



### A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL MANAGER

Dear Parents,

We are very lucky to have the support of **international Waldorf mentors**, and we shall be partnering with other Waldorf schools to plan a series of visits by mentors throughout the year. These individuals are some of the most experienced Waldorf teachers, teacher trainers and mentors globally, and it is a great privilege for our school to have their support. We hope to arrange opportunities for them to meet with parents during their visits and encourage parents to take full advantage of their presence to learn more about Steiner's teaching and philosophy.

We have been searching for a new home for our Karen school and discussions are at very advanced levels with property owners. We are calling for a development task force in readiness for the move and are requesting for volunteer parents with the expertise in architecture, quantity surveyors, and contractors.

The strategic planning process has already started and we shall be sending it out to the parents soon for their feedback and input.

We shall have class 8 and class 2 in the academic year 2019/2020 in our Karen and Lavington campuses respectively. The high school task force is putting together a plan for the establishment of Nairobi Waldorf high school in the academic year 2020/2021.

-James Kioko , School Manager

**"WALDORF EDUCATION GOES BEYOND MERE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PRINCIPLES. IT COMES ALIVE ONLY WHEN, IN INTERACTION WITH THE CHILDREN IN THE MOMENTARY SITUATION, WE CREATIVELY WORK WITH THE ELEMENTS OF THE MATERIAL AT HAND."**

-RUDOLF STEINER

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### UPCOMING DATES

*March 28 - Thursday*  
Agape Festival  
Karen Primary

*March 29 - Friday*  
Term 2 closes

*April 13 - Saturday*  
Waldorf 100 Kick-Off Event  
Karen Campus

*April 14 - 18*  
'Being' in Movement Conference  
Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi

*April 17 - Wednesday*  
Eurythmy Performance  
Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi

*April 24 - Wednesday*  
Term 3 Opens

## SCHOOL HOSTS YVETTE OXLEE

The school hosted Waldorf mentor and teacher Yvette Oxlee for 2 weeks in February and March 2019. Based in South Africa, Yvette began her teaching career in 1973 and joined the Waldorf movement in 1979. She has taught 4 full rounds from classes 1 to 8, has teaching experience in both kindergarten and high school, and has completed in-house training and mentorships.

For the past 3 years, she has been training teachers as well as serving as the Primary School



Coordinator for the Southern African Federation of Waldorf Schools.

During her visit, staff, students, and parents had direct access to Yvette's wealth of knowledge. She

attended numerous events, including coffee mornings and class socials, continuing to educate our community. She mentored our teachers and offered insight on furthering our commitment to Waldorf practices.

Yvette hosted dual-campus talks, both themed "The

uniqueness and purpose of Waldorf education", allowing for engaging conversation and information surrounding the Waldorf movement.

The talk held at the Lavington campus was filmed and the video will be available for viewing in the near future.



# WALDORF 100

# LEARN TO CHANGE THE WORLD

## NWS WALDORF 100 KICK-OFF EVENT

Join our school community on Saturday, April 13 at the Karen campus as we kick-off our Waldorf 100 celebration.

Parents and children will enjoy crafting activities, an introduction to Eurythmy - the Waldorf expressive dance movement, and a talk by a visiting guest mentor.

Details forthcoming.

## 'BEING' IN MOVEMENT CONFERENCE

This year marks 100 years since the opening of the first Waldorf school in Germany by Rudolf Steiner. Around the world celebrations are taking place to commemorate this special occasion, including East Africa. 2019 also marks 30 years since the first Steiner School was opened in East Africa.

From April 14-17, the schools will come together to celebrate

reaching this milestone and all that they have achieved with a conference titled " 'Being' in Movement".

Our NWS teachers will attend this educational conference to further their work in Waldorf pedagogy. Parents and children are encouraged to attend. Tickets are available for purchase in our offices.

A Eurythmy demonstration by the Nairobi Waldorf and Nairobi Woodlands schools will be featured at the April 17 celebration event. An e-mail with details has been sent.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

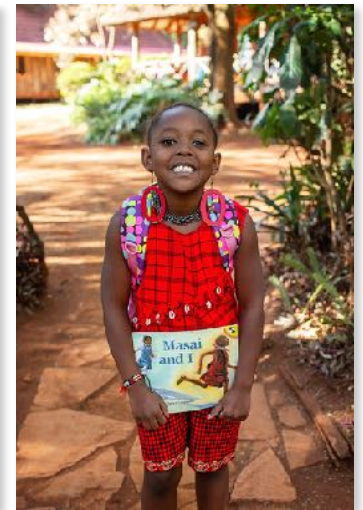
The Library Team organized a successful celebration of World Book Day on Thursday, March 7. Children arrived to school dressed as their favorite book character - we saw the likes of Mary Poppins, a Maasai girl, Ron Weasley, and many more heroes from our favorite stories.

