



Roko 20 Academy
Kambirwa
Murang'a

Roko 20 Academy

January 2020 Newsletter

Inside this issue:

School News	2
Fundraising	5
Teamwork makes the dream work	6
“Showing the seeds of change”	7

Visit our webpage
www.roko20academy.com

We are on Facebook
“Roko 20 Academy”

We are optimistic
that the coming
year will bring us
even more suc-
cess than the last.

We are pleased to report that we started 2020 with all of the teachers who ended the year in 2019. Maintaining the team is a direct result of the hard work our Manager, Job, who has singlehandedly improved communication and brought harmony.



We had more admissions this January than ever before. With 15 new pupils admitted including 6 who require sponsorship.



School News

Promotion

Congratulations are in order for our new Head Teacher Annastacia who joined the team as Class Teacher two years ago.

Annastacia will carry out the administrative HT role and continue working as our Grade 6 Teacher. She is keen to improve her skills base and is currently undertaking a Special Needs course.



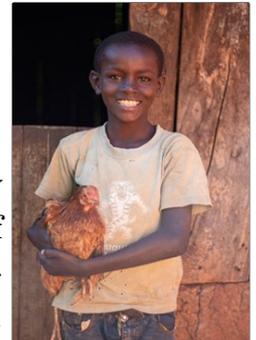
Pupils

The Head Girl this year is Ann, Class 5 and Head Boy Wanyoike, Class 4.

Congratulations to Ann and Wanyoike who both worked hard in 2019 and were chosen to be this year's Head Girl and Head Boy.



Ann is top of her class and is a responsible and diligent pupil, always the role model for other pupils.



Wanyoike's behavior improved significantly during 2019 and with the encouragement of his class teacher became a much more responsible and conscientious child.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Teacher Faith (Grade 4) who got married in November 2019. We wish the newlyweds a long, happy and healthy life together.



Games

Resounding success in sports as Tr Shem, our teacher responsible for heading up the team, dedicates his time to improving pupils' stamina after school with cross country practice. He is keen to reach out to local schools in order to compete in handball and football.



School News

Christmas Party



Our School Christmas Parties are the talk of the community.



Since 2014 we have been holding a Christmas Party at the end of the school year thanks to the generosity of a UK donor.



This kind lady buys gifts for all the children, staff and women from our Elderly Ladies Group and donates enough money for us to cook a delicious Christmas lunch with all the 'trimmings'. This year we extended our invite to the parents to our sponsored children.



A fun day indeed!

Volunteers (1/2)

During December we were pleased to have a volunteer, Anton from Germany, who initially planned to stay a week but ended up staying for 3.

Despite the school being closed for holidays Anton did us a great favour visiting the homes of our sponsored pupils, taking photos and preparing updates on our sponsored pupils.

School News

Volunteers (2/2)



He had this to say about our organization

“It was an honor for me to work for your life project Roko 20 Academy! ... I think your team is very motivated and they are all so respectful. So much good vibes and good energies around here, a place to feel home.... In total it was a fantastic time.”

We are delighted to have on board this term two volunteers. Teresa, from Catalan, and Tatjana from Germany, are both making big strides with our early morning and after school literacy programme, with computer lessons, video and journal lessons and assisting teachers in some of their lessons.



They are busy indeed!

Teresa who is used to teaching secondary school children is now working with our very youngest pre-school pupils on literacy. She said that working with pre-school and Grades 1 and 2 pupils is more important to improve reading skills.



From the UK we are pleased to welcome the support of Krishna Moorphy who is helping us with grant applications and various issues surrounding the UK Charity.

Fundraising

Global Giving

Thanks to your support 2019 was a great year for Roko 20 raising funds on GlobalGiving. We are thrilled to be an active member of the GlobalGiving community and proud to share some highlights from our past year.

In 2019, Roko 20

- raised £ 7,568 on GlobalGiving, £908 of which was raised by the GlobalGiving team through bonus prizes, matching money, corporate partnerships, gift card redemptions, and marketing efforts.
- activated 59 donors to support our work on GlobalGiving
- raised an average of £46 from each donation this year
- raised £1,172 in recurring donations from 9 monthly; and
- participated in 4 GlobalGiving campaigns and contests



We've also received the GlobalGiving Staff Favorite badge, because our organization was selected by a member of the GlobalGiving team as their favorite! This is indicated on our project pages and it means our projects will show up under the GlobalGiving Staff Favorite search feature.

GlobalGiving is without a doubt an incredible fundraising platform and we look forward to our journey together in the year ahead!

