

KIGUTU INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

KIA TIMES





KIA Times Members



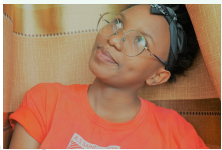
Nathalie Ila **Editor in Chief**
Mukerabirori



Israel Beracca **KIA Interviewer**
Manira



Richy Redempteur **Graphic Designer**
Isirahenda



Princia **Photographer**
Senga



Herve **Sports Writer**
Myonga



Roxanna Inelle **Arts & Culture**
Gateka



Diella **Africa Now & Then**
Shamika



Table of contents

- *Current Events.....Page 1-3*
- *Talent and Passions at KIA.....Page 4*
- *Arts and Culture.....Page 5-6*
- *KIA Faculty.....Page 7-8*
- *Sports News.....Page 9-10*
- *African Now and Then.....Page 10-12*



KIA'S BIRTHDAY

On KIA's birthday, great activities were organized in celebration of the high school's first year of existence.

Several days before, a committee of students volunteered to organize the ceremony. Each student put together their talents and skills to make the birthday the best day. Balloons and beautiful decorations were hanging all over the walls, some students were making masks, and others were setting up the dance floor.



Amidst the excitement, nothing was better than a contest between the six KIA families, now bigger with our newest members. Students engaged in many cool and funny games with an energetic mood which strengthened the bond between students.

Back at the KIA compound, it was time for the masquerade ball, announcement of winners and many performances. In one word, the ceremony was amazing!

The Women's Health Pavilion visit

KIA students headed to the Women's health Pavilion which is two hundred meters from the KIA campus for a tour.



The Women's Health Pavilion is a building that will primarily be dedicated to helping women with issues concerning obstetrics, gynecology and surgery. It's a 85,000 ft square facility with 150 hospital beds and will also act as a teaching hospital. Architects on the site guided us into the almost finished building where we were introduced to some architectural techniques and styles.

The building has four operation rooms which include the prenatal and postnatal wards, and two elevators. Fun fact: there's only one other hospital with elevators in Burundi! In a nut shell, it was very surprising to see such architecture and technological prowess in Kigutu. The tour inspired many students to pursue careers in architecture and medicine.





*Pictures of the
Women's health
Pavilion Hospital*



Cultural Talk

Twice a month on Tuesdays, from 5:30-6:30 PM, KIA students attend a *Cultural Talk* with Mr. Fabrice Nkurunziza. Mr. Nkurunziza is the EMR & OC user support/Art, Culture and Sports manager at VHW. During these conversations, we discuss and reflect on Burundian traditions. KIA students learn about the lives of their ancestors and how it forged the time we are living in. As many Burundians like to say, our culture is disappearing really quickly because today's generation is imitating western cultures. At KIA we are sharpening our critical thinking skills and leadership skills supported by foreign knowledge but setting our goals towards our country. Therefore, learning more about our culture is fundamental. These sessions are designed in a fun way where everyone can share his thoughts and concerns about our culture.





“The KIA Student Council exists to coordinate, innovate, and improve every area of the KIA experience by giving students a voice and by building a sustainable environment of mutual trust while growing leadership skills and responsibility.”

The above statement captures the mission of the student council. Ten students were elected by fellow students to be in charge of important posts to improve life at KIA.

The following are the student council posts: Head Girl, Head Boy, Academic Prefect, Year 2 Class Representative, Year 1 Class Representative, Boys Dormitory Prefect, Girls Dormitory Prefect, 2 Technology prefects, Sports and Clubs prefect, Events prefect.

KIA
STUDEN
t



"Yes, my dream is to be the best ping pong player in the world"

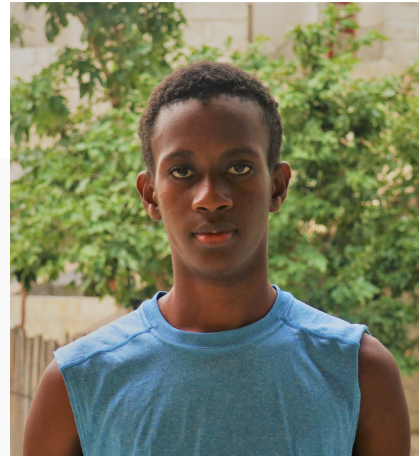
Our ping pong champion!

