

BUUKenya
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Nyhedsbrev august 2020

Kære medlem af BUUKenya. Lidt opdatering siden seneste nyhedsbrev fra marts 2020.

Covid-19 i Kenya:

Undervisning har været suspenderet på alle skoler siden marts. I juli blev Kenya generelt åbnet lidt op, for at skabe lidt omsætning, men det blev samtidigt meldt ud at skole-lukningen fortsætter resten af året.

Regeringen har derfor besluttet at man ved skolestart i januar 2021 fastholder det klassetrin man startede i januar 2020. Hele skoleåret er således suspenderet. Jeg anser dette for at være en fornuftig beslutning, da man dermed undgår at tabe de svageste elever, der ikke har haft mulighed for hjemmeundervisning.

Til gengæld har beslutningen medført at skolerne mister et helt års indtægter, hvilket har ført til lukning af mange privatskoler, og der er mange skoler der har sendt de ansatte hjem uden løn.

Status på Marvel Junior Academy:

BUUKenyas bestyrelse besluttede at en sådan hjemsendelse eller lukning ville være ganske ødelæggende for *Marvel Junior Academy* og skolens ansatte. Vi har derfor givet skolen mulighed for at dække essentielle faste udgifter og fortsat aflønne de ansatte, dog med et (lidt) lavere niveau end normalt. Dette er hovedsageligt dækket af fondsmidler samt, i mindre grad, private donationer.

Som dokumentation til fondene har jeg bedt Patrick (skolens administrator) skrive en artikel om situationen i Kenya og for skolens ansatte. Dette har han gjort, baseret på interviews af skolens leder (Victoria) og mange af de ansatte.

Det er ganske hård læsning, der fortæller hvordan skolens ansatte i mange tilfælde er eneste forsørger i familien under nedlukningen af Kenya. Jeg har valgt at indsætte Patricks skriv i slutningen af dette nyhedsbrev, for at i medlemmer kan læse hvilken kæmpe forskel i er med til at gøre for mange familier i Kenya – måske endnu mere netop nu, hvor Kenya slås med Covid-19.

Endvidere har jeg indsat beretninger fra seneste lejrskole, hvor skolens 5. klasse var i Tsavo East safariparken, juni 2019. Dels fra lærere der deltog på turen, og dels fra 3 af eleverne.

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Fonde:

Siden seneste nyhedsbrev har vi fået midler til *Marvel Junior Academy*:

- Næsten total dækning af Corona-relaterede udgifter (lønninger + faste udgifter).
- Delvis dækning af indkøb af lærebøger.
- Delvis dækning af indkøb af det lejede nabohus.

Ovenstående er muliggjort med støtte fra Erik Thunes Legat, Honorarfonden, Myhrwolds Fond, Viggo Skyum Kierkegård og hustrus Mindelegat, Dalhoff Larsens Fond samt Fonden af 17.12.1981.

Generalforsamling:

Blev afholdt søndag 28. juni.

Formandens beretning omhandlede Covid-19 situationen og dækkes af ovenstående informationer omkring foreningens overordnede aktiviteter og Fondssøgning.

Det årlige kontingent for at være medlem af BUUKenya fastholdes på 100kr.

Dan, Sarah og Michael var på valg, og alle blev genvalgt. Mathilde fortsætter som suppleant.

På de følgende sider finder i:

- Patricks artikel
- Lærernes beretning fra turen til Tsavo East.
- 3 beretninger fra børn om samme tur.

Tak fordi I er medlemmer af BUUKenya og hjælper os i vores arbejde med at hjælpe andre.

Mange hilsner Dan

Tackling the Virus head on....

Written by Patrick Muema on 25th July 2020.

