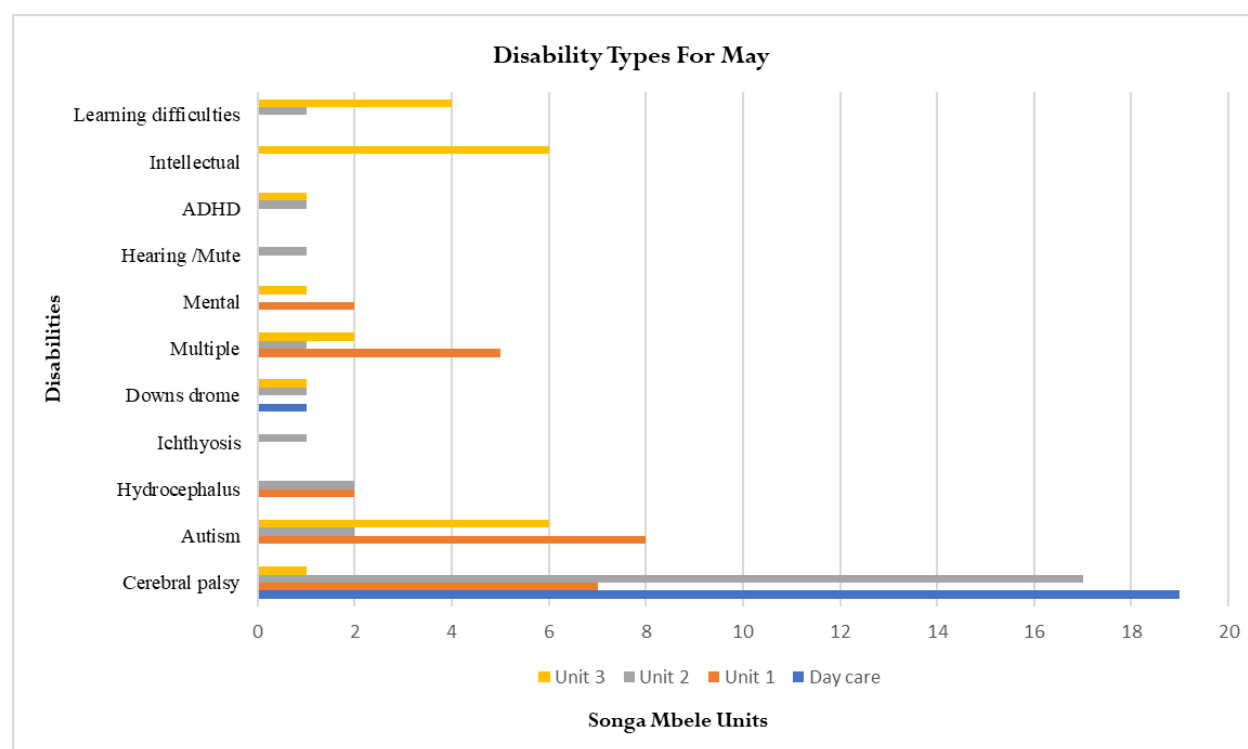
Jacinta Mbaika

The sponsorship program greatly impacts students' lives as it enhances personal development, social skills, and career aspirations. Through your generosity, MPC will continue to walk with the student's progress and address their challenges.



Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The Centre has a total enrolment of 93 with 3 new admissions during May. The new children all have cerebral palsy and their ages range from 6 to 12 years of age. The colder months have seen higher than usual absenteeism as many children fell ill with the flu. The Centre's Children received regular therapy along with 15 outside clients. Regardless of the disability that children are living with be it Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, ADHD, Hydrocephalus, Hearing, Speech, or Learning difficulties, they all have access to therapeutic sessions that greatly improve their milestone achievements.