Audry Sage Igiraneza, a KIA student was noticed by his skills in Ping Pong when he first joined us last trimester.

Sage is a 15-year-old boy from Bujumbura, Commune Ntakangwa in the district of Carama. He has been playing ping pong for 5 years now.

He was inspired by his mother who also played ping pong. She encouraged him to practice the game/sport in order for him to have an interesting occupation and good health. He decided to join a team, Carama Table Tennis Club, fortunately it is in their neighborhood. He admitted that it wasn't easy at first but with practice he improved.

Sage's experience with ping pong has been filled with obstacles and challenges but he has faced them with determination. "Yes, there were championships that we organized in my team, at the beginning I failed a lot but I ended up accomplishing my goal which was to win and make my name known in ping pong," said Sage. Filled with hope and a dream, Sage plans to compete in the olympics.



Interviewee
:Audry
Sage, Year
1 student at
KIA

"Yes, my dream is to be the best player in the world. Even if it might be difficult I think I will at least make it to the Olympics." he added.

This whole story started from a little thing and some may call it unnecessary "advice" but it created a dream, a goal in someone's heart. Maybe sometimes what we deem unnecessary can become/be useful to someone else.

Ping Pong



Introduction by Roxanna Inelle Gateka

KIA Students are the most talented students I have ever known in the world. They sing, they dance, they draw, they speak in front of seventy people and more (which for me is a talent) but also, they write many creative essays and poems. Last term in English Literature class, Year 2 students wrote interesting and fun poems about their hair. Here are a few selected ones for you to enjoy.

For my Black hair

By Theodore Nzibavuga

My black hair, my smooth hair.
I am amazed about your growth,
in the way people don't know.
They think you grow slowly,
but you grow quickly.
My beautiful hair, my protector.
You are my protector from the sun,
when it's shining on me.
When you are fighting with the sun,
I don't know what is happening to me.
If i give you the water,
You show me your face.
If i remove you with the towel,
you show me your super face.
You have a secret for me,
no one can discover it.

The House of Peace

By Princia Senga

A yellow girl with orange hair
hard and short to do all the
hair shapes.
Her mother cutting and
she looks like a baby
Monster.
Days are going fast like
vegetables growing in a garden 10
years, the girl likes to braid.
People describe her as goofy,
creative, Brave, smart, serious and so
on....
They are always going to judge but
Only hair is the girl's peace house.

Where she found no judgment but the
discovery of creativity.

Braiding became
her habit

She is still young and the future is
waiting for her with her inspiration.

Black hair is beautiful.

Letter to my Black hair

By Schella Iteriteka

Oh Beautiful hair

Nobody seems like you Shine and stand
on

Top of my head

Giving my face flexible So incredible
..... Dirt

Dancing like wind in the sky Without
any egoism

Lover of my fingers

Blessed forest

I'm excited to have you

Flower of my head

Amazing Black

The big Afro

Like a joyful heart

You're amazing

Stow song of my head All the shapes

Black color

Wonderful mountain

With happiness and joy

Black hair.

I'm proud, I'm Black.

My Hair, My Plant **By Toussaint Mbabazi**

My hair is my plant
My plant has grown up with me
When the soil was like a desert,
My plant did not go away
My plant has started to regrow
My plant is a kind of a friend, it helps
me a lot When I'm thinking, it gives
me ideas I stretch it and abrakadabra
everything is done A plant protects the
soil
My plant is like that
It protects the soil against shock
My plant embellishes my soil
whenever combed It gives me many
different looks
My plant helps me to feel air passing
through it
My plant is stretchable which makes
the soil really special,
My plant is one of the things I
appreciate most
Goddy, my plant.

