

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

NAIROBI WALDORF SCHOOL TRUST NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023



Ongoing construction at the NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road

1

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

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2

ROSES CEREMONY

The ceremony commences with a heartwarming song, extending a warm welcome to the first graders.

3

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The foundation of any thriving educational environment is a strong sense of community.

4

THE WALDORF EDUCATION

Waldorf education seamlessly intertwines with the demands of the modern world

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS AT THE NWST-KAREN CAMPUS, NANDI ROAD



Ongoing construction at the NWST Karen Campus, KG's Boat



Ongoing construction at the NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road

Currently, Phase 1.1 (classrooms and toilets) and Phase 1.2 (dining hall) are simultaneously under construction.

In Phase 1.1, all classrooms and toilet-blocks have roofs in place, with ceiling installations underway. Most of the floors and walls are completed, along with interior finishes like skirtings, lampshades, and sockets. The majority of window frames are installed, and the imminent installation of doors is expected in the coming days.

In alignment with the Waldorf philosophy (playfulness, natural materials & integration with nature), new playground structures at the heart of the pre-primary cluster are being crafted using timber and recycled leftover gumpoles from the construction of other buildings. Likewise, the construction is currently underway for the library container's base slab.

Of the three new septic tanks, two are already finished and connected to the toilet sewage pipes. However, adjustments are pending for the water-tank tower's height to ensure adequate pressure for all toilets and kitchen.

Once the building structures and their essential water and power supply infrastructure are finalized, landscaping work will commence. This phase will encompass fencing, pathway construction, and general ground clearing and leveling.

Regarding Phase 1.2, the utility block for the dining hall, including the kitchen, toilets, and storage, has reached the ring-beam level. Roofing is set to be completed in the next days.

The outdoor slab is already finished, and steel columns and tree-trunks have been installed.

Both Phase 1.1 and Phase 1.2 have experienced unexpected delays. The contractor is currently working to ensure the completion of critical structures before the scheduled hand-over date.

The consultants' team is awaiting the evaluation of the tender package for Phase 2 by the Construction Committee. This phase will involve negotiations with the contractor for the subsequent construction stage, which is slated to commence after the current phases are completed.

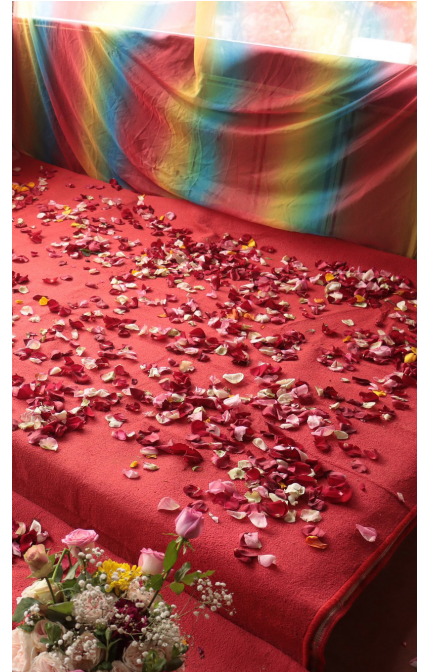


Ongoing construction at the NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road

THE ROSES CEREMONY - TO WELCOME OUR GRADE 1 CHILDREN



Previous Photos of The Rose Ceremony



Rose Petals on Stage During a Previous Rose Ceremony

In NWST, a special emphasis is placed on recognizing and honoring important moments in a child's life through meaningful ceremonies. One globally observed tradition is the transition from Kindergarten to Class One, marking the completion of the initial seven-year developmental phase and the beginning of the next. This cherished event, known as the "Rose Ceremony," holds great significance for the children and the school community.

The ceremony commences with a heartwarming song, extending a warm welcome to the first graders. Each Grade 1 child is paired with a "Guardian" from Grade 5, who becomes their mentor and role model during their early years in elementary school. As part of the ceremony, the Kindergarten teacher presents each Grade 1 student with a rose, symbolizing their onward journey. This gesture is accompanied by heartfelt well wishes that convey the essence of growth and progress.

With this beautiful start, the children then proceed to their new classroom, where their Grade 1 teacher awaits with anticipation and respect.

This teacher holds a crucial role, aiming to provide education infused with care and nurturing. The goal is to empower students, encouraging them

to embrace their newfound independence as they step into this fresh chapter of their educational voyage.

