

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

NAIROBI WALDORF SCHOOL TRUST NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023



Primary Classroom, NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road.

1

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Classes have officially been handed over. The Multi - Purpose Hall Construction is still in progress.

2

ROSES CEREMONY

This annual ceremony commences with a heart-warming 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

NWST PARENT WELCOME AND SCHOOL PROGRESS UPDATE



Kindergarten Classroom, NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this message finds you well. We are pleased to continue welcoming you back to the new academic year at NWST. We are delighted to share that the term began positively, with everything proceeding as planned within our school community.

As we continue on this exciting journey together, we would like to provide you with an update on the progress here at NWST. Several significant developments have occurred, and we want to inform you about the ongoing improvements. Please find below a summary of our latest updates:

Several structures have been completed and officially handed over to the school, albeit with minor defects requiring attention, such as varnishing and ceiling finishing. These completed structures include Five pre-primary, nine primary classrooms, four secondary classrooms and ablution blocks.

Significant progress has been made on the dining hall and the architects have indicated that it should be complete by mid-October 2023. Landscaping efforts, including the creation of pathways, are underway. The pre-primary school fence has been installed. The structures' necessary quality checks and maintenance will be done during the upcoming half-term and the Christmas holidays.

The school continues to work closely with the contractors to ensure the timely delivery of the remaining spaces. The consultant's team has prepared a snag list to address all the existing defects, which will be addressed during half term.



Kindergarten Area, NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road



High-School Classroom, NWST Karen Campus, Nandi Road

James Kioko,
NWST School Director and
Board Secretary.

Contact Information for Concerns, Complaints, and Compliments

Please direct any concerns, complaints, or compliments to the following addresses:

director@nairobiwaldorfschool.ac.ke or

nwsboard@nairobiwaldorfschool.ac.ke.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

THE ROSES CEREMONY - TO WELCOME OUR GRADE 1 CHILDREN



Photos of Class 1 Students and Their Teachers (Right Side) and Class 1 Students and Their Guardians at The Roses Ceremony at NWST, 2023

In NWST, a particular emphasis is placed on recognizing and honouring essential 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," is significant for the children and the school community.

On Tuesday, 5th September 2023, the ceremony began with a heartwarming song, warmly welcoming the first graders. Each Grade 1 child was paired with a "Guardian" from Grade 5, who became their mentor and role model during their early years in elementary school. As part of the ceremony, every Grade 1 student was presented with a rose and a lit candle, symbolizing their onward journey.

With this beautiful start, the children proceeded to their new classroom, where their Grade 1 teacher received them 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 enter 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, from first to eighth grade, the teacher is a bridge between the child and the outer world. This is where the integration of storytelling into the curriculum gains immense importance.



The Roses Given to Class 1 Children



Candles Symbolizing the Light Passed to the Class 1 Students by their Guardians

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 wholistic 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. Participating creates an environment where your children can flourish academically, emotionally, and socially. Whether through class meetings, coffee mornings, or engaging in class socials, your presence enriches the lives of students and educators.

We invite you to join us in our activities that foster solid bonds and showcase the Waldorf approach's distinctiveness. Our coffee mornings provide an informal space for sharing insights and stories. Class socials



Snacks brought by Parents During Coffee Morning

allow us to connect with fellow parents and celebrate our children's growth. Parenting Skills for a Waldorf Parent 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 wholistic 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, and 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.

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. Each activity is a stepping stone in their educational journey, from molding beeswax into intricate shapes to crafting heartfelt stories.

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 their artistic skills and 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



NWST, Gardening Block

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 enhances their problem-solving skills and 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 Kindergarten Students Work

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER DATES AT A GLANCE

Friday 13th October - Flower Festival NWST Karen and Lavington Kindergarten.

Monday, 16th October - We'll break for half-term.

Monday, 23rd October - School Resumes.

GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE FROM NWST MIOTONI ROAD TO NANDI ROAD



NWST Staff helping move items

We want to express our deepest gratitude to the incredible NWST staff who played an instrumental role in facilitating our transition from the NWST Karen Campus on Miotoni Road to our new home on Nandi Road. Your commitment, hard work, and positive energy were the driving force behind this successful transition. We would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to two remarkable parents from NWST Karen Campus, Nina Kavulani and Poli Semenyé. Your willingness to join hands with our staff and assist in the relocation efforts is a testament to the strong sense of community that defines NWST. Together, we have embarked on a new chapter in the NWST journey, and it is with immense warmth and gratitude that we thank everyone who made it possible.



NWST Staff helping move items