A poem about my hair **By Kelly Ishimweryayo**

My hair. My hair
It is so beautiful
It is my friend
It is a power
It is a tree
It is a gift from God.
It is my protector
It is a plant
I refuse to simply lay low
I love the way
My tree has grown
My hair, I say
It is my own
Wearing my crown with dignity My Afro is sacred
holy
Many people need like
I'm proud of my hair.



KIA teachers and their hobbies



His work is not easy because he teaches us life. When he's not teaching, he likes to relax, play football, music and to form meaningful connections.

Deogratias Ndagijimana:
Biology and Swahili teacher.



When she is not teaching, she enjoys spending most of her time with KIA students. She enjoys teaching Yoga, coaching the basketball team, and birdwatching.

Genevieve Pool: Global Perspectives, Technology, Art teacher and School Counselor



When she is not working on improving our English and encouraging us to read books, she enjoys reading, meaningful conversations, music and food.

Mary Ingabire: English Literature teacher/ELA



She works hard to improve our French skills so we can be bilingual. When she is not working, she is listening to gospel/religious songs and chilling with friends.

Angele Nduwimana:
French teacher.



As a mathematics teacher for KIA's first year students, he has greatly strengthened their mathematics. When he is not teaching, he spends his time relaxing at the beach, watching movies, cooking, and running.

Alexis Arakaza:
Mathematics teacher



A great advisor to students. We have learned many things from him and performed various experiments that have improved our knowledge in chemistry. When he is not teaching, he's chilling and sharing knowledge with his friends.

Augustin Nzohabonayo:
Chemistry teacher

KIA Teachers and their hobbies



Jean Pierre Niyongabo:
French, English and
Swahili teacher.

He teaches us important languages that we'll use all over the world. He has found a second family here at KIA. When he is not teaching, he is praying for us, for his family and enjoys creating new connections with other people.



Darlene Ncuti: School
Director/Supervisor.

Her job is not an easy one. She's in charge of the students' wellbeing and a great support system of the KIA community. Outside of her roles, Darlene enjoys music and watching cartoons.



Noah Firestone:
Mathematics and
Entrepreneurial
Leadership teacher.

He has been helping us become ethical leaders, entrepreneurs and thinkers. He enjoys cooking, hiking in the mountains, reading, playing board games, and cycling.



Willy Bellard Kira:
Physics teacher.

He's a great physics teacher and advisor. A strong motivator to the young generation. When he is not teaching, he enjoys acts of service and KIA's Thursday assemblies.

By Israel Berraca Manira and Nathalie Mukerabirori



Sports



Ball is life



People view sports as a way to get healthier, attain good looks among other things. When KIA students and teachers think of sports, they imagine basketball.

Basketball is a major aspect of KIA's culture. KIA's basketball team is called KGT. Ever since its formation, the team has been working very hard to achieve its goals despite challenging circumstances.

It all started when KIA students asked for a basketball court. At first, the request wasn't taken seriously because 'ball' was not taken as our life yet. Fortunately, a few months later, a basketball court was ready and interested students started to play. A lot of them were playing basketball just for fun without purpose.



Overtime, our big enough basketball court has accommodated more than just us KIA students. We've held competitive games with VHW employees and share the court with our neighboring school ECoFo.

On our first competitive match with VHW employees, many people come out to express support for both teams. Unfortunately, KGT lost. We didn't take the loss seriously because it was our first formal game. Also, we wanted to test our skills which showed us that there's much work left to do.

At the beginning of 2nd trimester, KGT was invited to participate in national basketball competitions between different schools in Burundi. Unfortunately we lost. However, for the KGT fans and supporters, all these losses have taught us to stay prepared, to take our practices more seriously and play beyond having fun.



Today, KGT has Ms. Genevieve Pool who has been instrumental to our team as the organizational coach. She organizes tryouts, creates practice schedules and motivates us. We train hard to boost our team to the next level. Hard work brings pain but there's no pain without gain. We're looking forward to KGT's gain/win (Keep Growing your Talent).

