



KIA TIMES TEAM



Table of contents

- Welcome Back Note.....Page 1
 - Editor's message

- KIA Students' Future Selves.....Page 2 -3
 - Interviews

- Arts and Culture.....Page 4 - 5
 - Language and personality

- Africa Now and Then.....Page 6 - 7
 - Let's break the Taboo Part 3

- Sports and Well-being.....Page 8
 - Football
 - Zumba

KIGUTU INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY



**KIA
TIMES
ISSUE #5**

Editor's Note

Dear esteemed reader,

I hope this month's newsletter finds you well and excited to catchup with KIA students. It has been a month and a half since we returned from Easter holidays which marked the end of the 2nd trimester and the beginning of another academic term.

As most previous terms have brought us wonderful changes, I'm happy to announce that Kigutu International Academy has a new head of school, Dr. Alice Rwamo. Dr. Alice has been with us for almost two weeks now. Even if we were dying to feature her in this month's newsletter, she deserves time to familiarize herself with the new environment.

In addition, our newsletter team has expanded to up-to fifteen members. It is an exciting improvement and we're looking forward to working together.

In the past, the newsletters have been longer because they featured similar topics. Moving forward, we'll keep them brief with the goal of highlighting major events of the month. Above all, we'll ensure that our newsletters don't lose the spirit of creativity and improvisation.

Finally, this issue will be exploring familiar topics from different angles and from fresh eyes/minds or simply new writers.

Enjoy!



**Nathalie Ila Mukerabirori:
Chief Editor**

Interviews

Lory's interview

What do you want to be in the future?

Since my childhood, I dreamed about becoming both an artist and a veterinarian. Many people around me might not consider those big or serious careers, but that is what I liked since then till now at this age. You might wonder what kind of artist..? In the future, I would like to see myself singing Gospel music which means that I will have to write songs. I would like to see myself drawing, painting various things, playing in movies, and creating animated characters for cartoons that will emphasize the raising of awareness of some serious world problems would be my favorite job.

And for animals, I just want them to not go extinct forever. I liked to take care of them even though I would fear them. Working and treating vulnerable animals which were in the world since would be great too and vastly in all those my dreams I won't forget humans or get selfish. I will try my best to help vulnerable people in my country.

Which project do you want to accomplish at Kigutu?

I don't have a fixed job yet but I would like to give opportunities to you like me who would like to become a future and famous artist. I don't know everybody here at Kigutu yet, but maybe I would get to know the best artists here by doing some interviews. Creating a website on which I may post their work would possibly help them.

What are the things that you like the most here at KIA?

Of course, there are multiple things that I like here at KIA. First of all, I like the environment that I work in. Every day I meet the people I live with, they are all nice, helpful, and respectful. Secondly, teachers are all cool, nice, supportive, advisers, and respectful. Without forgetting the food!! Thirdly, education is so unique and important. I feel like I am prepared to go to university due to how I work hard.

How are the KIA courses helping you achieve your dreams?

In the future, I know I will get to work so hard and force myself to not give up. So even though all the courses are not my favorite, I try to do my best and learn them in a funny and relaxed way. All the courses I'm enrolled in at KIA such as Civics, Sawhili, English and Global Perspectives are preparing me to be a great communicator, to learn more about my culture and other cultures around the world. Mathematics & Chemistry help me to get used to tough things. I can't forget Entrepreneurial Leadership, I have learned some key concepts that I will apply in my company God willing.

Interviews

Praise's Interview

What do you want to be in the future?

I want to be a businessman and help many people here in Burundi. I would like to create opportunities for young people, improve the value of Burundian money, and build enterprises to make Burundians known.

Which project do you want to accomplish at Kigutu?

I'd like to have a cement project. What I foresee in the future is that there will be more construction projects here at Kigutu so there will be a need for a lot of cement to build those houses. Moreover, there will be a reduction as far as displacement is concerned.

What are the things that you like the most here at KIA?

I like how creative our teachers are when teaching us, and many opportunities to express ourselves will help us improve our leadership skills and grow our responsibility. Surprisingly, the way both students and teachers get along with one another makes our school special.

How are the KIA courses helping you attend your dreams?

Entrepreneurial Leadership among other courses are teaching me by showing me how to be social, creative and how to be a good leader in different environments. All in all, all the courses have helped me to express myself and I appreciate this because, in the future, it will be easier for me to speak in public and to always apply critical thinking.

