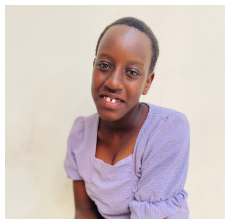


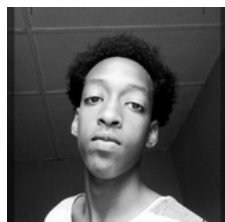
KIGUTU INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY



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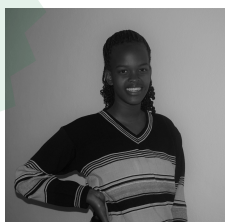
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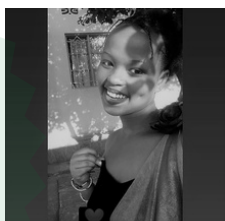
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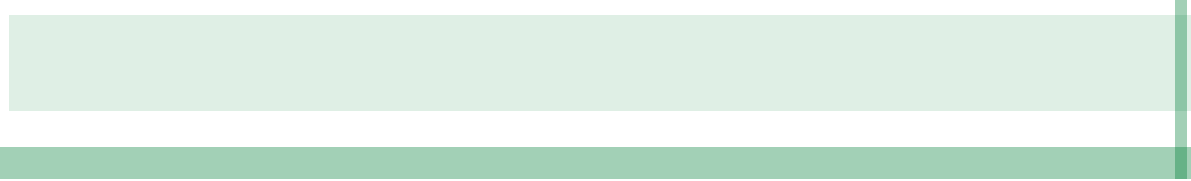
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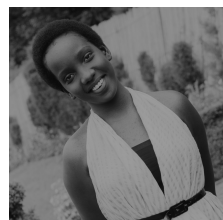


Diella Shamika.....Africa Now & Then



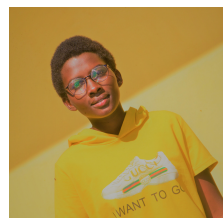
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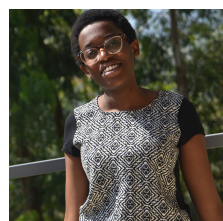
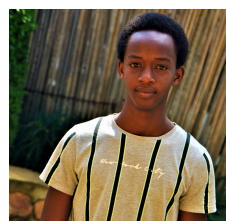
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Editors' Note

Dear esteemed reader,

The KIA Times team takes this opportunity to dedicate their sincere thanks to you for having supported them in taking your time to read the newsletters throughout the last year. We address our sincere appreciation to all the students of KIA, teachers, and all of you who are outside of Kigutu but still a part of the KIA community.

This month, KIA has expanded with 32 new students. It is an exciting improvement and we're looking forward to working together.

This opening newsletter will briefly highlight the summer program which enabled KIA students to enrich both their academic and professional skills through sessions to upgrade their levels in science courses and internships which was the summer program's purpose. You will also hear from some smart new KIA students - we are so excited to have them as part of the community!

By Nathalie Ila Mukerabirori & Lella Bellarca Musabwimana

Head of School Welcoming Note



Imagine a school that values individuals' interests, passions, and talents and challenges each learner to reach deeper levels of understanding. Imagine a school that breathes a strong sense of community where parents and staff work together on behalf of what is best for students. Imagine a school where every community member is a learner, a community that thrives because everyone explores, engages, and excels in an environment that celebrates excellence, resilience, and contributes toward a peaceful and more sustainable world. Welcome to that school. Welcome to Kigutu International Academy!!!!

This year we have welcomed 32 more vibrant youth who have joined KIA not because their parents are well off to offer them a prestigious education, but because they deserve it and have spent the past three years striving for excellence.

These join a community of other resilient learners eager to explore, engage, and excel, to positively transform our local and global communities.

Dr. Alice Rwamo, Head of School

Welcome, Bienvenue, Karibu, Kase!