To raise funds for the library, a Lucky Draw was held. For just 100 shillings, students purchased a ticket in hopes of winning one of many fun and special prizes!

Hardy Book Store hosted a well-stocked book sale with 5% of the purchase proceeds headed right to our very own library. Your children will soon be bringing home new titles through our community's generation donations.



Many thanks to the Library Team for their hard work on World Book Day and every day. Additionally, we thank Greenspoon, DCK, The Academy Of Dance And Art, Mama Luka, Mama Quirin, and Mama Harry for donating prizes.



## CALL FOR PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Have you taken photos at a recent school function? We welcome photo submissions from class trips, events, plays, socials, and projects. You may even see your photo featured on our social media pages!

Submit your photos to:

[photos@nairobiwaldorfschool.ac.ke](mailto:photos@nairobiwaldorfschool.ac.ke)

Please note, when you submit photos or other content to the Nairobi Waldorf School, you hereby grant Nairobi Waldorf School a non-

exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to use all submitted photographs and other content.

Submitted photos and other content may be used in publication on the Nairobi Waldorf School website and social media and will be stored in the school image archives.

By submitting a photo or other content, you represent and warrant that the Nairobi Waldorf School may publish such content or use it as part of its operations without liability or compensation.

## WALDORF TOYS - PEDAGOGY

One of the hallmarks of a Waldorf-friendly toy is that it be nourishing to the child's senses. Soft, natural fiber toys and dolls have a warm, soothing effect on a young child. To nurture a child in a beautiful environment and develop their appreciation for aesthetics, playthings should also be beautiful. Natural materials, colors, and textures contribute to a child's sense of life.

Rudolf Steiner suggested that toys be largely uniformed in order to stimulate a child's

imagination. Waldorf toys are often simple, without a lot of detail, allowing for open-ended play. Tree branch blocks, play silks, shells and pinecones, and featureless dolls encourage a child's imagination. One object can easily become many things, cultivating a child's "inner picture" abilities.

Thus, our school aims to uphold the principle of tactile and sensory toys and craft materials that educate the child's sensitivity to the world around them. We also encourage you to incorporate Waldorf-friendly toys into your homes.

## KINDERGARTEN GAINS ALUMNUS VOLUNTEER

Former NWS Kindergarten student Matilda Malkamäki has recently joined the Karen Kindergarten, volunteering under the leadership of Teacher Irene in the Roses classroom.

Matilda lived in Kenya as a child and moved back to her native Finland, where she completed school under the Finnish curriculum. She recently spent time in



San Francisco, CA volunteering at the Riekes Center, educating children through music, sports, and wilderness adventures.

We welcome Matilda through May and appreciate her time spent at NWS. A special thank you goes out to those families hosting Matilda during her stay.



## FIND US ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/nairobiwaldorfschool/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/nairobi.waldorf.school/>  
<http://www.nairobiwaldorfschool.ac.ke/>

## AN INTERVIEW WITH PETYA - PART ONE

Petya Oxlee Bartosch, granddaughter of our esteemed guest and speaker Yvette Oxlee, answered a few important questions following her visit to the Nairobi Waldorf School. Petya is a recent graduate of the Waldorf program.

*NWS: At what age did you begin your Waldorf education?*

Petya: Age 4

*What were your favorite elements of a typical school day in your primary years?*

Playing with my friends, drawing, singing, and the festivals. The stories were beautiful and the creativity was endless, making learning how to read and how to count an exciting activity.

*In Waldorf, children remain with the same teacher for the first 8 years of primary school. What was that like for you?*

Having the same teacher for 8 years allowed for my class to really become a family. We knew each others anxieties, needs, and became each others support group. However, I think changing a teacher every 3 years is healthy,

and brings in different perspectives and teaching styles.