When the Kenyan history is printed, Thursday March 12th 2020 will be printed in bold red letters for the terror and confusion it brought to us as a country, this day the cabinet secretary for health announced the first Covid 19 case in Kenya and what followed the announcement was confusion, speculations and instilling fear in the people with government using police to issuing all types of threats and asking people to stay home. Two days later the president as expected addressed the nation and his first move was to close down all schools and learning institutions, places of worship, political gatherings were all shut down and the message of staying home was given a priority in the speech. Out of fear and lack of proper awareness everyone stayed indoors but you can only keep a man with an empty stomach indoors for so long.. what followed the presidential directive was people running out of food, savings, jobs, and within two weeks police brutality, disrespect to human rights, domestic violence, rape, stigmatization for those “suspected” to be positive escalated because there was no source of income or clear planning on what was the plan after staying indoors.

Monday 16th March as all other schools in kenya, Marvel Junior Academy was officially closed and when we were saying goodbye to all those beautiful innocent faces, we only thought they will be gone for a month or so and we will see them very soon.. to our surprise a month ago, the ministry of education termed 2020 a lost year in the school calendar, this means there will be no more learning this year and everyone will have to repeat their current class next year.. only the colleges and universities will be reopened in September after meeting some measures and acquiring a certificate from the ministry of health... as the management we knew that this was going to be a long, challenging and tough year to get through..



Current statistics from the government.....

Today 17,603 positive cases and 280 deaths later, a population of above 200,000 out of 50 million plus Kenyans has been tested and we can only imagine how many more positive people are moving freely out there. More than three months on we have managed to keep a meal on the tables of our staff thanks to our good friends from BUUKenya.. With the cash we receive from the organization we enable our staff to buy food and they are forever grateful for the support.. Our director madam Victoria in one of our discussions said... “I really thank God for Sir. Dan and the entire BUUKenya organization for making it possible for me to keep feeding my family and supporting my staff during this difficult times, through their support I have been able to keep the school running and safeguard the future for hundreds of children and families that depend on the

school.. many private schools are closing down due to lack of funds but I am happy for the support from BUUKenya the future of the school is secure because we are able to foot monthly bills like electricity, water, rent, NHIF, NSSF and give all my staff a token every month to keep them going... words can never express how grateful I am and only God can reward and repay the entire BUUKenya organization for this kindness they have shown me and my Marvel family....” When I asked her about her challenges and fears she had this to say.... “my fear is losing my staff or watching one of them fall in depression and not be able to assist since I understand they have a lot of responsibilities, I really have a good team in place now and if this continues and I am not able to support them I might loose them and finding a good teacher is also not an easy task....life in Kenya before the virus was very difficult with the country economy not doing that well we were already struggling and in many a times than I can count Sir.Dan and BUUKenya kept us going by coming to our aid

time and time again... due to the tough times a good number of my staff had forwarded request to have their salaries reviewed to enable them manage life with some ease...this means even with their previous salaries in full they were struggling to make ends meet so I know now plus the virus, it's only gotten worse.... The token we give them from BUUKenya enables them to get food but deep down I know things like rent, bills, parents, etc they have to find a way to get them solved...a good example is Madam Jemima whose three boys are all grown now and she needs to move to a bigger house, we were having this discussion before the pandemic but now it has to be paused until we resume....this are some of the issues really challenging me and hoping to resolve as soon as I can... the other fear is for my mother who is elderly and needs medical attention from time to time, due to the virus infections rising every day and her age, I have to keep her indoors, bring her doctor from time to time and ensure she is always on her diet...this is not easy considering we are not having any income as the school is the only source of income I have but I am grateful for the support from BUUKenya it takes care of some of this burdens... the present is uncertain and this means if we overcome this, the future must be treated with more caution and mechanisms put in place to ensure a secure future for all the staff at Marvel Junior Academy and it's my hope we will continue working together with like minded people and organizations like Sir. Dan and BUUKenya foundation to archive this and more.

According to the Kenya private schools association, 53 private schools have officially closed down for business and will not be resuming even in next year, with almost 400 more likely to face the same fate for lack of money to sustain their bills and rent. According to Mr. Talib a local government official in our area, he has recorded 648 teachers who are now working in the local market to try and make ends meet with more teachers especially in the private sector venturing in other businesses to keep moving.



