

NEWSLETTER

NAIROBI WALDORF SCHOOL TRUST NEWSLETTER

JUNE/2023



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NWST STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION 2019-2024

Enhancing teaching and learning excellence was a pivotal focus within the strategic plan pillars.



William Odongo at The A.G.M, NWST Karen Campus, Miotoni Road

Dear Parents and Guardians, With great pleasure, I write to share the remarkable achievements and outcomes of successfully implementing the School's five-year Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024). As an auditor closely involved in evaluating and monitoring the progress of various educational institutions, I am happy to report that NWST is well on the right path to achieving its vision.

When the Board of Nairobi Waldorf School Trust embarked on the strategic planning journey, it was well aware of the need to set ambitious goals that would push the School to new heights.

One of the critical aspects of the strategic plan pillars was to enhance teaching and learning excellence. The School implemented various initiatives, such as strengthening and empowering pedagogical leadership through recruiting qualified staff, continuous professional development, and constant review of key performance indicators. This has significantly increased the number of fully trained Waldorf teachers over the strategic planning period. Consequently, the School has significantly improved student engagement and achievement.

Another area of focus in our strategic plan pillars was financial stability and growth. We firmly believe that building a financially strong base focusing on growth is key to any institution. Efficient best practices, such as bulk purchases, discounts, and pre-qualification of suppliers, have been successfully implemented. The School has also been able to carry out complementary income-generating activities such as open days with car boot sales.

Furthermore, the School aimed to grow, support high School, and ensure sustainable enrollment. The strategic plan emphasized communicating the uniqueness of Waldorf education and actively marketing to families of Waldorf Kindergarten and Primary, offering quality education.

The School has now been authorized to offer the IB Diploma and has created adequate space for indoor and outdoor activities.

As the School celebrates success, it will still need to remain committed to continuous improvement and the pursuit of excellence. The strategic plan is not static but a living document that guides decisions and actions.

The School will explore new ideas, adapt to evolving educational trends, and seek feedback from all stakeholders to ensure that the School stays at the forefront of educational innovation.

Much gratitude is extended to all the parents, students, teachers, and staff who have been instrumental in successfully implementing the strategic plan for 2019-2024. You have created a thriving educational community dedicated to nurturing young minds and preparing them for a bright future.

Thank you for your unwavering support and trust in the vision. The School looks forward to continuing this journey together, building on the successes and achieving new milestones.

William Odongo Oyieyo, MScIT, CISA, Internal Auditor

Waldorf Education Movement



There are over 1400 Waldorf Schools and 2000 early childhood centres in over 60 countries. Steiner Schools meet the policy requirements of diverse educational authorities of their respective countries.

Steiner education is known for providing a sound and practical basis for working with children, enabling them to find their creativity and to become free individuals who can think for themselves, make their own judgements and find their own purpose and direction in life.

NWST WALKATHON ACTIVITY - THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING EVENT

The NWST walkathon fundraiser was a success, filled with joy, excitement, and community spirit. The event started with a fantastic zumba inspired warm-up session led by Shelton Kondik, energizing all the participants and setting a positive tone for the day. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the lively warm-up, which prepared everyone for the upcoming activities. NWST Karen Campus, Miotoni Road, was abuzz with activity in the morning, bustling with laughter and the sounds of fun-filled activities. There was an impressive array of entertainment options for the children, ensuring everyone found something they loved, from face painting to bouncing on the trampoline, from engaging in a thrilling game of musical chairs to embarking on an adventurous treasure hunt for the Kindergarten children.

Amidst the excitement, participants eagerly chatted away their fatigue as they walked along the designated route. The camaraderie among the walkers was evident as they supported and encouraged each other, determined to complete the walk. Their dedication and enthusiasm were truly inspiring, as they understood the importance of their participation in supporting the cause. The walk, which took place in Ngong Road Forest Section One, was a therapeutic experience. The serene green forest, winding forest paths, and enchanting lily ponds created a tranquil ambiance for the participants. Breathing in the fresh, crisp air, they couldn't help but feel a sense of rejuvenation and connection with nature. The scenic surroundings added to the enjoyment of the walk, making it an even more memorable experience.

