

PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015/2016 ACADEMIC YEAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2016 ANNUAL SPEECH, PRIZE GIVING AND YEAR SIX GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON 15th JULY 2016.

Our Chief Guest, H.E Kinuthia Mbugua, Governor Of Nakuru County. Your Excellency Sir, how nice of you to have spared your valuable time so as to be with us this afternoon, considering your tight schedule. Welcome your Excellency and feel at home. Your presence is symbolic of that special place for our school in the books of your County Government of Nakuru. Allow me sir, to extend a warm welcome to the other members of your entourage with a warm 'karibu sana.' Chief Guest sir, we remain determined, even more than before, to take and keep our rightful place among the successful private schools in this county and country. For in so doing we will inspire our learners into making their dreams a reality and the world a much better and more progressive place.

We greatly appreciate Lion Aiyappa, President Lions Club of Nakuru, for gracing this occasion as our Guest of Honour, along with his other esteemed members of the Lions Club of Nakuru.

Your Excellency sir, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to gladly acknowledge the presence of our ever dedicated and serving members of the Lions Club of Nakuru Schools Management Board, led by the Chairman Lion Anil Walia.

I also recognize with respect the presence of the Nakuru Lions Schools' Administrator Mrs. Jaswinder Bhangu, the Head teachers of our sister schools Mr. Imbusi and Madam Maria.

I salute our dear parents, staff and our lovely children, all with whom we have continued as a family in our commitment to our agenda.

I wish to begin my report with my favourite quote from Vince Lombardy, **Quote** ; 'The measure of who we are, is, what we do, with what we have.' **Unquote**. I believe that we have done good justice to our course through our genuine efforts in the academic year just ending. Today, we hold our 26th Annual Speech, Prize Giving and Year Six Graduation Ceremony to celebrate our efforts as a family. It is therefore in order to reflect, more on our purpose for excellence, such as that which made 2015/2016 an exciting academic year.

We thank God for His divine guidance, and all the human support we received throughout the year. Our determination to overcome our challenges with the resolve to learn from the lessons taught has truly made us better achievers.

We remain committed to our mission of 'Empowering the learner with holistic education for self-actualization' and true to our motto: 'Excellence in education and service through diligence'. These are further underlined by our vision of becoming an enviable center of excellence in education, which fosters graduates able to go forth and enhance humanity, through noble service. Little wonder then that these guiding statements underpin our culture as managers, educators, parents and learners ever ready to progress collaboratively.

We continue to make significant progress in the expansion of our curriculum, better discipline and time management, objective literacy programmes, pastoral care, community service, careers guidance,

counselling, life skills & living values, as well as leadership initiatives.

ON THE ACADEMIC FRONT, I am happy to report that once again, our students led in the country in four subjects in the global Cambridge International Examinations, as declared in the 2015 bulletin of Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards, Kenya Chapter. I request you all to join me in appreciating the following students, the staff that prepared them and their proud parents, for this great accomplishment:-

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| 1st in IGCSE Accounting in Kenya | - Nikita Lotiya |
| 1st in IGCSE Environmental Science in Kenya | - John Kahumbu |
| 1st in GCE AS Computing in Kenya | - Mubariz Ahmed |
| 1st in GCE A' Level Literature in Kenya | - Joanna Kahumbu |

We appreciate the efforts by all, in this continued story of academic excellence, over the years. The consistency with which the awards continue to be won yearly is commendable. These results reflect the true picture of a school we all know to be outstanding.

I now wish to give some general remarks on our centre's performance in all the Cambridge International assessments.

- Joanna Kahumbu led at the GCE Advanced Level with a maximum 3 As, 1 of them being a star. The CIE prescribed High Grade Pass rate for the group was 78%.**
- Mubariz Ahmed, topped the GCE AS Level Class with a maximum 4 straight As. The CIE prescribed High Grade Pass rate for the class was 46%. The staff and students have been working hard to ensure that this performance is greatly improved upon when the results for the A' Level Final Sitting by the class are released next month. Along those of the other examination classes, of course.**
- Nikita Lotiya was our top IGCSE Level Candidate with 10 As, 8 of which were A*s. The CIE prescribed High Grade Pass rate for the class was 75%.**

- In the May 2016 CIE Checkpoint sitting by the Year 8s, Shrey Patel topped with a checkpoint rated score of 92.7%. The CIE prescribed High Grade pass rate for the class was 85%.
- Arpit Srivasatava was top in Key Stage 2 June 2016 SATs for Year Sixes, with a score of 85.7%. The CIE prescribed High Grade pass rate for the class was 70%.