At Marvel Junior Academy, 13 out of 17 members of staff are young people in their early 20's or 30's, this young ladies and gentlemen come from differently challenged

.....Marvel Junior Academy staff deliberating on effects of Corona to the school and personal life.....

families with a lot of responsibilities from being orphans, to taking care of siblings and ailing parents while trying to be young and plan for their future.... As the management we met our staff and interacted with them and some of their experience during this period are simply heart breaking and as many will confess they never thought there will come a day when a teacher will not be guaranteed of a job market.

Madam Betty who had just secured a chance to join the university fully sponsored by BUUKenya is a worried young lady.... “ Just when I had realized my dream of joining the university thanks to BUUKenya this happened and everything had to come to a stop.. my education and job both stopped at a go.. Compared to my friends from other schools, I am grateful every month I can get something to buy food and send to my parents in the village.. as a young lady my challenge has been turning my parents down when they need a favor because they just think I don't want to help and don't believe me when I say things are tight.... I take a day at a time and I really pray and wish this is over soon and that hopefully I will still accomplish my university dream..”

Madam Maryam who is currently handling grade 2 class, as an orphan taking care of an ailing big sister and her younger siblings, she was really grateful that the monthly allowance from BUUKenya has helped her in feeding her large extended family.. “coming from a family of six children with no parents, life has not been easy for me especially when I’m left with my ailing big sister, her children and my young brother and sister to feed.... I have become a bread winner for my family at a very tender age even before I can start my own family... With the amount I get from you I am able to buy food to take us through a few weeks, but with bills still waiting to be paid, I have had to put away my dignity as a trained teacher and do anything I can no matter how low the job is, I have worked as a house help but due to lots of house chores from my boss I developed a back pain problem and had to quit after a few weeks, I tried my luck in a saloon but with low turn out of clients, the owner could not sustain me and had to let me go.. currently I am frying and selling potatoes by the roadside near our house to assist my family...we are taking this a day at a time as a family.. personally I don’t fear the virus as long as I take the precautions, I have to go out there and fight because if I stay indoors for fear of the virus, my whole family will make it through this.. I know of friends who are teachers and they don’t get paid and life is even tougher for them, with the little I get from the school management and BUUKenya I am very grateful because I am guaranteed when I receive the cash my family won’t go to bed on an empty stomach.”

Her concerns are shared by Madam Martha who is a nursery section teacher. To her the fear of Corona made



Madam Martha's daughters and their friends doing some revision at home....

her lock her two daughters indoors, used all her savings in stocking the house with food mostly grains and cereal foods to keep them for long.. but the challenge came when the food was running out and her daughter fell ill.. “I have never been so scared in my life, I was afraid for my young family and since I did not have enough information about the virus, I went to my local shop, did a shopping to last me for a while and locked my family indoors... three weeks on some food items were running out and so we’re my savings.. as I was figuring all this out my daughter fell ill and for the first time we had to take her out of the house to the hospital.. at this point I didn’t have enough cash for the bill but I received some cash from the school management and it was like a miracle, my daughter was treated and since everything we had was running out now we had to put away our fear for the virus and go out to find something to sustain our rent and bills.. personally I approached a friend who has a saloon and she trained me on her line of business and she usually gives me a 100 or 200 shillings a day after assisting her when the business is good. I also assist my daughters and my

neighbors kids in doing some revision work.... my biggest challenge is dealing with people out there who don’t even believe there is a virus killing people, they don’t wear mask or keep social distance and every time I am scared of contracting this virus and taking it home to my girls but I still have to survive because it’s not easy for my children to understand when they want something as simple as a candy and I can’t provide one for them since I am working on a tight budget.. apart from food, rent and bills and the fact that my husband is not working as well, I am also a student trying to add my knowledge to become a better teacher and with colleges

resuming in September, I don't know what to do because I might not afford my college fees and that means I have to drop from college. I don't want to sound ungrateful because I am getting support from you that many teachers don't get out there but I have fears about my children, my future in college and my wish is this pandemic to be controlled and we go back to normal business because with my full salary and that of my husband we somehow could make ends meet but now it's really tough..

In a normal day a teacher would have her normal working hours earning them a full salary and the evening plus weekends to do other side hustles like extra coaching to earn an extra coin.. without the full salary and other channels of income closed, there is no doubt there will be a problem.