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/providing-a-free-primary-education-in-rural-kenya/>



Ladies of Pembrokeshire

Support for charities is not necessarily about donating money. Volunteers regularly assist us in areas where they feel they are most of use. The ladies from Milford library and Haverfordwest leisure Centre Knit & Natter groups kindly knitted 17 fabulous jumpers for our pupils as part of their school uniform.



Teamwork makes the dream work

Teamwork is of course an essential tool to achieve success for any organization and thanks to Job's management skills he has built upon staff morale and improved productivity.



Job is a man of many talents but of importance here is his

sensitivity and understanding of people. When he notices a problem with a staff member he is quick to encourage a discussion giving time to allow any grievances to be aired. In this way he has worked successfully towards resolving issues before they become a big problem.

Workshops and team building lunches are an important introduction to increase cooperation between staff members. Our workshops involved all staff and allowed for participation in the decision-making process giving each employee the opportunity to voice their opinions and share their knowledge with others, thereby improving the relationship

between staff and Management.

To sum up our manager gets the thumbs up for improving the quality of education at Roko 20 Academy with a team of self-motivated teachers and staff.

The Roko team are proud of where they work, feel supported and want to see the school go from strength to strength. Our school is a much happier place for our staff to be and this is in big part due to Job's commitment and dedication to the success of Roko 20 Academy.

The Roko 20 Team



“Sowing the seeds of change”



In late 2013 we met three young brothers at a community event. The boys looked tired, skinny and hungry, one had a severe case of ear infection. They held back as the crowd of children pushed forward to see their local MP hand out parcels of food.



We were told that the father of the boys had recently passed away and their mother had abandoned them leaving their older brother, Peter, a 17 year old secondary school pupil, to be their

primary carer.

The boys attended the local public primary school. However their attendance was poor as they would run out of school in search of food from neighbours.

With no money for food or any parental guidance this was a challenging time for their older brother Peter. He said of this time

“Life was a challenge for me then, I would wake up in the morning and worry about how I would get breakfast, lunch and other basic needs”.

It was Peter’s determination to keep the family together at all costs to give his brothers the best chance in life. His commitment meant that a typical day would start at 5.00am to prepare morning tea for the boys followed by an hour long walk to school in order to be in class by 7.00am. The school day ended at 5.00pm.

After school he cooked the family a meal. When there was no food to be had all the boys would each visit a neighbouring household, depending on their generosity.

After dinner and before bed was a time when Peter was free to complete his school homework.

We decided to admit one of the boys to Roko 20 Academy in January 2014.

With Peter’s brother at school we soon became aware of the extreme difficulty this family was in. We were struck by the strength of this young man trying to keep the family together and sought out a sponsor for them.

Thanks to a young couple from the USA who generously offered to sponsor the family, we were able to give the boys an education and supply the family with staple foods such as beans, maize and rice. This helped to alleviate some of the intense pressure placed on Peter. In return the boys would come and help out at Roko 20 during school holidays whenever there were odd jobs to be done around the school.



After Peter left school he had very little prospect. Unemployment was high in his area and despite his efforts he could not secure a job. Knowing Peter and his work ethic, and witnessing for ourselves how re-

sponsible a person he was, we decided to give him a job as an administration assistant.



At first he helped out on the land, planting tomato seeds in the school's greenhouse and successfully harvesting tomatoes which supplemented the school's lunch programme with enough left over to sell locally.



Peter was keen to undertake computer training which he used to help us manage the goat project and update the da-

tabases. Having demonstrated how trustworthy and reliable he was we put him in charge of the school resources and petty cash.

A couple from France kindly donated enough money to put Peter through driving school and he passed his driving test first time. Now he drives pupils to and from school early morning and late afternoon.



Always looking to the future Peter is proactively improving his family's situation. He used his initiative to seek out a small loan to buy two goats and some hens. Today he has



1 cow, 6 hens, 1 cockerel, 2 goats, 1 sheep and a duck.

In addition we loaned him the cost of connecting to the mains water pipe and now he has clean water pumped to his home.

Peter's brothers are being sponsored to an education and doing well at school, they are healthy and happy. The family has remained together and are working well together. Peter had this to say about the future

"I just want to see my brothers settled and for them to stand on their own two feet, to depend on themselves"

We could never have imagined when we met those three hungry boys back in 2013 that it would end up like this for Peter, and for us. In Peter we have a reliable and trustworthy employee. Peter has a bright future and has managed to turn his family's lives around in a positive way.