



A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL MANAGER

Welcome and welcome back, Nairobi Waldorf School Trust Families!

On behalf of the entire staff, I hope that you enjoyed a restful and relaxing holidays! As we begin the year 2019/2020, we are particularly grateful for the blessing of this community of staff, students and families. We have had many hours of good discussion about how staff and families can work together to ensure that our students are receiving an education that supports them to be balanced, free individuals who are capable of critical, creative, and flexible thinking as it empowers them as they strive to reach their full potential.

We are proud and excited to launch the 2019-2020 school year with our incredibly talented and dedicated staff and your ongoing support and partnership!

The school is on course with the strategic plan 2019 – 2024. We are excited that our school is growing and happy to report that we have a Class 2 at our Lavington campus and a Class 8 at the Karen campus.

James Kioko, School Manager



Chalk Art by Mr. Indula

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from Manager | 1
WALDORF 100 Event | 2
Karen Primary Clubs | 2
Class 1 Rose Ceremonies | 3
Waldorf Festivals | 4
Class 8 | 5
New Staff | 6

UPCOMING DATES

September 21 - Saturday
WALDORF 100 Event
Karen Campus

September 27 - Friday
Primary Festivals of Courage
Karen & Lavington

October 5 - Saturday
Nanny Workshop
Lavington Campus

October 8 - Tuesday
Mentor / Parent Talk
Karen Campus

October 11 - Friday
Kindergarten Flower Festivals
Karen & Lavington

October 14 - October 21
Midterm Break

"EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A PAIL, BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE. "FOR THE MIND DOES NOT REQUIRE FILLING LIKE A BOTTLE, BUT RATHER, LIKE WOOD, IT ONLY REQUIRES KINDLING TO CREATE IN IT AN IMPULSE TO THINK INDEPENDENTLY AND AN ARDENT DESIRE FOR THE TRUTH." — PLUTARCH

WALDORF 100

LEARN TO CHANGE THE WORLD

WALDORF 100 Event

This year marks the global celebration of 100 years of Waldorf education. Schools around the world are hosting events to commemorate the milestone. The biggest festival will occur in Berlin, Germany on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

The Nairobi Waldorf School Trust will host our very own WALDORF 100 celebration on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 2 pm to 7 pm at the Karen Campus.

Much like our 100 Year Kick-Off in June, the WALDORF 100 event

will provide family friendly crafts and activities, vendor tables and workshops, and of course, information about Waldorf education past, present, and future. Food will be available for purchase during the event.

We look forward to seeing all of our Waldorf families celebrate the past 100 years and look ahead the next 100 years of Waldorf education.

This event is open to the community and we encourage you to bring friends and family to join the festivities.

WALDORF 100 Event Highlights:

- Vendor Tables
- Vendor Workshops
- Waldorf 100 Student Projects
- Watercolor Painting
- Black & White Drawing
- Drumming Circle
- Kindergarten Activities
- Music & Dancing
- 100 Candle Lighting
- Bonfire & Singing
- Tea & Bittings for Purchase
- Buffet Dinner for Purchase



Want to view the celebration in Berlin? You can watch the livestream video on Thursday, September 19 at: <https://www.waldorf-100.org/en/livestream/>

Karen Primary Clubs

Paid after school clubs will run between 3:15 and 4:30 pm at the Karen campus during term 1. Participants can sign-up in the office or on-site during the club(s) of choice. Payments should be made to the club instructors directly. Students must be picked up between 4:30 and 4:45 pm.

Mondays: Horseback Riding - Ksh 10,000/term
Tuesdays & Wednesdays: Soccer - Ksh 7,500/term
Thursdays: Gymnastics - Ksh 5,000/term

This year we're using a new stable for horse care and riding - the horses are healthy, calm and ready to work. Soccer continues to focus on skill development and scrimmages. Gymnastics will include spotted acrobatics, increased flexibility, and fun games.

These clubs are the perfect opportunity for your children to try something new. They're already at school and their friends are enrolling - sign up now and don't miss another week!