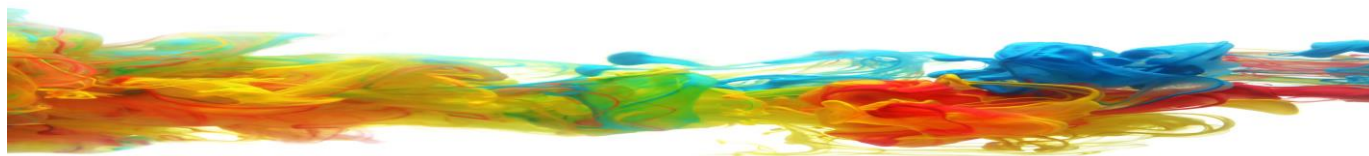


The children were enthusiastic to learn and engage in various class activities. Most of them could write three-letter words, join dots, color, scribe and copy from the board. Three children proudly demonstrated their improvements in verbal and non-verbal communication. Other children who have mobility challenges were able to crawl better and use walking aids. Now they can participate more in play activities with greater ease. All the children have shown varying degrees of improvement due to their Individualized Education Plan.

The children in Unit 3 participated in the health education mentorship sessions. The sessions were conducted over 3 months and focused on good health practices for teenage girls.



Unit 3 children



During the month the Centre received the services of a volunteer counselor who has been able to spend time listening to the children with learning difficulties. Some of these children have traumatic experiences and the counsellor has been instrumental in tackling their concerns to enable the healing process for them.



Counselling session

Some of the parents who want to give back to the Centre assist with meal preparations, feeding and cleaning. Feeding over 90 children twice a day amounts to a lot of work. The Home visits conducted by the social worker provides the Centre with greater clarity on what is happening at home and if the parents need further assistance. On occasions the scene on the home front is dire destitution and it is a wonder that families survive as well as they do. The human spirit is extraordinary at times. The donations received from well-wishers and friends of Songa is an absolute gift. During the month the Centre received food provisions, clothes, dust coats and hygiene materials.

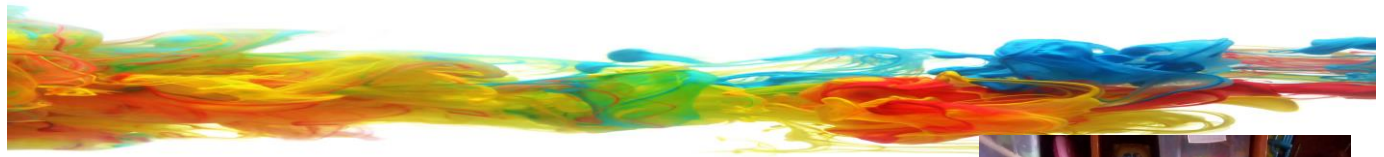


Donations from well-wishers and dust coats from Star Kids



CP Training Session

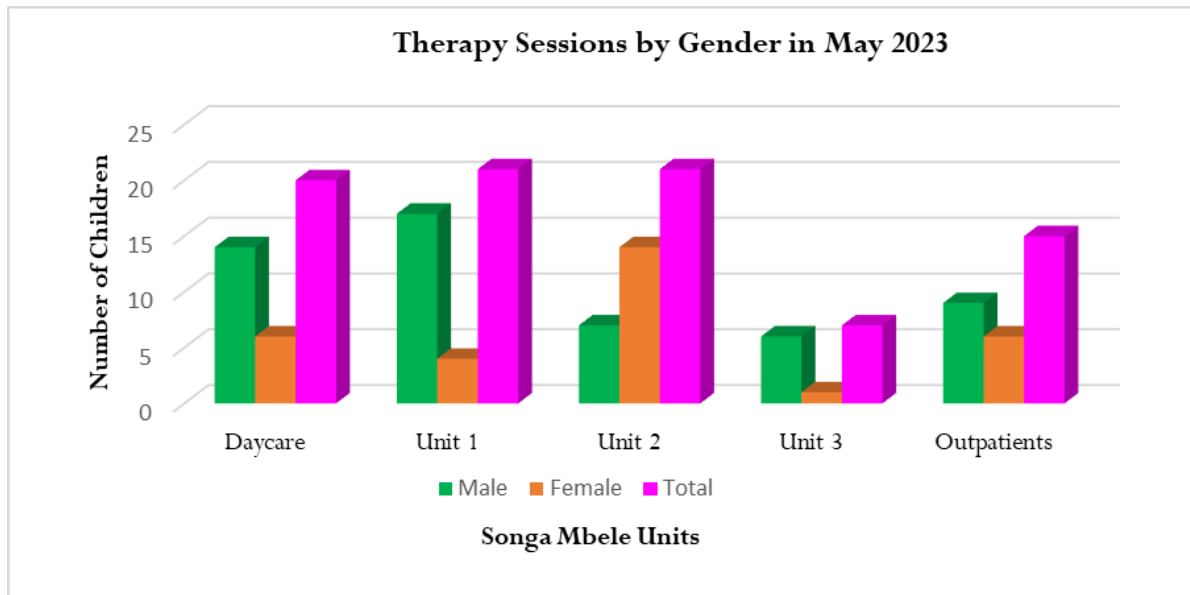
Apart from the normal staff and parents' meetings during the month, Star Kids Initiative conducted some staff training on 'Inclusive education' and what some of the barriers and solutions are. Staff also received further training on cerebral palsy from the Cerebral Palsy Society of Kenya. Nearly 50% of the children attending Songa Mbele live with cerebral palsy. The sessions focused on the causes, types and management of cerebral palsy through therapy sessions, speech therapy and use of assistive devices.



