



Friends of KEC

September 2018

Dear Parents and Friends of Kyuna,

Welcome to the start of a new school year! For those of you whose children are starting at Kyuna for the first time, a special welcome. I hope that everybody is settling into the new routine well and that there haven't been too many tears! If you are new to Kyuna, you may not have heard of Koinonia Education Centre, a school established by Mr & Mrs Ichihashi which is serving children from under-privileged homes in Nairobi, and which Kyuna has been supporting for many years. These newsletters are a way of keeping you up to date with the latest from KEC and letting you know how you can help to support the school. Click [here](#) to see the first newsletter which explains a bit more about KEC, and its new building project in Mai Mahiu.

The new term has started well at KEC. Grade 8 pupils are gearing up to take their KCPE exams; they will take

six exams over three days at the end of October. Far from being nervous or anxious as you might expect, KEC has instilled in the students an enviable confidence and drive to succeed, and they are actually looking forward to the challenge!

Meanwhile, the school is already starting to prepare for its Christmas show (can you believe we are counting down to Christmas already?!) and everybody is busy learning lines and songs.



Practicing for the Christmas show

The students are all glad to be back. For some students, the meal that they receive at KEC is the only one they will eat all day, and school is a welcome break from a difficult home environment.

Save the Date!

When: 10 November

Where: Kyuna Kindergarten

What: A Christmas fair for the whole family, with vendors, kids' activities, good food, and much more!

Please put the date in your diary, and we will send out some more information soon.

*If you would like to help out with planning or volunteering at this event, **please register your interest here**, or contact Eleanor North on 0790 730268 or eleanorjmorgan@gmail.com*

Familiar faces

Remember Lillian from the last newsletter? Well, you might have seen her face around Kyuna lately! Lillian, a Koinonia graduate, is interested in becoming a sports teacher, so she is getting some work experience by helping with Kyuna's PE classes as well as being a teaching assistant in Dove class. Maria and Grace are also Koinonia graduates and are helping in Barbet and Starling classes respectively. Please say hi to them and make them welcome!



Grace, Lillian & Maria

Meet a KEC student!

Name: Hyidah

Age: 11 years old, in Grade 3 at KEC

Hyidah's story

Hyidah's mother had six children from different fathers. When she passed away, her dad, who had never shown real interest in Hyidah's wellbeing, disappeared completely. Life was not easy – her oldest sister has a baby of her own and did not want the responsibility of caring for Hyidah as well.



Now Hyidah lives in KEC's 'hostel' during the week – a house in Mwimuto for vulnerable girls, supervised by two female KEC teachers. The girls get up at 5am to do their chores and get ready for school in time to catch the school bus on its way from Kibagare to Redhill.

Life is still not simple, of course. Some weekends when Hyidah goes back to her sister, there is no food. And she still has behavioural issues because of all that she has faced. But at the hostel and at school, life has structure and discipline, and she is enjoying her school work, especially maths and art – she now aspires to be an artist when she leaves school. Without KEC, her life would certainly look very different.

Q&A

Aren't we already supporting KEC through our school fees?

There has been some confusion about this in the past. None of the school fees that we pay as Kyuna parents go directly to KEC. Our fees are spent on our school – materials, healthy food, maintenance, and staff salaries. Mrs Ichihashi chooses to give some of her salary away to KEC.

Can I donate my second-hand clothes, books, toys or household items to KEC?

Yes! You are welcome to drop off any second hand items at the school office at any time. They will be sorted and either sold to raise funds, given to families in particular need, or kept for use at the school. Any donations of this sort are very gratefully received.

If I choose to give financially to KEC, where will my money actually go?

This is really up to you. You can give a generic gift, or specify where you want your money to be put to use. There are several options:

Child Sponsorship

For just Ksh2500 per month / Ksh30,000 per year (suggested minimum donation), you can sponsor a KEC student like Hyidah. You will receive an introduction letter with a photo of the child and some background about them and their family. The money that you give will not simply be a handout to the family (families are encouraged to pay what they can towards their child's education), but will help to cover the costs of keeping the child in school, including their teacher's salary. So by sponsoring one child you are actually helping to support their whole class.

Teacher Sponsorship

KEC wants to provide an excellent education for its students, encompassing sports, art, and music. It seeks to select highly qualified and professional teachers for these subjects, but of course these don't come cheap. Your money could go towards covering the salary of one of these teachers. We suggest a monthly contribution of Ksh5,000.

New school construction

As mentioned in the last newsletter, KEC has outgrown its current premises and has purchased land in Mai Mahiu. It is raising funds to start construction of the new school buildings. This is a big project; the Kindergarten alone will cost around Ksh15,000,000 to construct. You could give a one-off or monthly donation to help raise funds for this key development.

[Click here to sign up to one of these giving options](#)

Make a Donation

MPESA Payment:

Pay Bill Business Number: 740702

Please use your own name as the 'account name'

Bank Transfer:

A/C Name: Koinonia Education Centre

Bank: Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd.

Branch: Westlands

Swift Code: SCBLKENXXXX

Bank Code: 02

A/C Number: 0102 848 070 100 (KES)

8702 848 070 100 (USD)

4204 048 070 100 (JPY)

On [facebook](#) and the [web](#):



contact details: 0700782448 koinoniaeducationcentre@gmail.com