



MARYANYUNDO SCHOOL FOR GIRLS NYAMATA, RWANDA

October 8, 2015

Dear Friends,

2015 was especially important for us. We enlarged our campus so that we can now accommodate three more grades to become a full six year secondary school. We accepted our first senior 4 class in January and will continue to add a grade each year until 2017 when we will be fully enrolled with S1 to S6.



We still have to design and build Science labs and the library. This will be accessible for use by the community and near-by schools. Because we have received so much, we believe we should share our resources with others who have less.

We are very grateful to all of you who have helped make our dream come true. We have a custom in our Benebikira communities to especially remember all of our benefactors each week in our prayers.

Student Achievement



Our girls continue to do well on the national exams. This year all placed in Division One which is quite an accomplishment. We are happy to report that three of our girls were among the top ten performing students in the country.

Our alumnae (in Rwanda we would say our “Old Girls”) are now attending Universities on five continents. We have seven who are recipients of the prestigious Master Card Foundation scholarships.

Many youth from all over Africa apply for these so we are honored to have so many from our small school.

One of our senior 3 girls (Alice) is first in Rwanda for the annual East African Essay competition. She will happily receive \$650 in prize money and will spend her holidays traveling with fellow finalists, five from each East African country, in Tanzania.



New Competency-Based National Curriculum

Rwanda has updated its national curriculum, which will move from content-based instruction to competency-based education. I am happy to say that our geography teacher was selected to be a part of the team that developed the new curriculum.



I have just finished a three-day seminar for heads of schools and Deans of studies on the changes, which will begin January 2016. Our teachers will be spending their holidays at training sessions to prepare them to begin implementing the curriculum. It will be a challenge for us but our Ministry of Education has produced a very comprehensive program. There will be a comprehensive training and evaluation program for teachers, heads of schools, and teachers for the next three years. Some will be school based and each school will appoint a teacher to be mentor for his fellow teachers as they adopt the new teaching methods.

For me, the presentation on ICT (Information and Communications Technology) was very interesting. The plan is that schools may buy laptops which will have the textbooks on them from the Ministry of Education at a reduced price. They will be made by a company from Brazil, Fostivo, that has set up a factory in Rwanda to make them.

Other News

I had the opportunity to participate in the Segal Foundation Symposium on education in Kenya in June. I had many interesting discussions with colleagues who shared experience about education in their countries. I shared with them our experience about educating poor and rich together and how it enriches both.



We were happy to welcome Noel, Kuriakos , a Maranyundo Initiative Teaching Fellow who taught computer sciences. The girls found his classes very interesting and he helped teachers in teaching using computers.

We also welcomed back Marcella Felde, a volunteer. She continued her work to teach writing skills by having the girls “publish” their stories using the Oksbo, a small origami folded booklet. This was written up in our Rwandan magazine for girls (Nyampinga) There were many nice quotes from the girls about how they love to write.

The Peace and Love Proclaimers Club organized the annual walk from the school to the Nyamata Genocide Memorial site in Remembrance of the children who were killed. We added traditional and modern dance as a sport clubs which the girls appreciate. For me, I see that they are getting very good exercise.

With gratitude

Sr. M Juvenal Mukamurama / Head Mistress of MGS