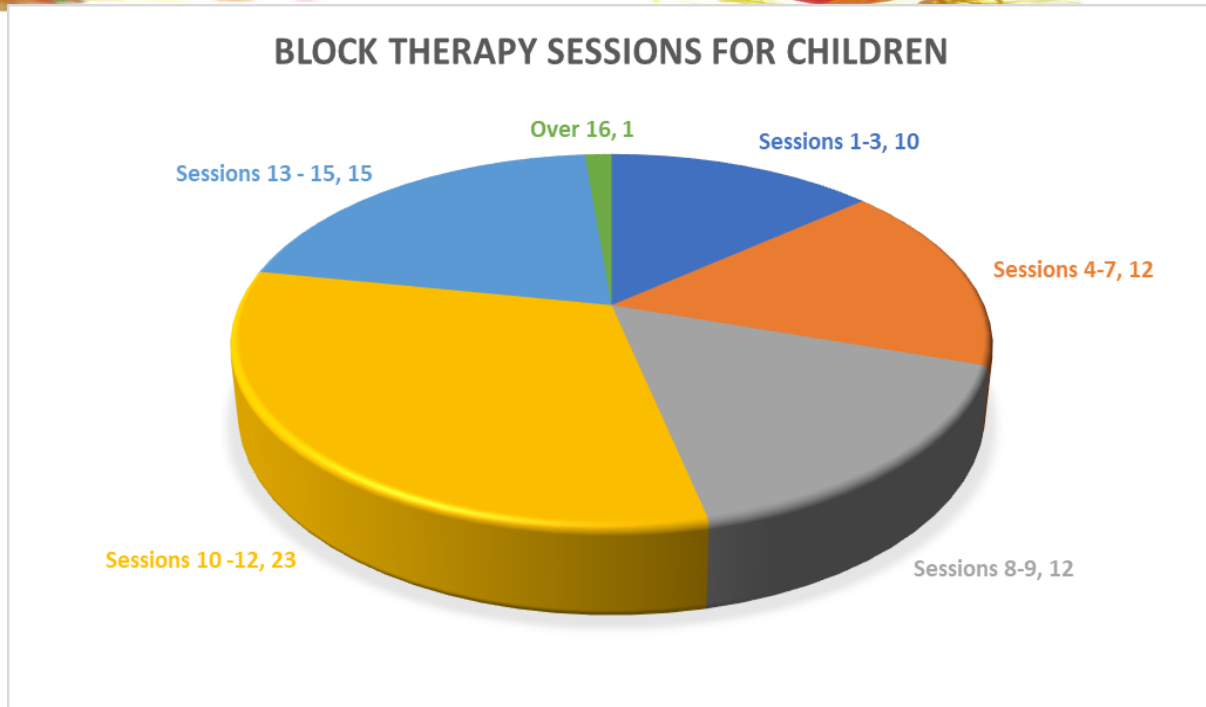
A good spread of therapy continued to provide support to the 69 children at the Centre and 15 external clients through various exercises to increase their range of motion and weight-bearing ability. One of the big improvers noted for the month was Rebecca Nyambura who is aged 5 and came to the Centre when she was 8 months old with cerebral palsy. After continuous therapy on her muscles, she can sit for at least 1 minute independently and achieved partial trunk stability, head control and weight-bearing independently on her elbows.