Chalk Art by Mr. Ochelle

SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 21, 2019
2:00-7:00 PM



Class 1 Rose Ceremonies

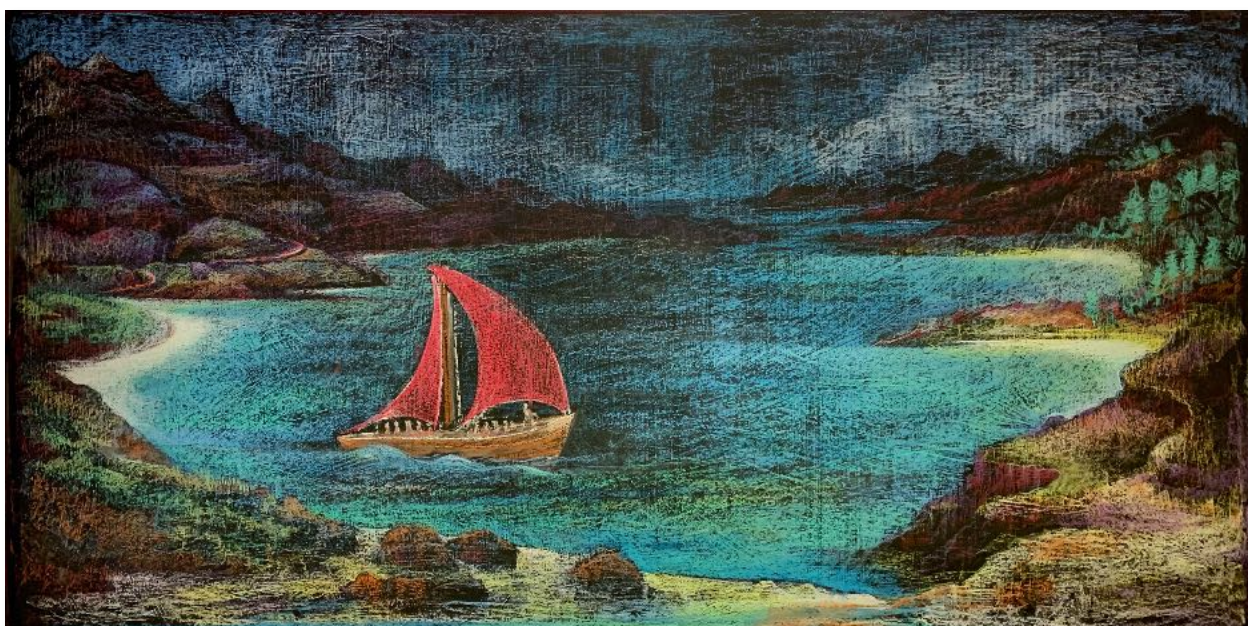
The annual Rose Ceremony occurs on the first day of school for the incoming Class One students. This ceremony is a touching display of how important celebrating the growth of the child really is. Leaving kindergarten and entering first grade is an enormous shift for children.

In Karen, the school gathered together and sang songs to welcome the new primary students. Teacher Tana told a magical story about the learners finally reaching the ship with the red sails, ready for their journey ahead. Teacher Winnie first called the older children to the stage handing them each a rose and a candle. As each Class One student was called to join their guardian, the contrast of tall

and small was ever apparent - the children walked side-by-side to light their candle.

The guardian gifted their new student with a rose, a complexly beautiful flower that evokes great passion and emotion. This flower represents what the first grader will one day become and it serves as a promise of the growth and development that the student will experience in the coming years.

In Lavington, a similar tradition was followed. Each new Class One student was paired with a Class Two guardian. In front of a backdrop of rainbow colors, the Class One students were ushered into their primary experience, rose in one hand and candle in the other, ready for their journey.



Chalk Art by Teacher Tana

Waldorf Festivals

Festivals and celebrations play an essential role in the Waldorf experience. Seasonal festivals serve to connect humanity with the rhythms of nature and of the cosmos.

The festivals originated in ancient cultures, yet have been adapted over time and across cultures. To join the seasonal moods of the year, in a festive way, benefits the inner life of the soul. Celebrating is an art. There is joy in the anticipation, the preparation, the celebration itself, and the memories.



Rose Ceremony - The school year begins by an exchange of roses from upper classes to the incoming Class 1 students as they begin their journey in primary.

Festival of Courage - Similar to Michaelmas, this festival challenges the children to develop strong, brave, free wills, and to overcome love of ease, anxiety, and fear.

Flower Festival - This festival celebrates nature and the short-rains. We embrace the emerging blooms (especially the jacaranda trees), by making flower rings and planting flowers in our Kindergarten.

Festival of Light - Held near the holiday season, this festival combines the shared reverence of light across many cultures. The children prepare a performance.

Rainbow Festival - This festival is celebrated at the start of the long rains where a mixture of sun and rain often creates rainbows. This brings about the concept of color experienced in nature.

Agape Festival - This festival allows the children to celebrate love and friendship. Students prepare and share meals and notes of kindness and friendship with their fellow classes.

MayFaire - This lively festival held in May often signifies the arrival of spring in the northern hemisphere and globally, features the artful dance around the May Pole.