As Dr. Alice, the Head of School, mentioned, Kigutu International Academy welcomed 32 new students on September 12, 2022. They were selected according to not only their very impressive academic performances but also their open minds to change Burundi and the whole world. The new (first year class) started school on the 12th whereas the other two classes started on the 25th. During that time, the new students got to know one another better as an orientation week was planned especially for the occasion. They visited the surroundings, played games and many other fun activities. They also had a talent show which helped them to open up to another more.

The third and second year students were very excited and happy to welcome their new brothers and sisters into their community. Indeed, from the moment they arrived at the campus, they did nothing but bonded with them and came to know more about one another. . To facilitate bonding with the newcomers, a game day was and everyone played the games with a smile.

KIA community is excited to see what the future has in store for us with all these new smart students.

By **Roxanna Gateka & Christa Ella Irishura**

KIA NEW STUDENTS INTERVIEW

Interviewee 1: Chela Francoise Ininahazwe

Question 1: What did you expect before coming here at KIA and what are your expectations now that you are a KIA student?

I expected that if I came here to KIA I would have access to a bunch of opportunities that KIA offers for example learning English and entrepreneurial leadership. Now that I'm at KIA, I hope one day to have a scholarship with financial aid and transform my country.



Question 2: How do you think you will be different when you graduate from KIA?

I believe that after graduating from KIA, my level of science will be at the highest level because this school allows us to apply what we learn in class through experiences outside of the classroom.

Question 3: What was your first impression of KIA when you arrived?

When I arrived I was surprised by the beauty of the school and the friendliness of the students and teachers. I also loved the devotion shown by the teachers as they took time to make the students comfortable before teaching and treated the students equally.

KIA NEW STUDENTS INTERVIEW

Interviewee 2: Don Orlando Musisi



Question 1: Why did you apply to KIA?

I applied to KIA because it is a school that trains future leaders and cultivates the spirit of leadership in every student here at KIA.

Question 2: What do you think this year will be like?

I think this year will be fun and beneficial for me. I will learn a lot of English and sciences that will help to achieve my goals.

Question 3: In your opinion, what differentiates KIA from other schools you know?

KIA forms future leaders in every aspect of everyday life, exposing students to transgenerational problems that have been affecting Burundi for the KIA students to think about potential solutions. Moreover, it is a bilingual school that will help the KIA students get opportunities all around the world either in French speaking or English speaking countries.

Interviewers: **Israel B. Manira and Beltia B. Akimana**

Last Year Highlight

Summer Program Overview

“The best opportunity lies on the path we set for ourselves,” said a wise man. The KIA students are determined to follow their paths to be the change in the world, and worked towards this during the summer. Students came for four weeks this summer, and had many activities such as attending classes, internships with Village Health Works, hosting different guest speakers, participating in virtual entrepreneurial seminars with Dr. Dennis in the US, home visits and giving charity, and even a trip. In the 4 weeks program, students learned a lot of things that will be helpful in their future lives.



The internship program was created to help students to participate and experience the different jobs in different departments depending on their interests. Through a memorable experience, the students got the opportunity to learn about the various departments in VHW. They had the chance to pursue what they are curious about and work on the different skills needed to achieve their projects. In the departments, they were welcomed by VHW employees who were passionate about their jobs and willing to share their experiences with the younger generation. The students were divided among procurement, food security, community engagement, administration and finance, communication, and the clinic. In the food security program, the students visited farms and barns. During their visit, they discovered plants used in medicine for animals and humans. In procurement, they learned the steps from a specific need to how commands are passed until the items are delivered. In communication, they learned how communication is used to change social behaviors, through changing mentalities and educating the population. Even in their short time, students learned a lot about the workforce.