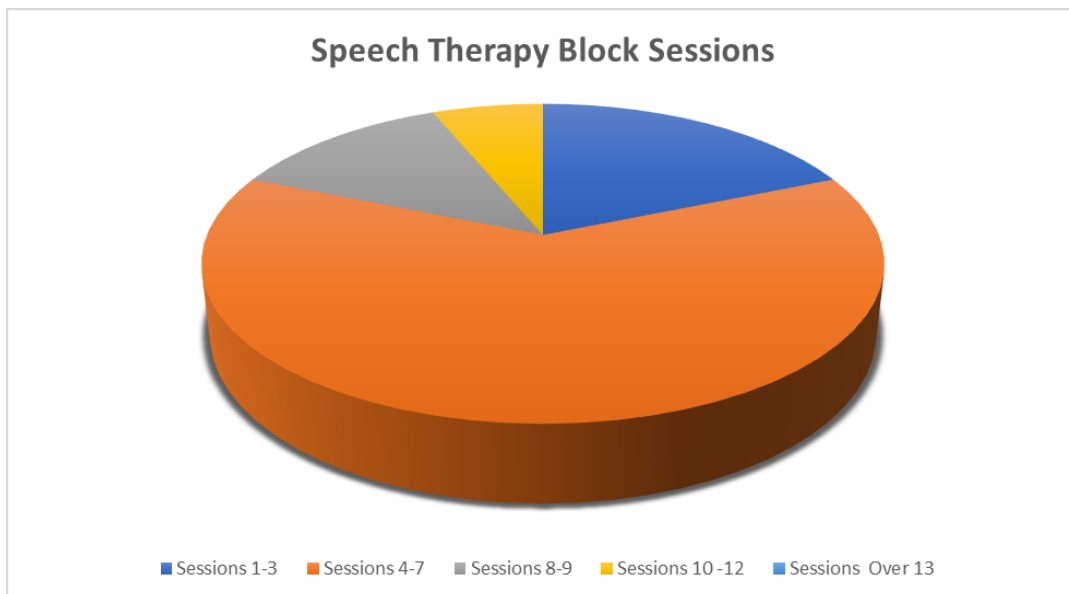
Rebecca sitting unaided



Consistency in therapy is crucial for children to achieve successful milestones, particularly those who need to strengthen their bodies or improve sensory integration. It's essential to increase the frequency of therapy sessions to see better results. Fortunately, more than 68% of children at our center who require multiple therapeutic sessions are currently receiving them.



In addition to the physical exercises over 50 children received Speech therapy to assist with their communication skills, nerve stimulation, and confidence building.





Education Primary Schools

As term 2 commenced for the pupils, the teacher shortage continued to affect teaching in schools with the Junior Secondary (JSS) classes being the worst hit. There are 14 subjects in JSS and the high school teachers are trained to teach 2 subjects. About 70% of teachers deployed for JSS were humanity teachers, who teach History, English, Religion, Geography and Kiswahili. The teachers are not in a position to teach integrated science that is Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Most teachers have taught a full term without introducing students to integrated sciences. Concerns by headteachers in the most affected schools have been raised repeatedly, but all that has been futile.