Swahili Festival - This celebration of Swahili culture is a vibrant collection of songs, dance, clothing, and food enjoyed by the staff and students.

Lantern Festival - Often called Martinmas, this festival invites parents to create a lantern before the evening lantern walk, commemorating the light that shines forth from each of us.

Transition Ceremony - This ceremony celebrates Kindergarten children as they transition to Class 1. Their walk through the spiral path and lighting of the candle signifies their continuing educational journey.

Shambani Festival - To honor the bounty of the shamba and the hard work of planting, sowing, weeding, and harvesting, the Kindergartens celebrate with a performance. Following the harvest, soup is prepared for a shared parent meal.

"I'VE LEARNED THAT PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU SAID, PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU DID, BUT PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL."

-MAYA ANGELOU



Class 8

The doors of our new Class 8 classroom have opened and lessons have begun. With this step, we are happy to have completed the first phase in our journeying toward establishing a High School here at the Nairobi Waldorf School Trust.

With the wholistic approach of Waldorf education, where all 3 dimensions of Willing, Feeling and Thinking are acknowledged and attended to, we think of the grade eight students as having just completed the Feeling Stage of the school journey. In their first seven years of early childhood, kindergarten and class one, the students were growing and developing primarily through what they 'do' rather than how they think. During the next seven years of primary school, the emphasis for these students has been through an experiential and relational approach to engaging with the curriculum, most often through the mode of The Arts. And now.. as the student begin to develop their powers of reasoning and logic, they will enter the world of formal academic learning. But how will their schooling ensure that the holistic approach is not forgotten?

A key question asked by Waldorf teachers of all grades is, "What can be taught to the child that will support, strengthen, and actively engage them?"

Instead of the question, "When will they understand a given topic?" we would rather ask, "When will a particular topic be the most relevant; making use of, and strengthening, developing capacities?" Even in these more so called intellectual years, the curriculum will continue to invite the student to 'know the world' on their own terms, through inquiry, interest, appreciation. Education will continue to be a personal process of discovery rather than 'delivery of right answer'.

The eighth-grade curriculum is designed to help the students know the modern world: from history, to science, to literature; the aim is to help the 13 and 14-year-old students feel at home in the present world, with their own emerging individualities.

As the eighth graders encounter questions from their teachers that are open to debate, the questions will carry a certain feeling that would lead them to several inclinations, as well as test their critical thinking. They will continue with Biographies of prominent people who changed something in the world, filling them with imagination and reality. The Revolutions that have shaped the modern world will come up, a continuation of the grade seven encounter with the Renaissance.

NEW STAFF



Josphat Gogoni

Josphat joins the school as the Learning Support Coordinator and Block Lesson Teacher. He holds degrees in Special Needs Education and Physics/Chemistry and a Diploma in Special Needs Education. Josphat is skilled in working with students experiencing specific learning difficulties to ensure effective access to the learning content through educational evaluations, monitoring child progress, and developing support strategies. His motivation has always been to see every child, whatever the challenge, progress across the curriculum with the rest.



Gordon Abong'o

Gordon has come to the school as a History and Geography teacher, including teaching lesson blocks covering African history. He has an unwavering commitment to instill confidence and self-esteem by providing open lines of communication and welcoming attitude when approached by students. Gordon prides himself in being sensitive to different perspectives, encouraging student feedback regarding teaching methods, and applying it to enhance learning.



Amatullah Muslim

Amatullah joins the school as a French and English Teacher as well as Handwork. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education (Arts-French) with IT. Amatullah has a diverse set of skills with experience in arts and crafts, Kenyan sign language, and a bit of painting and drawing. She looks forward to dedicating herself as a Waldorf teacher and to becoming part of the school community.



Naomi Mukami

Naomi joins the Lavington campus as a Games and Music teacher. She is a graduate of Kenyatta University with a degree in Music / PE. Naomi is enthusiastic about child well-being and their connection with music. She describes herself as a 'smiling machine' and is ready to meet the new children and become part of the Nairobi Waldorf School community.



Lorna Aberi

Lorna Aberi joins the school as an Administrator at the Karen campus. She has extensive experience in the hospitality industry and looks forward to providing excellent customer service from the Karen office. Lorna is detailed oriented and committed to understanding Waldorf education in order to provide information to our staff, parents, students, and community.



Priscillah Masai

Priscillah has come to the Nairobi Waldorf School Trust as a Finance Assistant. She holds a Bachelors of Commerce (BCom) Degree from the University of Nairobi and is currently undertaking her Certified Public Accountants course at the Kenya College of Accountancy (KCA).