

NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Roko 20 Academy



IN THIS ISSUE

SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

REPORTS FROM OUR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

PUPIL PODCAST

SCHOOL INITIATIVES

OUTLOOK 2022

*Dear wonderful donors, supporters & volunteers
of Roko 20 academy,*

2021 hasn't been the easiest of years for us.

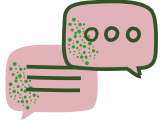
*The effects of Covid have reduced the school's capacity
to raise the amount of funds we need and small charities
like ours have been hit hard, unable to rely on public
fundraising.*

*Even though we had to experience setbacks, we once
again managed through strong commitment of our team,
by making adjustments and by scaling back where
necessary, to continue to support our community with free
education.*

*In this newsletter we will provide you with some updates,
success stories and an outlook for the coming year 2022.*

Enjoy reading!

Support Programmes for Roko 20 Pupils



Guidance and counselling and mentorship programme

During the nine months Covid 19 break from school, most children were affected by family or parents depression, child labour and social behavior. Due to this we organized weekly boys and girls guidance and counseling programs. OpenDoors and Mugambo wa Mugikuyu radio station volunteered on this program making it successful.

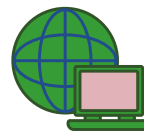
As a result pupils who had faced abuse were able to open up to the counselors and we are offering support to these pupils. The Child Department and Local Administration are offering support towards the girls with serious cases.



Mathematics club

We have introduced a Mathematics club for Class 6 and 7. As this has been a great success we will introduce the Club to other classes from Second term.

We will start a mathematics contest, coming soon...!



Computer classes

Our computers are now connected with unlimited WIFI and every one of our pupils is now able to have digital learning.

Teachers and pupils are also able to download learning materials online. The computer lessons are offered from PP1 to class 7. All classes from age 4 are involved. We managed to locally network our 13 working desktops. This has enabled our staff and pupils to carry out their own research.



New Teachers

We have two new teachers who joined us on 22 September 2021. Joseph Guchu – class teacher grade 4 and Wesley Otieno – class teacher class 6.

General Update on Covid for Murang'a

Kenya was slow to receive new cases of the Virus however to date there are 255,469 cases reported. 5,335 deaths and 248,444 recovered cases. It is important to keep in mind that due to limited testing the actual number of cases is likely to be much higher than the number of confirmed cases (Our World in Data, 7th of December 2021).

We continue to encourage pupils and staff to wear masks and adhere to hygiene practices. Vaccinations were offered by the Government who gave a directive to all public servants to get vaccinated or face punitive action. Overall, about 13% of the population of Murang'a county are vaccinated to date (statista, 20th of November 2021).

Parents' & Guardians' comments

How best to describe Roko 20 Academy?

Here's some recent reports from the (grand)parents of our sponsored pupils:

"Roko 20 is not just a school but a home to the lowly regarded in the society."

"The school has really assisted her as a mother in upbringing the child. The services offered to her by the school is beyond limits"

"The school offers good services and takes good care of the child to grow socially, psychologically and academically."

"I am a mother of five children and paying for an education was not easy. There was a time when my children were street boys but because of the school the pupils are now obtaining free, best quality education and equips the pupils with skills."

"The grandmother thanked the school management for their beyond limit hospitality. She is a beneficiary of so many things including maize and beans seeds for planting which are doing very well and it is because of Roko 20's goat project, of which she benefitted, that she has been able to build a better house."



The parent thanked the school and said she used what she could have used to pay school fees and instead funded a tiny roadside stall selling vegetables.

"The devotion with the school staff is beyond parenthood. Thanks to the school."

"The parent thanks the school management for standing with her to educate her pupils who initially never attended school"

"I have experienced beyond limit love from Roko 20 and thanks the school for standing with me at all times. The school has assisted me in even changing the morals of my grandchild who is now very responsible. This is due to progressive counselling from the Guidance and counselling Department."

The grandmother thanks the school for she says educating the boy could have been difficult but Roko 20 came in and has really helped her starting from goat, seeds and an education for the boy.



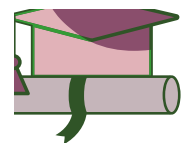
"The school is the best place to be as far as education and learning is concerned. The parents thanked the school management for their support."

"If feeding the boys is difficult what could have happened if the school was not there? The family thanks the school so much."



Thank you to everyone involved in providing this service.
You are amazing!
Thanks to the support of all our donors and sponsors!

Academic success of the school



Grade 3 sat for MLP (Monitoring Learner Progress) and all successfully completed the assessment. Our Class 7 continued to be among the top 4 schools in Gikindu zone while Class 6 moved up from position 8 to 6 in the new Term Opener exam (League table, 2nd of November 2021).

We are using the assessment and examination to gauge the pupils' performance and be able to help them improve in their weak areas. Our teachers also conducted several continuous assessment tests to evaluate pupil's achievement on the topic's contents.

Pupils Podcast

The song 'Love is the answer' the pupils sang with the Record Producer Pete Lawrence

Some of our pupils coordinated by Job were happy to contribute to the Campfire Convention's 'Love Is The Answer' song.



Listen to the song here. (<https://vimeo.com/560051556>)

Campfire starter Pete Lawrence states: "This song is deeply resonant for me. The chorus refrain couldn't be more apt for these polarised, uncertain times."

Campfire sees music as the sacred medicine to free the soul on our journey from the head to heart. Music is a universal language

that gives us an opportunity to embrace the re-enchantment of everyday life. The collective resonance of singing together can be powerful, if not life-changing for many.