*How has the Waldorf style of learning shaped how you problem solve?*

I accept problems as challenges to be worked with and not to be avoided. Waldorf has taught me how to think out of the box and how to be innovative and unique. Problem solving is most successful working as a team, this is taught through endless activities. I am able to go into the world with a confidence that I can problem solve. Most importantly, in Waldorf there are no “winners and losers”, which has also taught me, in terms of problem solving, that it is okay to ask for help.

*Which practical skills that you learned through Waldorf education have been most helpful?*

The ability to communicate and celebrate differences has been useful. I am extremely grateful for the ability to use my hands, which was taught in woodwork,



art, handwork, and even sports. The grade 11 project is a brilliant way to make students dive into their passion with an intense focus for 9 months. The project includes a theoretical, historical, and practical on any chosen topic. For my practical I worked in a tourism agency, I qualified in 3 photography courses, travelled and photographed, then finally designed and printed my own calendar of my photographs and sold them for charity. This project will continue helping me for the rest of my life as I now know where my interests really lie and I have had a head start in choosing a degree and career.

*Check back next month for part two of our interview with Petya.*

**“OUR HIGHEST ENDEAVOR MUST BE TO DEVELOP FREE HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE ABLE OF THEMSELVES TO IMPART PURPOSE AND DIRECTION TO THEIR LIVES. THE NEED FOR IMAGINATION, A SENSE OF TRUTH, AND A FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY—THESE THREE FORCES ARE THE VERY NERVE OF EDUCATION.”**

**-RUDOLF STEINER**

## WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

This term, we welcomed a number of new families to our Primary and Kindergarten classes on both campuses.

### KAREN

Gemma Peterson - Daisies  
Mukumo Awadhila - Daisies  
Mura Muiruri - Daisies  
Daniella Muthoni - Irises  
Haydn Gow - Irises  
Mitchelle Akech - Roses  
Cameron Mullam - Roses  
Zoe Muba - Roses  
Jason Ndegwa - Class 1  
Mark Muguongo - Class 1  
Eugene Odhiambo - Class 2  
Eaga Wakaba - Class 2  
Myles Ndegwa - Class 3  
Louise Peters - Class 4  
Tye Kaden - Class 7  
Naomi Akech - Class 7

### LAVINGTON

Chemutai Rono - Irises  
Jasper King's Land-Buns - Irises  
Elizabeth Rossbach - Irises  
Tino Musunji lutwana - Roses  
Manasseh Aburili - Sunflowers  
Bridget Oduenyi - Sunflowers  
Erin Kanana - Lilies  
Athiei Madut - Lilies  
Miguel Drumond - Lilies  
Emmanuel Adawo - Lilies  
Nathan Oganda - Lilies  
Ivaan Gupta - Daisies  
Pendo Hadassah - Daisies  
Emma Sloet - Daisies  
Lucas Rossbach - Class 1



Nawala Weber  
Class 1 - Karen



Alauna Peterson  
Marketing and  
Public Relations



Tana Lyons  
Waldorf Teacher /  
Mentor

## NEW STAFF

At the Karen campus, Nawala Weber has joined to take on Class 1. Nawala was born in Namibia during its fight for independence. As a child, she was sent to (the former) East Germany to enjoy a proper education in order to aid her motherland in its plight. Before moving to Kenya, Nawala spent the past 12 years working in the Waldorf system in Namibia, nurturing independent young people.

The school has enlisted volunteer Alauna Peterson as the Marketing and Public Relations Officer. Alauna brings a background in design, photography, and brand identity to the school. She has previously worked in admission and administration offices for two universities in the U.S. Alauna has three children enrolled at the Karen campus.

Tana Lyons joins the school as a co-teacher and mentor for the next year. Tana is a New Zealand European, born in Kenya and bred in Kenya until the age of 13. She received her primary education at Turi, St Andrews school in Molo and as a teen moved to New Zealand. She has 10 years of Curative Education; training and practice in Art Therapy; 13 years working as a handwork specialist teacher; and 6 years as a class-teacher. She has a particular love for and affiliation with the arts, especially music, and has been involved in developing the learning support systems within Wellington Raphael House Waldorf School.

**"CHILDHOOD MEANS SIMPLICITY.  
LOOK AT THE WORLD WITH  
THE CHILD'S EYE – IT IS  
VERY BEAUTIFUL."**

**-KAILASH SATYARTHI**