



Destiny Garden School

"Destined for Academic Perfection"

SPONSORS FIRST TERM REPORT 2020

(January - May)



The year 2020 has truly been an exceptional year. This is one year we will remember for a long time! The scope of the global crisis keeps soaring each day. All sectors have been affected either directly or indirectly. At DGS, we are taking all measures possible to keep up with educational, health, economic and social crises. This report will update you with details of DGS progress before and after the COVID-19 pandemic struck.



INSIDE:

Details of food donation drives by sponsors to DGS families during the COVID-19 crisis that has affected many families

ALSO INSIDE:

How learning is now taking place



Class parties



Judy's visit to DGS



Children's Welfare

Opening Day in January 2020 came as staff and students arrived in DGS to kickstart yet another year. This is usually the day the long holiday comes to an end as the school year starts. From this point on, teachers assist students to adapt from the home environment to the school environment.

"Teachers welcoming students at the first assembly of the year"



Provision of the free lunch feeding program continues to be a major player in the development of DGS. We have been able to reach children from many needy families. We thank all the sponsors who have worked with the DCC to make this a success. You are putting smiles in very many faces everyday.

"Children having lunch at the Dining Shelter"



End of January saw a number of classes sitting for their examinations. Teachers assess students' academic competence mostly on a monthly basis. This was the first and only assessment done since schools reopened early January.



"Students working hard to complete the assessments"



Thanks to a donation from one of our sponsors, the kitchen staff received kitchen equipment, utensils and cutlery to boost the kitchen operations. The lunch service is now orderly and very presentable. Spoons are now available to ensure food is eaten in a clean environment. Staff members also benefited with new tea mugs.



"Lunch is now served from serving dishes and the children love it!"



Brenda Christine Ongola, the Sponsorship Director, was delighted to finally receive a fully equipped computer workstation to kickstart her operations. Proper equipment is always key to any organisation's flow and safety of information.

"The Sponsorship Director workstation in Mombasa, Kenya"



In January, DGS received letters from a UK school that were spread out across different classes. A PowerPoint presentation from the school preceded the exercise where the children were treated with drinks and snacks.



"One of the letters read in one of the DGS classes"



Thanks to a generous donation from one of our sponsors, more electric fans were fitted in more classes to increase the number of classes with fans. The electric fans are meant to curb the high temperatures hitting the classes. Mombasa is a typical hot town; but with the help of the electric fans learning is no longer unbearable even when it is very hot outside the classrooms.



"Learning in the classrooms is now smooth with the help of the new electric fans thanks to Jimmy Byrne"



After the replacement of the wired perimeter fence, DGS received funds from the UK charity Destiny Children for a new gate to complete the fence construction. A strong fence and gate will always ensure the safety of children and property inside DGS walls. This is a very noble project and we thank all partners who took part to see its completion.



Text books donations ensured classes received extra copies of various subjects to reduce the overcrowding around one text book. Teachers also received teachers' guide books to assist in lesson planning and assessment.

"The new education curriculum receives a big boost in DGS with yet again another books donation"



"In February, all classes took group photos to be used in our February Sponsorship Updates"



Students in the Upper Primary section visited one of the largest mining sites in the Kenyan South Coast. The company mines the titanium mineral from the ground and mining is exhausted in a certain location the company rehabilitates the piece of land for future use. The children enjoyed the day outside school.



Post-Primary School News



Alfrose Ochieng now in University studying Statistics



Jebeny Mary awaiting to join College



George Ling'ung'u now studies Electrical Appliances in College



Anna Mochumbe and her mother in High School on her first day



Jacob, the Director, Anna Mochumbe and her mother in DGS receiving scholarship details



From RIGHT: George, Boaz (DGS Manager) and George's father



Mwanaidi Omar on her first day in High School



Allan Odongo's Uncle receiving a gift on behalf of Allan



Allan Odongo's football jersey gift

All these students' further education are being funded by DGS sponsors.