The NWST walkathon fundraiser was a testament to the power of community and the impact that can be made when people come together for a common purpose. It was a heart-warming and inspiring event. The memories created and the funds raised will undoubtedly make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who benefit from the NWST's important initiatives.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the participants, especially the students, who made the NWST walkathon a resounding success. Your active involvement and enthusiastic participation, along with the sponsor forms you utilized to raise funds, were instrumental in helping us reach our goal.



NWST Community at Ngong Road Forest - Section One



NWST Community doing a warm up at NWST Karen Campus, Miotoni Road

Thanks to the collective efforts of the NWST Community, we are thrilled to announce a remarkable net income of **Ksh 507,215** generated from the NWST Walkathon fundraiser. This achievement would not have been possible without the invaluable support and dedication of each and every individual involved. The NWST Walkathon fundraiser has become the most successful fundraising event. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment to the school and its endeavors. Your continued support is truly appreciated.

NWST KINDERGARTEN LANTERN FESTIVAL

We embrace the Lantern Festival as an opportunity to strengthen our sense of community, foster creativity, and cultivate reverence for the beauty of the world around us.



Lantern - Lit Path during Lantern Festival, NWST Lavington Campus



Bonfire during Lantern Festival, NWST Lavington Campus

The Lantern Festival took place on **Friday, 9th June 2023**. This cherished event celebrated in Waldorf schools worldwide, is significant in nurturing the spirit of community, creativity, and togetherness. The Lantern Festival allows us to embrace the beauty of tradition and reinforces our School's values.

As the Lantern Festival unfolded, the air was filled with excitement. The children's faces beamed with joy as they delicately lit their lanterns, each one a unique expression of their individuality. Hand in hand with their parents, they embarked on a peaceful procession, their lanterns illuminating the path ahead. The soft glow of the candles flickered, creating a truly magical ambiance. Amidst this picturesque scene, heartfelt songs filled the air, echoing the sense of unity and shared joy.

One of the highlights of the evening was the mesmerizing bonfire that captivated the attention of all attendees. As the flames danced and crackled, casting a warm glow, stories were woven, captivating young and old alike. These tales carried the wisdom of the ages, passed down from generation to generation. The bonfire created an atmosphere that fostered a deep sense of connection and belonging.

Marshmallows were roasted over the fire, their sweet aroma wafting through the air. Laughter and chatter filled the air as families gathered around the fire, relishing in the simple pleasures of sharing treats and treasured moments. This tradition of burning marshmallows symbolizes the transformation of the ordinary into the extraordinary, reminding us of the potential for inner growth and the warmth of human connection.

At its core, the Lantern Festival holds a special place in Waldorf schools as it celebrates the interplay of light and darkness, inner and outer illumination. This festival carries deep symbolism, representing the triumph of light over darkness and the pursuit of wisdom and understanding. It is a beautiful reminder of our journey toward self-discovery, knowledge, and enlightenment.

We embrace the Lantern Festival as an opportunity to strengthen our sense of community, foster creativity, and cultivate reverence for the beauty of the world around us. It is a special occasion that brings families, faculty, and students together, instilling a sense of unity and shared purpose.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this delightful celebration. We created a memorable and meaningful experience for our school community through your unwavering support and active participation. May the glow of the lanterns continue to inspire and guide us as we navigate our paths, hand in hand, toward a brighter future.

TRIUMPH OF OUR FIRST THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE EXHIBITION

Nairobi Waldorf School Trust has actively participated in four IB Diploma Programme (DP) Theory of Knowledge (TOK) exhibitions this term. Our students had the privilege of engaging with other renowned institutions, namely MPE-SA Foundation Academy, Nairobi Academy, and Naisula School, culminating in our exhibition on 23rd June 2023. These collaborative experiences have proven to be enlightening and nurturing, significantly enriching our students' IB DP journey.

By participating in these exhibitions, our students have gained exposure to a broader intellectual community and honed their presentation and communication skills. They have embraced the challenge of effectively articulating their ideas, responding to questions, and defending their positions with clarity and confidence. Such experiences are invaluable, as they equip our students with essential skills that transcend the boundaries of academia, preparing them for future academic pursuits and professional endeavours.

The IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK) exhibitions showcase the culmination of our students' intellectual and personal growth throughout their journey in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. These exhibitions provide a platform for students to demonstrate their understanding of knowledge, explore critical thinking, and engage in thought-provoking discussions.