Sir. Chanzera the institution head master is a good example of the effects of virus.. "In a normal week, I would come to work from Monday to Friday and use my bicycle on Saturday afternoon fetching water for my neighbors and earn some extra cash.. early this year I had secured a loan from a women's group through my sister and my aim was to complete my house and offer a roof for my family, but ended up spending the loan money partly to sustain my family during this difficult times, My son is still young so my wife is a house wife and that makes me the only bread winner for my family and my elderly mother in the village.. with a loan to pay every month, a family to



This is Sir Chanzera 's temporary structure where he sells vegetables in front of his unfinished house.....

feed and elderly mother to take care of I have resulted to joining other teachers in the market to buy vegetables and resale them at a small profit but the challenge is most people are out of work now and they want to take vegetables on credit the business is not easy.. my house is unfinished and not that safe for my family but I can't even think of renting a better house because raising the rent will be a challenge for me.... To BUUKenya I really want to thank you for the monthly support you have saved my pride as a man in the house because I am able to buy the necessities for my son as I struggle to get the rest in place.. my humble request to you is to assist me in of setting the loan and completing my house to enable my family have a safe environment because as times goes by, the tough times keeps getting tough. After my high school education, I decided to be a teacher because I was sure this was the safest and fulfilling career anyone would wish for. But today my future is no longer guaranteed, my family is not guaranteed of three meals anymore and simple things I used to do effortlessly can no longer be done. My biggest fear is that if the current virus trend continues, the schools might not be reopened even in January and that will mean many teachers in Kenya will not have an income which can always end in bad decisions.."

At this point you can see the sadness and the fear of the unknown in this teachers faces, people who are expected to instill hope to hundreds of children, looking for a ray of hope for themselves and their loved ones.

Sir. Ali who is a young man, father of four, with two brothers and a mother to take care of is our Islamic teacher and also teaches other subjects in different classes. He is a disturbed man because his extra income used to come from having Islamic classes in the mosque on Saturday and Sunday but this is all gone now.....

"with schools and Islamic classes closed I have no idea how I would be feeding my big family if it was not for the cash from BUUKenya and Marvel. Life has changed in a big way..... with the cash I get I buy and stock food in the house but since the food is not enough to take us through the month, we have developed a way to save food whereby only the young ones and my elderly mother have two meals in a day the rest of us we just have a single meal per day. My lifestyle has really changed because my day to day income is no longer guaranteed. Food is available in plenty at the market but the prices have hit all time highest.. during this challenging times with things not working, there is a lot of family friction and crisis because we are frustrated

and when something doesn't go as expected there is friction between families and all this is because people are not in a position to fully play their part in a family set up. I have to keep moving and can't give up, I have talked to a friend who is training me on how to install floor tiles, it's not easy but I'm doing it to make sure at least my family comes through this in one piece. I'm everything to my wife, kids, brothers and elderly mother my fear is a day that I will not be able to provide a simple meal for them..”

Sir Ali makes me picture a man who is on the edge, with his college studies resuming in September, he must be a wounded man thinking about his future and how to keep his family together...

As I was talking to Madam Joy I was picturing the last days of her teacher friend from another school who is no longer with us... “I have a friend of mine who was a teacher and has not been paid since March, in the process he was left by his wife who could not bear it anymore, out of frustration the man committed suicide.... I am really grateful for the support you have been giving us because I know how much my colleagues are suffering out there.. thank you for always thinking about us... I think no matter how tough things will get from here onwards it's not good to keep it to yourself, talk to a friend and let's help each other to overcome this.. on my part I went to the village to try my luck in agriculture I planted vegetables for sale but due to the difficult times I ended up sharing the produce amongst my relatives who used to come home asking for something to eat and never managed to sale them so I decided to come back to town since my mission in the village had failed. Covid has taken my income, my passion and source of income away and it's becoming hard to survive everyday. My biggest fear is protecting my son who is surrounded by people who don't take the health regulations given by the government seriously.. he doesn't understand why he should stay indoors or wear a mask when other children in the neighborhood are not.. my other challenge is that I have a medical condition that only allows me to eat a specific type of diet which has not been easy because sometimes I can't afford it and end up eating what is available putting my health in danger but I have no option...my father has diabetes too and his medicine and diet is not cheap too so honestly this time is not the best in my life...”