One idea to assist with the integrated sciences program is the Mobile Science Laboratory. The main objective is encouraging JSS students to perform experiments and learn basic science principles. Teachers backed the idea of having JSS students have a mobile laboratory as they are cheaper to set up. The laboratory can be used for Grades 7, 8 and 9. The mobile laboratory is an alternative to an already congested school system that does not have the infrastructure. MPC purchased one for St. Bakhita Primary School as a trial.



Mobile Laboratory



Pupils receive HPV Vaccine

The Ministry of Health is providing girls in primary school with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine. Girls from St. Bakhita primary and those from St. Elizabeth primary schools received the first of two doses of the HPV vaccine from Nairobi Prisons Hospital.

Smart farming has been proven as one of the easiest and fastest ways schools can provide an inexpensive, regular supply of fresh vegetables, fruits, herbs, and spices to pupils. In urban settings, many people may not have pieces of land but they can use the available spaces to grow a variety of vegetables. Nature Sense is one of the organizations that have trained many APBET schools such as St Bakhita to grow vegetables to supplement children's diet.



Loop Works Vertical Plant Stands



Tree Planting – St Bakhita Pupils

The Kenyan Government is promoting reforestation programs through NGOs and local communities by planting trees in schools. As part of this initiative, Pfizer Company has partnered with MPC to restore the most impacted areas with various trees. Tree seedlings can also provide additional income for families through their sale for planting purposes.



Sancta Maria Primary Kayaaba Pupils

MPC Primary Schools participated in this year's Catholic Education Walk at St Aquinas High School. The purpose of the walk was to raise funds to support Catholic Education. The theme of the day was Empowering Minds, Transforming Lives. Students were encouraged to put extra efforts in their studies, so that they can benefit from the funds through scholarships.

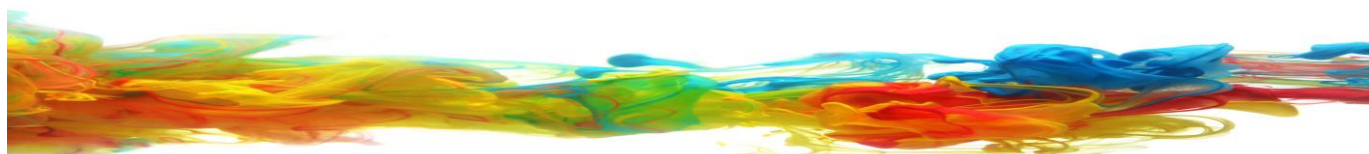
The various Parents meetings were held at the different schools. Information was disseminated to parents about the term ahead, academic performances and challenges facing the schools. Parents also had the chance to raise any concerns with teachers.



Parent Meeting



JSS Governing Council inauguration at St. Bakhita Primary School



St Michael's Secondary School

Secondary school resumed for Term 2 on May 10 with a gender balance enrolment of 506 students. Within the first week, the students sat the Opening examinations to help them focus on the term ahead. During the school break some staff attended the Zeraki Management System training in Westlands. The Zeraki system helps the school keep its records and reporting on track.



Zeraki Training

As the Form 4s approach the end of their full-time student status and engage in their final term of academic learning, distractions become abundant. To help them maintain focus during this crucial period, the mentorship program was implemented as the primary extracurricular activity for the month.

Student representatives were elected from the other Forms. We thank the following students for their service to their year group.

Form 2N Awinja Sophia, Form 2S Paul Omondi and Form 2E James Maina. Form 3N Geraldine Nzisa, Form 3S John Moseti and Form 3E Mumbi Waititu.



Form 2 Parents Meeting



Soccer Friendly



Form 3 Parents Meeting

In a lead-up to the Safaricom Chapa Dimba Tournament, St Michael's soccer team managed a friendly against Dundaeal Tassia United. The Dundaeal team was well resourced with 35 players to choose from, a manager and a trainer. St Michael's team was not intimidated and won 3-2! At the end of the game, the Dundaeal team wanted to poach 5 players from St Michael's. The tournament identifies soccer talents and assists with potential education sponsorships. We will keep you posted on the 5 players whom they identified.