Ball is life!

By Herve Myonga

Africa Now and Then: Let's Break the Taboo

ISSUE 2 // FEBRUARY 2022

Burundi is an African country located in East Africa and known as the country of milk and honey or a country of a thousand hills. Burundi has over twelve million inhabitants for only 27,834 km. It is estimated that Burundi's population is equivalent to 0.15% of the total world population. Burundi's life or history has been anything but pleasant. Burundi has been tortured, killed, and raped by both its own people and outsiders.

Ikiza (translated from Kirundi as the catastrophe) or ubwicanyi (killings) was a series of killings that were committed in Burundi in 1972 by the Tutsi-dominated army and government. It is estimated that 100,000 and 150,000 were killed, while some other estimates that the death toll goes as high as 300,000.

Later, the mass killings of Tutsis were conducted by the majority-Hutu populace in Burundi from 1993 to 2005. The civil war was the result of the longstanding ethnic division between Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups where children were used widely by both sides in the war. The war is thought to have claimed the lives of 300,000 people.

"We are all Burundians, we are all children of God," were the last words said by the innocent kids of Buta as they died just because of differences in ethnicities. More importantly, it was because of their courage and their bravery to say "we are not going to separate ourselves for we are all Burundians" in 1997. These are a few examples that show how Burundi has suffered from its past and maybe is still suffering. One can imagine the cause that could push someone to kill his brother or where such

C
U
L
T
U
R
E



hate could come from? Burundians have suffered a lot from ethnic tensions but it doesn't stop them from teaching their children since their childhood about the difference between them and how though they are all Burundians, they are still different. This causes discrimination between each other in Burundi based on ethnicity and that is not talking about those parents who forbid their children to be friends with people who have the same ethnicity only.

Walking through KIA's doors, we've discussed this daunting reality with some students, and here are their ethnical stories:

> "I was born and raised in the North of Burundi and I knew about ethnicity since my early

childhood because of the discussions between my parents and those were mostly about criticizing the ethnicity that wasn't ours. It affected me because at school I knew everyone's ethnicity and I judged them by their ethnicity and not their proper persons. I won't tell it to my children because the only thing they have to know is that they are Burundians other than that is what brings hate between sisters and brothers."

> "I can assume that my grandmother is part of those old people who have suffered from