Age comes with responsibilities, responsibilities that must be undertaken no matter the challenges one is facing.. Madam Jemima our senior chef is a single mother of three boys.... “before the virus got to Kenya I used to be called to cook in weddings, fundraising, birthdays, funerals and other events to make extra cash but since all this events were cancelled by the government I'm left to look for options to make sure my family still exists past this. In a normal set up a parent is not supposed to share a room with her children especially boys but I have no choice... before all this I was in a negotiation with the management to increase my salary to enable me afford a bigger house but all that has come to a stop...my first born is in university and he is supposed to report back in September yet I don't know how to raise his school fees, hostel fee, upkeep and pocket money since I don't have a constant income or savings to make this a reality, my fear is looking my son in the eyes and telling him your mother can't take you back to school...to BUUKenya I want to thank you for the monthly support you have offered us since March I am very grateful my sons can eat...my humble request is if you can please assist me to take my son back to school in September he is my first born and as every mother, I want what's best for my children... that's why I work tirelessly to ensure they stay in school despite the challenges. My hope is we can be able to tame the spread of the virus and go back to work as soon as possible. My second born is in high school and last born in primary school I would love them to have some home tuition with a teacher but I can't afford it for now.. they are all I have and will be glad if they got the best they can in terms of education since it's all I can offer them..”

Madam Mercy who just came from college a few months ago is now a bread winner for her elderly mother, two brothers and a nephew...”my days are now confusing because I don't have a specific thing to do as before, when I wake up I have to plan my day which has no much to be done unlike when I was spending my day at work and was happy looking forward to the next day...to sustain my family I have to sale groundnuts around the estate to raise some cash to keep us going, I have also planted some vegetables in a small garden at home for daily use to avoid buying vegetables which are becoming very expensive. I have business ideas like buying and selling chicken but I don't have enough capital.. the support I keep getting from BUUKenya and Marvel

has enabled me to keep food on my family table... it might not be what they expect or they are used to but they don't go to bed on an empty stomach for that I will forever be grateful..”

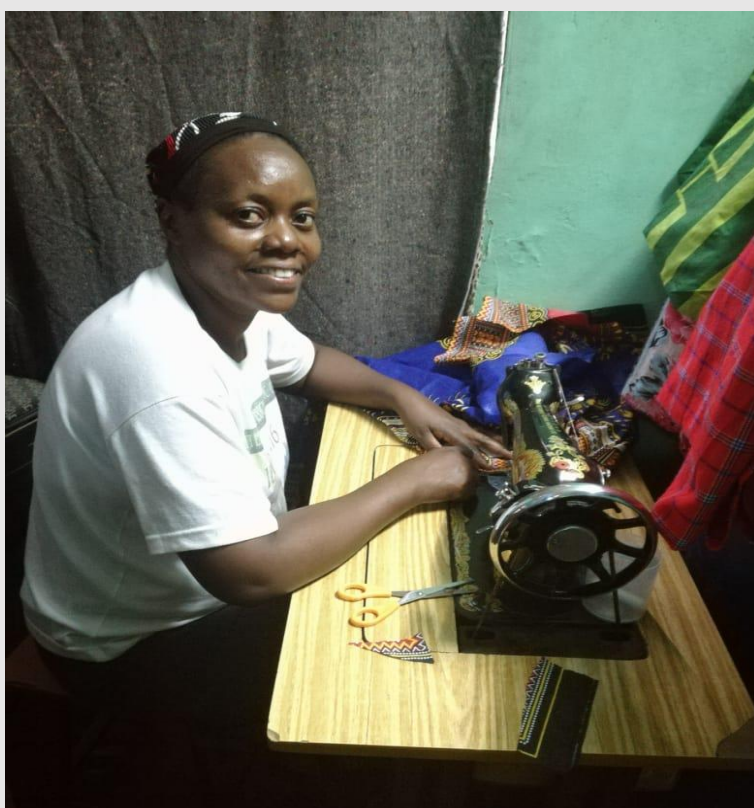
Sir. Tony is a young man who just graduated from college and had started his life with so many dreams to archive and plans to implement....”as a young man I had a certain way of spending money but since the pandemic basic needs and my parents back at home are all that matters...that way with the monthly token I receive from BUUKenya I am able to get food and send a few coins to my parents too to get something to eat too then I can hustle on how to pay rent and other bills which is not easy. My humble request to BUUKenya is to assist us at least to be sure that tomorrow we will be able to eat because as it is tomorrow is not guaranteed.. feeding and paying bills is becoming uncertain, at times I also assist some students who come to me with questions and I help them revise the work they have challenges with...”