The mentorship program for both boys and girls started in May. The boy's topic was on "critical and creative thinking" which was facilitated by Frank Lawrence a board member and Vincent Odiera, a St Michael's Alumni member who acted as a motivating factor to our students that they can do as well in their exams. The girl's topic was "the role and importance of education in life" which was facilitated by the School Dean, David Musa, and intern teacher, Immaculate Akinyi who provided a personal account of self-belief and its influence in education. The staff coordinated the sessions.



Mentorship Session



Boys Soccer Game

St Michael's held its whole school sports day that included soccer, volleyball, netball and basketball. Students were awarded individually for their good performance in all categories. The best-participating class was Form 2. From the various results, St Michael will select the school team who will participate at the Sub-county level in June.



Wamy High School

Late in the month, a team of 25 footballers, 10 volleyballers and 3 teachers went to Wamy High School. Both teams returned triumphantly.



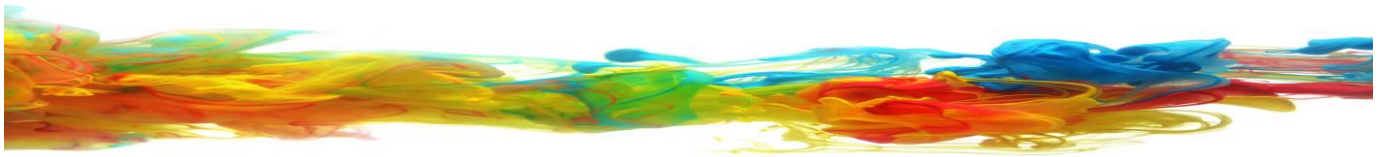
Margaret Mutwiwa

Keeping abreast with the latest understandings in the examinations papers for the students is very important. Sponsored by the Macheo Program, the English and Literature teacher, Margaret Mutwiwa, attended the Alliance Girls High School workshop in Kikuyu.

Fr Gabriel Udo, from Our Lady of Queen of Peace Parish came to St Michael's School to celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr Gabriel encouraged the students not to become discouraged and look outwards just as Mary was prompted by the Holy Spirit to set out on a mission of charity.

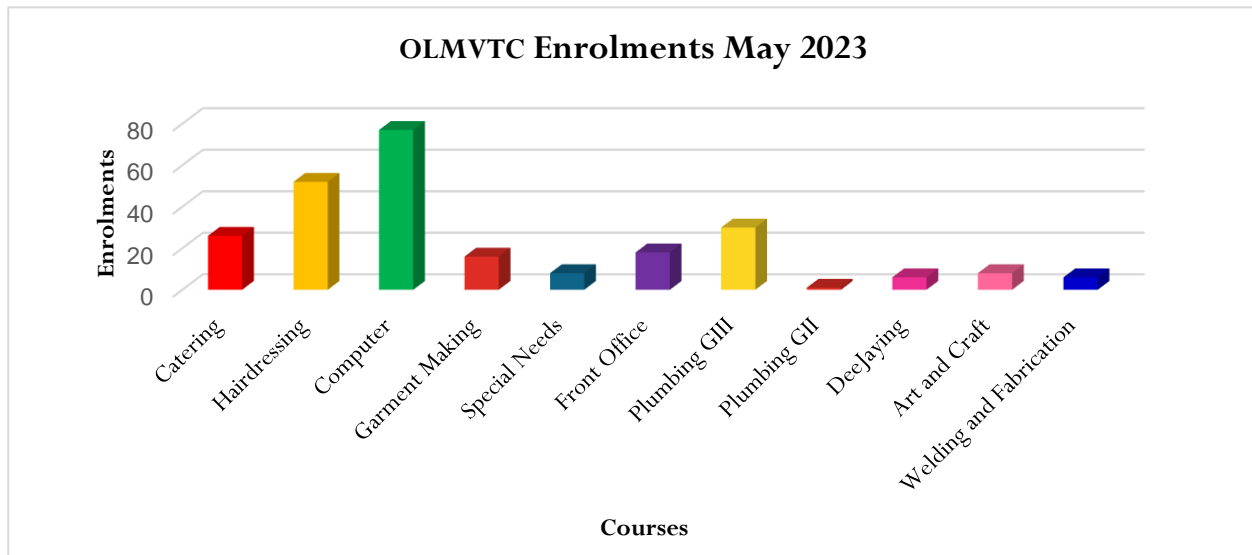


Fr Gabriel



Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

The start of a new term brought 64 new students to the Vocational Training Centre taking the total enrolments to 251.