Visitors News

Judy Roper from Destiny Children Charity (DCC) made a trip to DGS in February 2020. The entire DGS team including the children were very excited to see Judy again after quite some time. Some were meeting her for the first time and it was a great occasion to meet a DGS founding member. The photo gallery below summarizes Judy's trip in Mombasa.



"Judy visited each classroom and spent time with all the DGS students"



"Judy working with Brenda (the Sponsorship Director) while in Mombasa"



"Jacob, Judy, Brenda and Boaz in Mombasa"



“Judy spent a farewell moment over a Balloon Festival with Class 8 students who are in the final class this year”



Onto sad news, DGS was saddened to receive news that a former sponsor, Patrick Treadwell passed on early this year. He will be remembered for his music equipment contribution to improve music in DGS. He will always be part of DGS. In his memory, his family have donated funds for an electronic keyboard which will be bought when the school resumes.



“DGS students paying tribute to Patrick Treadwell with recorders he donated”



Staff News

The DGS staff team comprising of the teaching and non-teaching staff hosted a Staff Party with Judy in attendance. It was an excellent time for the staff members to meet out of the normal working environment.



A generous donation enabled Class 8 (Year 2019) to get together and have a special meal to celebrate before they started High School. The Director met the former students, parents and teachers in a colourful event where he urged them to proceed to high school and pursue excellence and success.



DGS is located in Mombasa (South Coast of Kenya) with its main access point being the Likoni ferry channel. The massive population in tens of thousands crossing the Likoni ferry everyday to look for work go through delays and congestion. With the adaptation of the mandatory social distancing rule, the ferries have to carry just enough passengers. This is causing serious delays meaning the few people able to go to work do so with many challenges.



**BEFORE
COVID-19
PANDEMIC**



**AFTER
COVID-19
PANDEMIC**



**Social distancing
while entering the
ferry**



**Sanitizing spray booths
before entering the ferry**

The COVID-19 Pandemic Situation Report

DGS can confirm that there are no fatalities among the staffs, students, parents or guardians. When positive cases went on the rise, the Kenyan government like other governments shut down all schools and eventually only essential service providers continued operating. A national curfew and lockdown in major cities like Mombasa was enforced and continuously extended to date. Most people have been indoors to date with no form of livelihood. This situation birthed the food donation drives to cater for **DGS** needy families.

The first food parcel donations drive exercise was held in April 2020. Food was packaged and distributed to parents and guardians. **DGS** sponsors and supporters made the distribution of food parcels possible. **DGS** staff members volunteered to oversee the operations which went on very well.



In May 2020, DGS sponsors and supporters rallied once more for the **second** food parcels donations drive that reached **275 families**.



A local company made and donated face masks that were distributed to parents and children during the second food parcels donations drive.

BEFORE THE FACE MASK

AFTER THE FACE MASK

The **third** and biggest donations drive reached **325 families** including an addition of 50 families whose students left DGS either to other schools, to high school or university. Our gratitude goes to Shaun Thornley for his very generous donation to the community.



The Good News



Online learning is ongoing using WhatsApp groups! About 30% of students are able to access assignments through their parents', guardians' or neighbours' phones.

Teachers meet via ZOOM conference calls for staff meetings to assess their progress.



Class parties now involve students collecting their cake, snacks and juice from DGS then proceeding to share with their families and friends at home. Our children are safer that way.



We are stronger when united and together we will make it through this crisis. Your continued support during the COVID-19 pandemic period ensures our staff members can continue the online learning program as they meet their family needs.

Our deepest and sincere thank you from all of us in Mombasa to all our loyal sponsors and to everyone who organised events and made extra donations. We might not be able to mention you all but assure you that you are truly appreciated. Also a big thank you to all the DCC (Destiny Children Charity) trustees & committee members for their continuing hard work and support of Destiny Garden School.

Keep safe until we meet again.

Report by Boaz Muoga, DGS Sponsorship Manager