The exhibitions typically occur in a dedicated space within the School, transformed into a gallery-like setting. Each student's work is displayed with care and attention to detail, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the diverse range of explored topics and perspectives. The atmosphere is filled with a sense of curiosity and anticipation as fellow students, teachers, parents, and members of the community come together to witness the fruits of the students' intel-

lectual endeavours. The students' Individual Oral Commentaries presentation is at the heart of the TOK exhibitions. These commentaries are carefully prepared speeches in which students critically analyze and evaluate a knowledge question. Drawing upon their understanding of various Areas of Knowledge and Ways of Knowing, students delve into the complexities and nuances of the question, shedding light on the different perspectives and areas of uncertainty surrounding it.

The exhibitions also provide a space for students to display their interactive displays, artistic representations, and multimedia presentations, allowing for a multidimensional exploration of their chosen knowledge question. The creativity and ingenuity displayed in these exhibitions offer a window into the student's unique thought processes and ability to communicate complex ideas effectively.

One of the critical purposes of the TOK exhibitions is to foster intellectual dialogue and exchange of ideas. Visitors are encouraged to engage with the students, challenging their assumptions, questioning their conclusions, and contributing their perspectives. These conversations spark intellectual growth and encourage students to reflect on the limitations and biases that may influence their thinking. We thank MPESA Academy, St. Marys School, Nairobi Academy, and Naisula School for their active involvement and commitment to creating a vibrant TOK exhibition experience.

As we reflect on the success of these exhibitions, we commend our students for their exceptional dedication, hard work, and intellectual curiosity. We are immensely proud of their achievements and look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success as they embark on their IB DP journey.



TOK Exhibitions at NWST, Karen Campus, Miotoni Road



TOK Exhibitions at NWST, Karen Campus, Miotoni Road

NWST CLASS 3 BUILDING/SHELTER BLOCK

The incorporation of the Building and Shelter Block in Waldorf/Steiner philosophy holds numerous advantages for our students' wholistic development.



Class 3 Students learning at NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road



Class 3 Students learning at NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road

In practical learning, Class 3 students are currently engrossed in their Building and Shelter Block lessons. However, this year, our dedicated teachers have embraced an innovative approach that promises an exhilarating educational experience. The students are given the unique opportunity to learn directly from the ongoing construction project at NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road. This immersive and hands-on approach has ignited a sense of excitement among the students as they engage firsthand with the construction process and actively participate in various activities, such as mixing mortar. Incorporating the Building & Shelter Block in Waldorf/Steiner philosophy holds numerous advantages for our students' wholistic development. Let us explore some of these benefits:

Experiential Learning: The students gain practical knowledge beyond abstract theories by immersing themselves in the construction project. They can witness the tangible results of their efforts and see how the concepts they learn in the classroom are applied in real-life scenarios. This experiential learning fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the building process and the skills and craftsmanship involved.

Development of Practical Skills: The hands-on nature of the Building & Shel-

ter Block enables students to acquire practical skills that are essential for daily life. Students develop manual dexterity, spatial awareness, and a heightened sense of coordination by mixing mortar, measuring materials, and observing construction techniques. These transferable skills can be applied in various practical contexts beyond construction.

Connection with Nature and the Elements: Building with natural materials, such as wood and Earth, aligns with the Waldorf/Steiner philosophy's emphasis on the relationship between humans and the natural world. By working with these elements, students deepen their understanding of the Earth's resources, sustainable practices, and ecological responsibility. This connection with nature fosters a sense of respect, stewardship and an appreciation for the environment.

By merging the practical experiences of the ongoing construction project at NWST Karen Campus with the principles of Waldorf Education, our Class 3 students are gaining essential knowledge and skills and connecting with the broader philosophical underpinnings of their education. Through their direct involvement in the building process, they actively engage in their learning journey, fostering a deep sense of purpose and laying a solid foundation for their future growth development.

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, 1st July 2023- Combined Karen and Lavington Class 5 Meeting; 9 a.m -11 a.m
Venue: NWST Karen Campus- Nandi Road

Thursday, 6th July 2023 - Coffee Morning. Class 11
Parents will be hosting (NWST Karen Campus)

Friday 7th July 2023 - Coffee Morning – Daisies and Class 5
Parents will be hosting (NWST Lavington Campus)

Friday 7th July 2023- Swahili Festival Karen and Lavington

Friday 7th July 2023 - Shambani Festival Karen and Lavington KG

Friday 7th July 2023- SCHOOL CLOSURES