Madam Caroline who has a child in University is not sure of her returning to school in September and that scares her...”Marvel has proven to be a family more than just a school, the management has stood with us through all this, they keep in touch and always ensuring at least we have something to eat.. thank you for always being there for us and BUUKenya for squeezing your tight budget in this period and finding something to send our way we are really grateful...with the little I get I have trained my children to go without lunch to minimize cost and ensuring I spend on necessities.. my worst fear is not been able to take my child back to the university in September or the government not reopening schools in January that means I will not have a job for more months and it's already difficult as it is..

Madam Mirrium opted to go to the village to cut cost of living but it didn't make much difference.... “ after schools were closed I didn't think I will be receiving any amount from the management since the school was not having any income...then came the good news from Buu Kenya and the monthly token so I decided to go back to the village, at first it was a challenge since everyone was running away from us afraid we had brought the virus from the city...it was not a good experience...finally I started a poultry business and when the chicken were ready there was no market since many hotels were closed, transport to major towns was blocked and finding

customers was a challenge and we ended up eating them and the business never matured.. at some point we could exchange the chicken with other things like maize, beans and firewood just to keep moving... in all this I have learned it's always good to have plan B.... If everyone here in Marvel had the capital to start a small business this challenges won't be as bad as they are now....I have learned it is good to save and have a back up plan since nothing is guaranteed I thought teaching was the safest career but the situation I'm in right now has proven me wrong..”

Madam Esther our assistant cook like many others agrees with Madam Mirrium that everyone should have back up plan when it comes to income...Madam Esther resulted to business...”with the amount I receive every month I went to the market, purchased sunflower seeds, roast them and packaged them.. I go around the village selling them at 10 shillings a packet...it's not a big business but the little I get ensures we have some vegetables or something to eat at the end of the day...thank you for the support”



Madam Caroline repairing clothes for a customer in her living room.....

Madam Betty our deputy head teacher and Madam Sophy our cleaner could not make it to the meeting since they travelled to the village due to rent related issues and inability to sustain the expenses that never seem to go down but up...by the time I was putting this article together Madam Sophy was in hospital admitted with her son who is not feeling well and all she wishes for is her son gets well soon and that when the time comes she will be able to foot the bill at the end of the day.

From all the conversations we had, a few things were certain and almost universal to everyone, from the director to the subordinate staff..

- There are fears the schools might not be reopened in January since there is no work in place by the government to ensure this happens.
- Depression and worry is slowly creeping in especially to people with large families to take care of.
- With an average house rent going for between 5,000 to 15,000 shillings, rent is becoming a worrying issue.
- Basic needs like three meals per day is a luxury many can't afford anymore..
- Those living with medical conditions that deserve special diets might not be in a position to do so.
- Future of the staff kids in University are not guaranteed anymore.
- Everyone is looking for a business or back up plan to make ends meet.

Life is uncertain and tomorrow is promised to no one... as BUUKenya holds our hand to overcome today, we believe and trust tomorrow will be a better day.. we are grateful for the bridges you have built for us and the storm you have walked us through. We will forever be grateful and hope even in this very uncertain and confusing storm, you will always remain our rainbow....a sign of hope and confirmation that even this we shall overcome...



To:

The Chairman,
Buu Kenya Organization,
23rd September 2019.