Some of the Special Needs Youth who have been at the Centre for a while were assessed to ascertain if another course would be more suitable for them. One student enrolled in the plumbing and masonry course, another to the Garment Making course and both have really improved with the new set of skills. At the end of the year, more students will be transferring from Songa Mbele so we need to make sure there are available spaces for them.

The new Front Office computers were installed and have enabled the students to practice more using the computer during their free time.

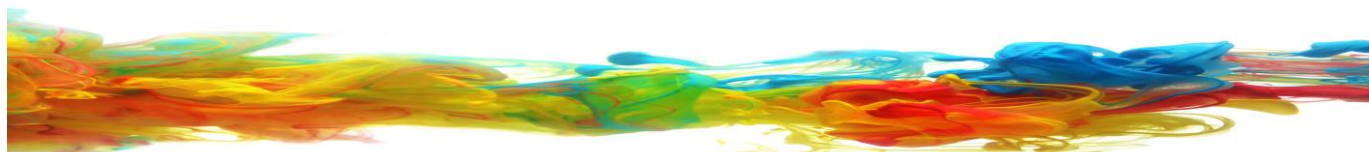
The Art students took part in painting a few offices in preparation for the painter decorator examination.



Front Office Classroom



Reception - Art class painting



As part of the new courses and a broader understanding of education, all students are required to participate in some form of physical activity or games on a Friday.



The catering kitchen is now fully functional and the students have a greater sense of working in an industrial kitchen with all the modern equipment. The weekly practicals are very helpful and all the students have their own space to complete the various practicals.



Fully operational Industrial Kitchen for Catering student practicals

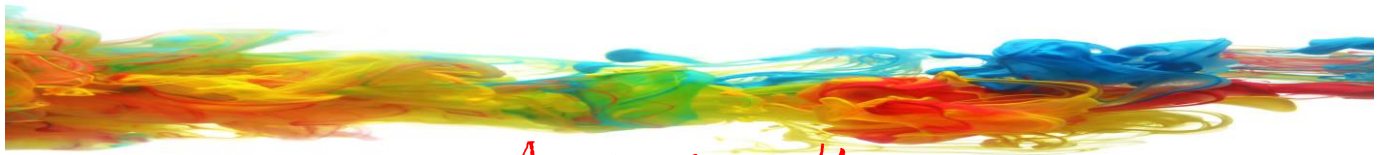
Staff from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals visited the Centre as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility program. The main focus for their CSR day was to plant some trees, clean up and remove rubbish from the compound and raise awareness about climate change. They also donated clothes for the male students.



Pfizer Staff planting trees



Clothes



Announcements

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

- Stocktake for St Mary's Viwandani before the handover to the Noble Foundation. The flooding has caused much damage. It's great that the school will re-open to help hundreds of children to receive an education.



St Mary's Viwandani

- BA crewmembers visit the Head Office with assorted donations.
- Team Pankaj held a comedy show dubbed 'The Play that goes wrong' at the Kenya National Theatre on the 13th and 14th of May and invited staff and stakeholders from MPC to attend. A number of staff and a few teachers from St. Michael's were able to attend the two-day event.
- MPC approached the Assistant County Commissioner concerning the dumpsite across the road which poses a health and security hazard to the children who attend MPC schools. A meeting was scheduled for June to include the Makadara District Commissioner.
- Representatives from Loop Works and Nature-sense visited the Centre regarding a vegetable garden project for St Bakhita School.

Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step By Step

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