Interviewee 1: Lory Yenchsa Izere



Interviewee 2: Praise Musirikare



By Israel Berraca Manira & Bella Beltia Akimana

Arts and Culture

How language affects someone's personality

Every living person on earth has a certain language that represents his nationality, his culture, and his personality. Every living person on earth has this language when people look at him they only see it. This same language is like a signature that differentiates him from thousands and millions of people. Have you ever thought about how this language can affect you? How can it even cause you problems when you switch to another one? Language can affect us in so many ways that we are not aware of some.

Language is everyone's identity and by being so it can affect us personally. Everyone on earth has this language that he feels most comfortable using. Everyone has this 'I feel good about myself language. The 'this is me, this is who I am' language. Most of the time, this language is the mother tongue. The language your parents taught you, you grew up using, and that everyone around you uses. Everyone should have this language because we all need to feel that the language we use suits well with the person we are. To feel this sense of comfort when you speak, this sense of being listened to and understood.

Human beings tend to have this habit, that if they want to have fun and joke with their friends, they have to use this language. If they are at work, they have to use this one. In their families, they use this. And several other examples of this kind. This is seen everywhere in everyone. Every person has a language he/she is more comfortable using in various situations.

As known, language is used to communicate with people surrounding us to better live together as a community or society. Even though the language is used to communicate, the language you use to communicate might affect you socially. Your mother language is always the most comfortable language most people prefer to use but as you know and use many languages, this affects your behavior towards the person you're talking to.

When talking in our mother language, we tend to express our emotions show some feelings and through facial signs on our faces that can say a lot about the message we are trying to give. When talking in another language, our feelings change based on which language we feel the most comfortable communicating with. However, that may cause misunderstandings on exactly what message you are trying to give to the person listening to you and looking at the expressions on your face at the same time same.

Also, people that we are surrounded by, such as friends, in some cases feel more comfortable communicating with you in a certain type of language which is the language you normally communicate with but the switch to a different language may change the feel of your friends when communicating.

The language we use affects the way we communicate with people around us and the way people feel about us when trying to communicate with them.

Arts and Culture

How language affects one's personality

As it is no stranger to KIA students, some have expressed the feeling that, sometimes, the exact message they were trying to communicate was not understood the way they expected to.

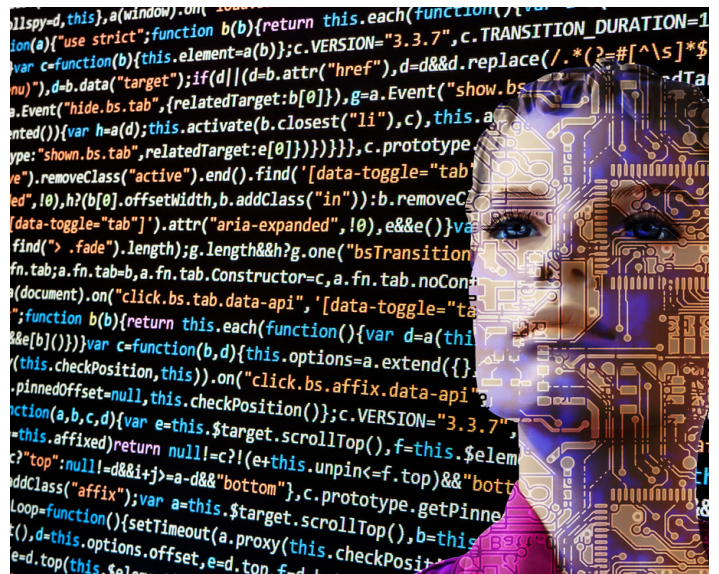
Alternatively, friends did not take them seriously when speaking English in the dorms since the same friends felt they were weird.

Not only does language affect people socially but it also affects their professional lives.

It is difficult for people to do their job when using a second language as it is for some KIA teachers. Some of them have communicated how difficult it is to make their students properly understand a course in class because of the language that they had to use.

In brief, language affects how people communicate with the society that they live in and how they do their job properly when using a certain type of language.

By Roxanna I. Gateka & Christa Ella Irishura



Let's break the taboo * part 3

The relationship between a person's skin color and their ability (intelligence). Are white people smarter than black people?

Africans were introduced to education by colonizers. The education Africans received had the purpose of making them obedient enslaved people and easy tools. Africans were considered like animals by colonizers, living beings without souls. Africans embodied their new identity as second-class citizens in comparison to Europeans. Africans were introduced to a white Jesus, a white "God," and their religious beliefs were all for naught.

Decades later, Africans still think of themselves as inferior to white men and raise their children with the same beliefs. However, are white people truly smarter than Africans? Is their intelligence justified by their skin color? Does one's skin reveal or demonstrate one's competence or abilities?