SUBJECT: 2019 TSAVO EAST NATIONAL PARK TOUR REPORT

The trip commenced on 17th June 2019 at 10:00 am with class 5 pupils and their teachers on board...

The following were our observations:

1. Compared to previous years the student were very lucky this time round and just as we approached the gate on the first day, we were welcomed by two lions strolling enjoying the sunset. During the morning drive we came across a pride of 12 lions and lionesses under a tree shade relaxing after a long night hunt. The students spend quality time here engaging the tour guide on how they hunt, relate as a family, adapt to weather changes and the environment.
2. Moving on the pupils spotted different kinds of elephants and the tour guide was more than glad to tell the difference between African and Savannah elephants. The greatest joy was to see the different types in such a large number.
3. The learners were able to see other animals in large numbers like; antelopes, zebras, buffalos, warthog among others.
4. They were able to see wild birds like the ostrich, parrots, hornbill, and black headed oriole among others.
5. Later the learners visited Mudanda Rock which is about 1.5KM long with a lot of history and importance to the Taita community.
6. Afterwards the learners visited River Galana where they were able to see crocodiles and hippos. They learned more about minerals found around the river banks and also the difference between permanent and seasonal rivers.

As Marvel Junior Staff, we would like to pass our gratitude to Buu Kenya Chairman Sir.Dan and all members and well wishers who have been sponsoring our children and teachers to make this dream a reality.

Through this program, our children can relate and understand nature more thanks to you.. Things they could only see in books and TV are now a reality, we will forever be grateful for this beautiful moments you create for our children and it is our hope that you will continue supporting our pupils in the future through this program.

Thank you very much.

Compiled by: Sir. Francis
Sir. Chanzera

My Day in the Park

by Joseph
Karisa....

A Saturday chilly morning, the birds were singing and it was a beautiful day, beautiful like the sunset. I went to the frog kingdom to take a bath then to my closet to change my clothes. Tears of joy wobbled out of my chicks. When I arrived at school there was a crowd of people.



Posing for a photo with some of my friends...

My friend and I sat down waiting for our bags to be checked if we had packed all the required items for this adventure ahead of us. When the teacher was done I went as fast as a gunshot inside the bus and took my seat. The driver started the engine and we began our journey to Tsavo National Park. We passed through a beautiful highway with a tunnel and statues of animals. We had a stopover for lunch and reached Voi town in the evening. When we were about to enter the gate of Tsavo East National Park, we saw two lionesses which were pregnant.



Queen of the jungle taking an evening walk..

They were searching for a pray. After doing the necessary bookings we went to take a shower. After dinner we went to bed excited about morning drive. The following day we went for a tour and saw animals moving in social groups in search of food. Some like the lions were resting under a tree,



Rulers of the jungle resting in the park...

while elephants were grazing with their calves. We could see the male elephants very protective of the young ones.



African Elephants protecting their young ones....

The tour guide told us because of their big ears and trunks, they can hear and smell things from a very far distance. She informed us that a buffalo has poor eyesight but good hearing with a baby buffalo weighing up to a hundred and fifty kilograms.



Buffalos grazing in the fields....

Our time in Tsavo was memorable and we learned a lot thank you Buu Kenya for helping us achieve our dreams.



A day in the Park

by Naomi Kalama



A lioness welcoming us to her jungle...

it was a beautiful day and could only get better with time, I woke up and went to the frogs kingdom and took a cold bubble bath. I went to my room and wore my uniform. Off to school I went today was the day we were heading to Tsavo National Park. after some time the bus arrived and we started loading our bags one by one, said a word of prayer and off we went. On our way we saw interesting things like statues of animals like rhino, elephants, buffalos and flags of all countries. on reaching Samburu along Mombasa Nairobi highway, we went to have lunch and here we were served with very big Chapatis and meat stew.



Having giant Chapatis for lunch with my friends.