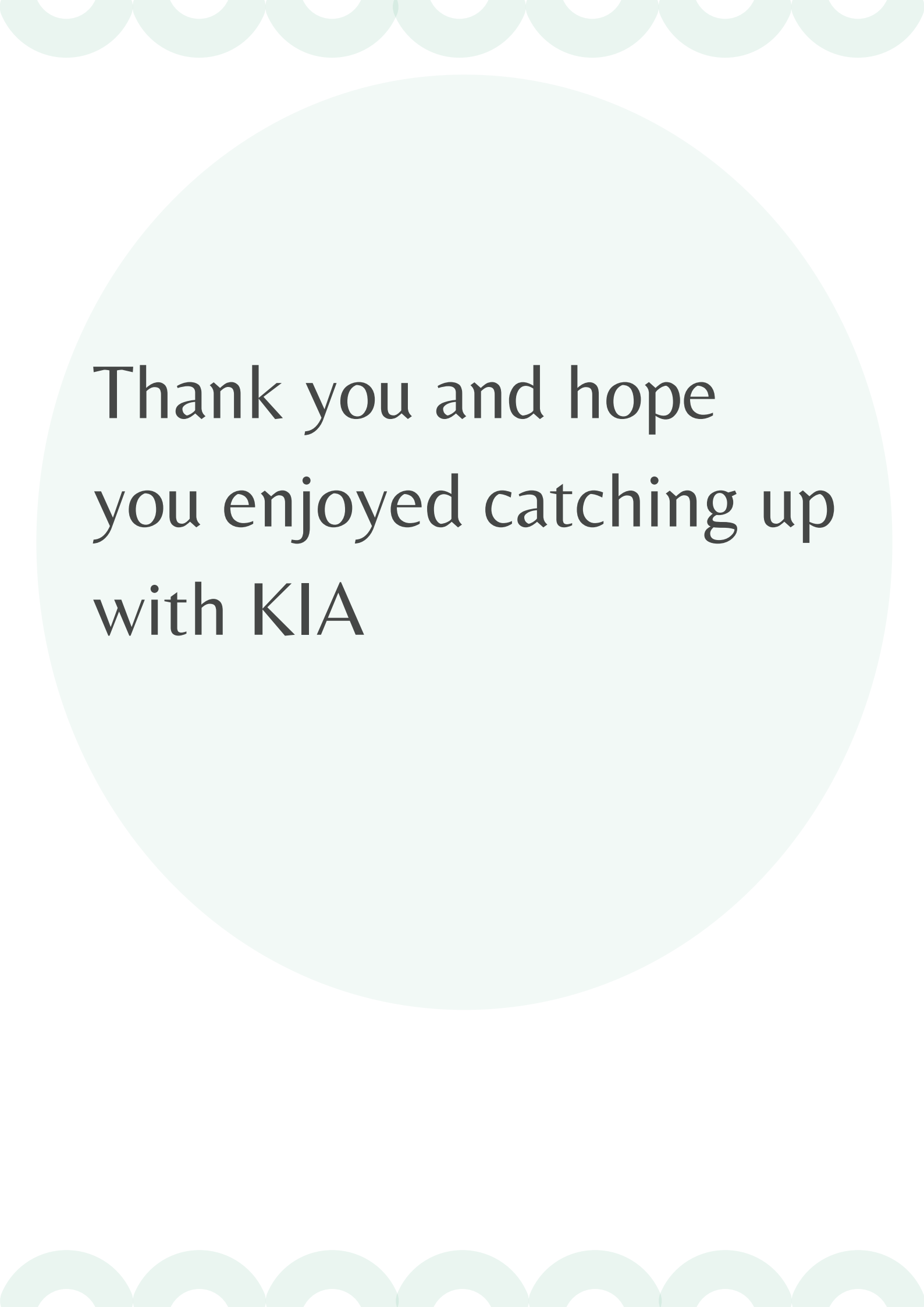
ethnicity and she did communicate that to us by making us hate the opposite ethnicity from us. I would not marry a person different from my ethnicity because they made me understand that I would be disgracing my family like my aunties did when they married guys from different ethnicity. I would way more have preferred to not be taught that since my childhood because I would not have had to offend and possibly hate people of different ethnicities."

> "When we were coming to school, a policeman stopped us to check if our driver was in norms. He entered the bus and immediately said, 'what is this kind of school where only one ethnicity is represented, that's not fair.' And I can assure you that it wasn't said kindly. After hearing that I kept thinking about it and how before choosing us to come to my school, they did not even ask us for a passport photo for them to see maybe what ethnicity we are. That is when I realized that Burundians are getting crazy about the ethnicity thing and that this is a bad sign for us all Burundians."

Dear Burundian parents, do you believe that your children need to be aware of the possible differences between us Burundians? Some parents argued that we must all understand where we came from to understand where we are going, but don't we all originate from Burundi, and aren't we all Burundians? Why do you have to pass on all of your hatred to your children? People say that children are a country's future, so what country are you building if you raise your children in this manner?

That may seem as if blaming Burundi's parents but please free Burundi of the heavy burden that has resulted in many deaths and animosity between brothers. Children do not want to be exposed to other wars. Yes, whether you like it or not, you are preparing your children for future wars by teaching them that we Burundians are different and that other ethnic groups are worse. Parents should follow the example of Les Martyrs of Buta, "we are all Burundians, we are all children of God".

By Diella Shamika



Thank you and hope
you enjoyed catching up
with KIA