Maranyundo Girls School Fall Update

'Tis the season to be busy! As we usher in the cooler air, so too do we gear up for many exciting events ranging from graduation for the latest group of Maranyundo girls to Sister Juvenal's annual visit to the Boston area.

In this issue learn more about impressive happenings at the school, check out our plans for fall events to welcome Sister Juvenal to the area, and meet our new Chair of the Board.

A Message from Joyce Fletcher, outgoing Board Chair

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you Daphne Petri, our new Maranyundo Initiative Board Chair. Daphne (shown here at left with Board Member Kathy Katengwa) is a long time member of the Board and strong supporter and advocate for the Maranyundo Girls School. An architect by trade, she was a member of the building committee and worked tirelessly to create the safe, beautiful campus that is Maranyundo today. Welcome Daphne!

Sister Juvenal will be visiting Boston next month. We have some small events scheduled where you can meet her and get an update on happenings at the school. Please be on the lookout for invitations!
There are also a couple of larger events where Sister will be speaking that are open to the public. If you would like to attend, please contact us at info@maranyundo.org for details.

**Sunday November 17; 4 - 7 PM** - Reception, presentation and screening of "Girls Rising" at Trinity Episcopal Church in Concord, MA

**Friday, December 6; 3 - 5 PM** Reception and presentation on "Global Education and the Year of the Girl", Tufts University, Medford, MA

**Friday, December 6; 6:30 PM** - Celebration of Mass and reception at The Paraclete in South Boston

Lastly, please note that we have moved! We are now at Next Mile, an incubator for small non profits located in a beautiful building overlooking Boston Harbor.

Our new address is:

Maranyundo Initiative
Next Mile Project
Two Atlantic Avenue, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

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**Update from the School**

As busy as it is here in Boston, it's even busier in Nyamata. The latest group of students graduated on October 27th as their younger counterparts gear up to take their exams October 30th through November 8th.

Work has begun on the multipurpose hall! The basement is completed and the walls are beginning to grow.

And we’re pleased to report that Marie Martine, a Maranyundo graduate of 2011, graduated first in her class from Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology and was presented an award by President Kagame. Congratulations to Martine on her tremendous achievement!
March Trip to Rwanda
by Jane O'Connor

This past March Board Members and friends joined us in Rwanda to explore this amazing country and to see the incredible place that is the Maranyundo Girls School.

The warm welcome we received left a lasting impression on everyone. We enjoyed a wonderful day visiting classes, interacting with staff, and sharing a meal together. The students offered their own special welcome in song, dance, poetry and skits, performed to our great delight. We were invited to share in the dancing, and what we lacked in grace, we made up for in enthusiasm!
In addition to our special time at Maranyundo, we visited Gardens for Health, Urukundo Home for Children, the new PIH hospital, Nyungwe National Park and many other special places in this beautiful country of hope and promise. Plans are in discussion for another trip in 2014, perhaps to witness the graduation ceremony and share in the joy of yet another successful class of Maranyundo girls. Stay tuned!

Education Committee Update
by Linda Beardsley

In their 2012 report entitled, "Every Child Needs a Teacher: Trained Teachers for All", the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) reminds us all that building schools is not enough. Rather, all teachers must be well trained, have access to ongoing training, and be treated as professionals.

The Maranyundo Initiative's Education Committee has taken bold steps to ensure that our support of the Maranyundo Girls School reflects these important tenets of teacher support.

In response to a unanimous request from teachers for help incorporating technology into their teaching practice, we’ve implemented the first stages of a technology training program. This past March, Kate Seyboth, a math and computer science teacher at Westover School in Connecticut, traveled to Rwanda along with Pearl Emmons, a technology trainer and videographer with Tufts University's Education Department.

Together they led technology-focused workshops and tutorials focused primarily on the math and science curriculum. To the delight of teachers and students alike, they also brought video cameras for the teachers and demonstrated how they could be used to enhance student learning.

Teacher Frank and Kate Seyboth build a robot

To put into practice the GCE's emphasis on ongoing in-service training, the Education Committee is developing a survey to assess how teachers are using what they've learned. This assessment will be used to design follow up support. Our hope is that Maranyundo Girls School can be a model for technology training in the area, perhaps
even becoming a teacher training center for other schools in Rwanda.