Some of the KIA students were given this riddle: "Who would you choose between a white person and a black person with the same degree as your teacher?" The interviews show different perspectives. And below are some students' responses:

"If I had the choice, I would choose a black teacher only if I were in Burundi, because only a Burundian teacher can illustrate the things he is teaching me in real life, and by this, I mean Burundian real life," one of the KIA students said. "Otherwise, I would rather choose a white person because I believe he studied in a good environment, and that makes him more capable."

"I would choose the white person because, even if they have the same degree, the white person seems more interesting and possibly more intelligent to me because his upbringing was not comparable to that of the African person." Almost all of the responses resembled the ones shared, and all of them seemed to testify that white skin makes white people more interesting and intelligent than black people. This has its roots in colonization where African people were introduced to a new culture and started to consider themselves less than enough because of their skin color. When colonization was over, the pieces of the broken pot could not be put back together.

The degradation of African values results in scars from colonization that were not treated. Those scars result in Africans' not believing in themselves and Africa's potential. Africans see Africa's corruption and believe the continent is doomed. Nevertheless, Village Health Works demonstrates how a single man's vision can alter the lives of a thousand people.

Deogratias Niyizonkiza, an African man with a vision who sees the potential of Africa and his country, founded Village Health Works eleven years ago. This is not a typical organization; instead, it is a problem-solving organization. He saw the problems in his community and decided that the problems would not define his community. This is an example of how giving Africans the opportunity to help themselves can contribute to Africa's rise.

Let's break the taboo *part 3

The relationship between a person's skin color and their ability (intelligence). Are white people smarter than black people?

Africans need to give Africa a chance to grow. They need to send their nets into the water and catch the fish. Africa's lake and mineral resources are not there for the wealth of European nations. Africa is the birthplace of Nelson Mandela and Chinua Achebe, as well as Afro-Americans such as Maya Angelou, Harriet Tubman etc. All those examples show that Africa does have potential.

Studying at an international school where students met people from diverse backgrounds and diverse skin tones pushed them to think about the African reality. It pushed students to make a comparison between a white teacher and a black teacher. Students found that they were all competent when given access to equal opportunities. Students discovered that neither knowledge nor competence was racial.

However, it was all the fruit of hard work. Let us finally open our eyes and let the sunshine shine over us. We can help the development of our beloved Africa again because, together, with our minds changed, we can help the development of our beloved Africa.

By Shamika Diella & Ella Ellycia Irumva



Sports and Well-being

Football at KIA

New students' talents have shown exceptional skills in the most valuable sports worldwide, that is, soccer, which we commonly call football in our country. Football is a sport that has united people for thousands of years and it is not an exception at Kigutu International Academy.

Willy Bellard Kira, one of our teachers who has the same passion for this sport, has regrouped all the students interested in football, and together they have started to create a team that has shown incredibly good results in their everyday practice. It is eye-opening to see how many dreams that are seen as impossible to achieve have led students to fight for their dream by putting hard work into their practices.

It is not just a dream, but it has become a goal for them, a goal that they are ready to fight for with no regard to anything that might discourage them. "It is a waste of time:" many have said. However, would you say the same words to Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi? I don't think so, but one thing I am convinced of is that if "You set a fire in your heart and start fighting, you will see the difference."

By Herve Myonga

Zumba at KIA

Zumba is one of the sports practiced at KIA. The sport started last year, at the time, it was called gym tonic. Mr. Peter, an employee of Village Health Works worked as the instructor but due to Covid, the activity had to come to a halt. It is said that absence makes the heart grow fonder and so with the cancellation of gymtonic, KIA students found themselves longing for a similar kind. Hence the introduction of Zumba at KIA.



Most of us know this sport as a Columbian sport but KIA's students practice it too every Friday after classes. Also, know that it is practiced mostly by girls while the boys and other girls are on the school court. Some of the students who practice this sport said that it is very helpful for them because they have seen that it allows them to keep their bodies healthy and in tip-top shape.

"As long as we still searching, the answer will come"

By Ella Kercy Manariyo

Acknowledgements

We'd like to thank Mr. Jean Pierre Niyongabo for his continued support and guidance. Mr. Jean Pierre also translates the newsletter from English to French and has also taken on the role of editing/polishing the English version. We'd also like to thank our newest members for dedicating their time and energy to our team in order to create quality content. And with deepest gratitude, we appreciate our readers who take their time to keep up with KIA students through the monthly newsletters.

THE END