During the program, students also had the opportunity to meet interesting people who shared important lessons to shape their futures. They met the

members of the VHW board, who shared their thoughts concerning the importance of the mission of VHW and how they are solving poverty over multiple generations in Burundi. Students learned that if you want to treat poverty you don't only give money to people or just don't build schools; you have to build hospitals, teach people how to farm, give them seeds, and create job opportunities for them. If you want to solve a problem, you search for the root causes to eradicate, which is what VHW has been doing in Kigutu and can be shared in other parts of the world. We met Jois Stapleton Mukherjee, a doctor who works with Partners in Health and has been working with VHW since 2005. She helped students understand the potential of Africa and how the world economy depends on it. Dr. Jois explained concepts like capitalism and how it relates to colonialism and socialism ideologies, helping students understand what they can do to change the reality in Africa. Finally, students had the privilege to meet Professor Leonce Ndikumana, who shared his knowledge, skills, qualifications and experience. He said that others will show you the respect you give to yourself and that we should feel sorry for people who underestimate us when judging by our looks or race. He emphasized an important message for KIA students: that Africans are intelligent and can accomplish their dreams with hard work.

Elevating students' levels in sciences was one of the main objectives of the program. In the first week, teachers and students were engaged to work hard to accomplish this goal but unfortunately, during the second-week cases of Covid-19 were declared. Still, the ambition was there. Students communicate with the teacher for reasonable and sustainable solutions that they would benefit from. Classes were interrupted but teachers kept sending assignments to support students and reach this summer program's goal even if it was difficult. When students had difficulties, teachers would follow up with them whenever possible.

To upgrade our entrepreneurship skills, during the summer program KIA students had the privilege to work virtually with one of the special guests, Dennis Hanno from the United States, a higher education leader, educator, and social entrepreneur. He shared about the entrepreneurship world based on his book entitled "From Ideas to Actions". He encouraged students to explore new information and knowledge, and helped them innovate group projects with the guidance of distinguished worldwide coaches. To reward KIA students for their outstanding attitude, participation, and involvement, he provided personalized polo shirts as a souvenir of the wonderful entrepreneurial adventure.



KIA students are encouraged to be servant leaders who help their community. One Saturday during the summer program, the students worked with the community engagement department to distribute necessary goods to some families in Kigutu, who didn't have the financial ability to afford some basic needs. This was an opportunity for them to see life outside of KIA so that they can be the problem solvers of their community, and they learned to work together to build a strong spirit of helping those who are in need. The following day, the students went to Blue Bay beach to have a taste of summer and to have fun. They played games and swam in Lake Tanganyika, and enjoyed relaxing together as students.

The students concluded the summer program with a visit to the Women Health Pavilion organized by Deogratias Niyizonkiza, the VHW CEO, which was a great opportunity for both students and teachers to learn different life lessons from this warm-hearted man. Later in the evening, a special dinner was served and the program concluded with a fun dance party. When students left school to join their respective families, their faces reflected nothing but joy. Words are not enough to say "thank you" to the school management for having organized such a program, and students can't wait to participate in the following summer program in 2023.

By KIA Newsletter Team



Summer Program Coordinator Message

This program has really been a success as we look into the future and the excitement that lies in store for us, but I think it is also important to take a moment to consider the specific joys and challenges of these past 2 months. If I can reflect on it for a bit, my heart is so grateful to all the school partners for the caring role of each and every one of them. To the school management, to our dynamic staff, to the Village Health Works' employees, to our smart students and their parents as well, to the doctors and other caregivers at Village Health Works, to VHW CEO Deogratias Niyizonkiza, Dr. Dennis Hano, and KIA Chairman Prof. Leonce Ndikumana, ... words are not enough to say thank you! Yes, we could not make it without you! All of you have been there for us, and your words of encouragement are always fuel for us to keep moving.



As we go ahead, I hope that our students will not only remember their experiences during the Summer Program but will build upon them and will always be optimistic even in tough times. Yes, studying is challenging but “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” – Helen Keller. One more time, thank you all for being a part of our summer program. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

By **Jean Pierre Niyongabo**

The End