Central to Waldorf Education is a deep understanding of human development and its distinct stages. Rudolf Steiner's insights highlight the significance of the seven-year phases: infancy to age 7, 7 to 14, and 14 to 21. During the initial seven years, young children naturally focus on developing their fundamental senses – touch, smell, balance, movement, and vitality. As these children transition into the first grade, Steiner's philosophy guides us to recognize that the subsequent seven years are dedicated to actively engaging with the environment and attentively absorbing its offerings.

Throughout this period, spanning from first to eighth grade, the teacher assumes the role of a bridge between the child and the outer world. This is where the integration of storytelling into the curriculum gains immense importance.



Students Celebrating a previous Rose Ceremony

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AT NWST.



NWST Community at the 2023 AGM.

At the heart of our Waldorf educational journey lies a cornerstone that radiates strength, connection, and mutual growth - the power of community and parental involvement. We are excited to shed some light on the significance of active participation and engagement in school activities and meetings, as well as the invaluable role you play in nurturing the unique spirit of our Waldorf community.

The foundation of any thriving educational environment is a strong sense of community. NWST community is a vibrant group of students, parents, teachers, and staff who come together with a shared purpose - to provide our children with an exceptional holistic education. This shared purpose forms a bond that extends beyond the classroom walls, enriching the lives of everyone involved.

As parents, you are integral to the Waldorf experience. Your involvement in school activities and meetings amplifies the depth and breadth of our educational journey. By participating, you actively contribute to creating an environment where your children can flourish academically, emotionally, and socially. Whether it's through class meetings, coffee mornings, or engaging in class socials, your presence enriches the lives of both students and educators.

We invite you to join us in our activities that not only foster strong bonds but also showcase the distinctiveness of the Waldorf approach. Our coffee mornings provide an informal space for sharing insights and stories. Class socials offer an opportunity to connect with fellow parents and celebrate our children's growth together. Parents'



NWST Parents at The NWST Lavington Campus Library Launch study sessions open the door to exploring the Waldorf philosophy and its impact on our children's development.

The commitment you bring to our school community echoes in the lives of our students. Your presence on sports day and dress-up day, which doubles as a fundraising activity, encourages a holistic understanding of the importance of physical health and creative expression. Your engagement in the nanny workshop reflects our shared dedication to the well-being of our children, both inside and outside the classroom.

Let us remember that your involvement is more than just attending events; it's about contributing to a harmonious rhythm that resonates within our Waldorf Community. Every gesture, every interaction, every moment of shared effort strengthens the fabric of our school's unique identity.

As we look forward to the upcoming class meetings, coffee mornings, parents' study sessions, and all the vibrant events that await, let us remember that our Waldorf community flourishes because of you. Your involvement reflects your dedication to your child's education and our collective vision of fostering growth, learning, and unity.

UNVEILING THE MAGIC OF WALDORF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER DATES AT A GLANCE

Monday 4th September - School Opens

Tuesday 5th September - Class 1 – Roses Ceremony

Wednesday 6th Sep -High School Induction Ceremony

Saturday 9th September - Anthroposophical Study

Wednesday 20th September - Parent Study Lavington Campus

Friday 29th September - Festival of Courage -NWST Karen and NWST Lavington Primary School

Saturday 30th September - Festival of Courage, High School

One of the cornerstones of Waldorf education is its emphasis on hands-on learning. Our classrooms are transformed into vibrant spaces where students engage with materials that stimulate their senses and ignite their imagination. From molding beeswax into intricate shapes to crafting heartfelt stories, each activity serves as a stepping stone in their educational journey.

The arts hold a special place in our Waldorf curriculum, weaving their way into every subject. Through drawing, painting, music, and movement, students find a medium to express their thoughts and feelings, fostering not only their artistic skills but also their emotional intelligence. The benefits go beyond academic learning. It encourages physical activity, creativity, and imagination while connecting students with the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Gardening is a therapeutic and calming activity that helps students develop a sense of inner balance and mindfulness.

While we embrace age-old educational principles, Waldorf education seamlessly intertwines with the demands of the modern world. By blending traditional wisdom with contemporary knowledge, we equip our students with the tools they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving society.

At Waldorf, we understand the power of imagination. From fantastical tales to imaginative play, we encourage our students to explore the depths of their creative minds. This not only enhances their problem-solving skills but also fuels a lifelong curiosity about the world around them.

Our school community is a garden of growth, where students, parents, and educators come together to cultivate a love for learning. Through engaging activities, meetings, and events, we create an environment where everyone has a role in shaping the future of our students.

As we continue this awe-inspiring journey through Waldorf education, let's celebrate the magic that unfolds within our classrooms. Every brushstroke, every story told, and every moment of wonder is a testament to the unique beauty of the Waldorf experience.



NWST Students in their Woodwork Lesson