Pupils on the local radio Maria station singing and reciting

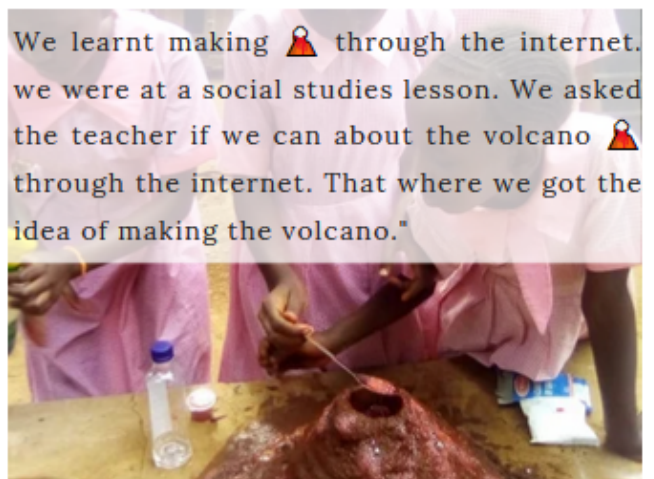


Our pupils were selected by a local vernacular radio station to host the children program which happens every Saturday morning. This has built confidence in our pupils and has identified some of their talents. Some of the skills unfolded will see future Radio presenters, mimics, and two girls have composed their own songs.

You can access and listen to the radio show 'Mwigariko Wa Ciana' by Aunty Jess [here](https://www.facebook.com/mugambowamugikuyufm). (<https://www.facebook.com/mugambowamugikuyufm/videos/2991699494482317/>)

'How to make a Volcano' by Ann Nyambura (Roko 20 pupil)

"To make a 🌋 you need vinegar, baking soda, liquid 🧴, red food coloring and mud. You model the mud into a 🏔️, put a crater and inside put a glass. Inside the glass put 1 spoon of baking soda, half spoon of red food coloring, add the liquid soap and lastly put vinegar. We thought it would exploded but it didn't. We really loved trying. 😊"



School Initiatives

ICT Training for teachers

We had an ICT training for teachers. MR. Mwago is an ICT expert and has provided our teachers with vital training.

He installed software on our computers to enable coding teaching. He also taught how coding works. Virtual Zoom teaching is on the cards.

Mr Mwago also introduced some virtual teaching such as quizz.com and Kahoot.

Big thanks to Mr Mwago Roko 20 is making progress.



Goat project

We are pleased to announce that the most healthy and well looked after goat belongs to the family of Nancy Wairimu. Recently it gave birth to female twins.

Pupils from Grade 2 visiting the sick and elderly donating food

The school encourages our pupils to carry out community services for learning purposes.

We facilitate this by arranging pupil visits to the sick, elderly or becoming involved in community programmes.

Our Grade 3 were active in clearing the bush around Kambirwa water reserve basin while Grade 2 visited one elderly grandmother and donated her with rice, maize, beans and oil for the family.

Grade 3 also collected scrap metals and sold them using the proceeds to purchase classroom rulers and rubbers.



Jonny's fundraising

Jonny Sutton, a Board Member, Volunteer and very good friend, raised £415 providing much needed funds for Roko 20 by running his 4th Ultra Marathon in 113 days. Jonny said that "I originally wasn't doing these runs for sponsorship but Roko 20 needs funds and it's a charity that changed my life and needs my / your help"

Thank you Jonny - Keep running!



Future Projects

Library

We will need a space for our learners to read Storybooks quietly and a small building for storage.

School bus

Transport for pupils who live more than 5km from school is provided by our very old school van. This has broken down more times than we care to remember. Our biggest and most costliest 'wish' is to buy one that doesn't have so many years or lower mileage.

Computers and tablets

To enable smooth IT learning we will need more desktops and tablets and an educational management software program.

Sponsorship.

We have 33 pupils awaiting sponsorship in school. Sponsoring a child may cost as little as £18 a month but make a huge difference to a family and a child's future.

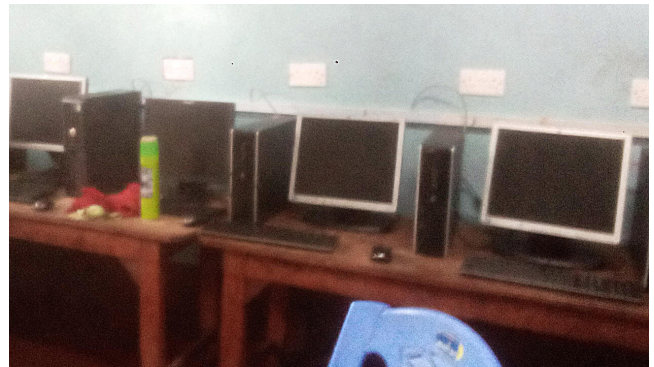
Text books

For 2022 our Grade 6 and Class 8 pupils require new text books.

Construction of our new computer/library

Thanks to everyone involved in the construction of our new Classroom and computer/Library.

We managed to build a classroom for our grade 5 pupils and a computer lab from a £5,000 donation from a sponsor.



We appreciate all the hard work and commitment from staff members, the amazing teacher training sessions given by our educator friends, the support and generosity of members of the community and from officials within the Murang'a administration.

We also give gratitude to all our donors, volunteers and friends from all around the world who selflessly donate to our cause to enable us to continue the work of providing our community's children with an education, guidance and family support.

We are hoping for a brighter 2022.

Thank you.