After eating to our satisfaction we continued with our journey and reached Tsavo National Park in the evening, took a bath and ate dinner. Out of

excitement, we never wanted to go to bed but our teacher reminded us the following day we will be waking up very early so we went to bed. At midnight I woke up to go ease myself and was escorted by a teacher, outside we could see a monkey through the window and an owl producing a sound but finally managed to go out. The following day we woke up early prepared, took our breakfast and went around the park. We had two tour guides who directed us on which path to follow in the park.



Posing for a photo with my friends in Tsavo East..

We saw Asian elephants and were told they smaller compared to African elephants and they don't have tusks,



African and Asian elephants.

they move in social groups. African elephants are very big. Lions are about 80 in number, they hunt at night or in early in the morning then rest during the day.



Buffalos grazing in the park....

Rhinos found here are in two species, the white rhino and the black rhino. Zebras and antelopes too move in social groups, they are led by the males. Male Buffalos have large horns than the female ones. We were also told ostrich can run very fast despite their weight.



Ostrich the largest and fastest bird in existence....

We then went to see hippos and crocodiles. We went back to take lunch and refresh.. Later we went back to see more animals and the sun set.. In the evening we came back for dinner and went to bed early since we were all tired. the following day we woke up at our own convenient time, took our bath, breakfast and boarded the bus back to Mombasa. The memories of Tsavo will forever be in my mind and will assist me in my studies.. we thank God for protecting our journey

Tsavo National Park by Jeff

Kirimo



Class in session from Mdanda Rock in Tsavo...

It has always been my wish to travel around my country and get to learn more about our wild life. So when the news about our tour to Tsavo National Park came, I could not hide my joy. In preparation to explore and appreciate nature I researched a few things and found out that a national park is a place where animals are kept but allowed to move freely and have a normal life in the jungle.



The mighty and famous African elephants...

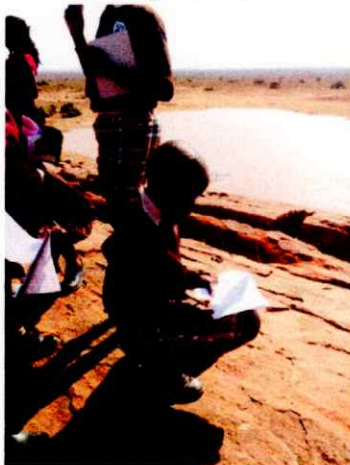
This chilly morning I woke up very early, went to take a bath and wore my school uniform. Headed to the dining room to take my breakfast with my bags fully packed and ready because the big day was here, I was heading to Tsavo East with my classmates. With my snacks and bags intact I ran as fast as a deer because the

thought of been left by the bus scared me. On getting to school all my colleges and teachers were already seated waiting for the bus which by this time was now approaching from a distance. On to the bus and off we went, the beautiful sceneries along the way were simply breath taking, from the new railway station, shops, markets, domestic animals, security cameras, historical statues, modern highways and everything in between, I knew this will be a journey to remember.



With my classmates and Mr. Francis our class

Three hours later and we are entering the gates of Tsavo National park only to be welcomed by two lionesses resting under a tree and elephants with their young ones moving all over.

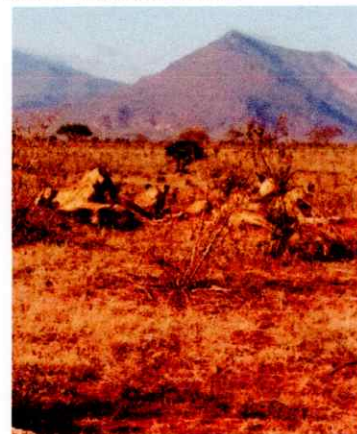


Taking some notes for my future references....

In we went to the education centre, refreshed, had our meals and retired to bed ready for the adventure of the following day.



The following day after breakfast we went for a drive and saw giraffes, zebras, river Galana, lions,



The kings and the queens of the jungle resting after a night of hunting....

hippopotamus, crocodiles and so many different types of birds. In all this while the tour guide was narrating everything about the wild animals, different types, characteristics and behavior of every animal we could see. Tsavo national tour was so much fun and the most memorable day in my life..I learned a lot and went home as happy as a king.



The mighty River Galana.....