As always, the actual results only give us half the story. Let us not forget the support, dedication and inspiration from a whole lot of stakeholders and the circumstances, within which they all attempt to balance these with other issues of life.

We recently held the 2016 September Year 1 intake interviews. This involved 35 pupils, who all qualified. Our own Lions Nursery presented these candidates. The group managed a mean score of 81.7 %. We thank Madam Maria and her Lions Nursery staff for these lovely young ones.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, We strive to Develop A Holistic Child, Through Many Other Initiatives out of class. Kindly allow me to touch on some of them;

-In line with our sponsors' motto, 'we serve', charity work was well undertaken this year through a number of initiatives:-

A]- On the occasion of the 2015 Cycle with The Rhino challenge, held at the Lake Nakuru National Park, our students managed to raise 46,400 shillings towards the protection and conservation the Rhino, one of the endangered wildlife species. 35 of our students took part in the actual cycling race. Bill Richardson and Glen Kuria finished 1st and 3rd respectively, in the Senior Category.

B]- During this year's school mufti day, normally the students' own initiative, the learners raised 26, 900 shillings which they spent on buying assorted blue tooth devices towards enhancement of their performing arts and multimedia interactive learning.

C]. ONE OF OUR EXTERNAL MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE IS THE BARACK OBAMA LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME: Our participating students have been involved in several training and exposure ventures in and out of the country. Currently they are preparing for their visit to the U.S.A, soon after school closes. 29 of them will be involved. We wish them well and remind them to be our good ambassadors during the visit.

D] We have entered 6 items for this year's Kenya National Music Festival to be held next month in Nairobi. During last year's festival, held in Kisumu, Ardhra George scooped two First Position awards nationally, for her outstanding dancing talent. In fact she was declared national Queen of Indian Traditional dance. The young Karmandip Viridi emerged Second in her dancing category.

E] The Leo Club; Or the future Lions if you wish, is another solid forum that continues to add great value to our children's learning and development. We appreciate the Leos, under the sponsorship of the Lions Club of Nakuru, for their continued involvement in activities and events that instil in them responsibility and leadership skills. They are always active in offering voluntary and quality services in and out of school, as needed.

F] In this year's national Young Nation painting contest; Angelin Antony of Year 3 was declared among the top ten winners nationally. This being the second year running that she has done it.

G] The President's Award Scheme has had a good year too; with a total of 3 members attaining the Bronze, and 23 of them the Silver, Awards.

I] At a time when literacy is firmly on the educational agenda, it was great to see the positive impact of a range of initiatives this year. Our formal library and book reading Programme continues to gather momentum. There has been an addition of great literacy value to our reading programme. We have teamed up with the Kenya National Library Services and are able to access over 2400 readers annually, for our children to use internally. Further, the Aga Khan foundation, in conjunction with the Lions Club, have extended to us the Reading-For-Children Programme by offering us new books. They will also provide for us lockable shelves for the books.

I request all of us to support these initiatives for the sake of our children's high literacy and knowledge standards.

J] In our effort to enhance environmental awareness and protection through the Giraffe Centre National competition, our students and pupils, under the Wildlife and Environmental club, submitted pieces of artwork and essays for this year's competition. The theme was "OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR LIFE, OUR FUTURE. Joy Nduta and Rashmi Thakkur were second nationally in the artwork and essay categories respectively.

K. In the area of games; Numerous intra and inter-school fixtures in an array of sporting fields were organized throughout the Year. The major events included the annual swimming gala, cross country and, inter-house or inter-class ball games. We plan to initiate more specialized training in these sports, alongside; squash, tae kwon do, badminton and tennis, in order to give our children a better competitive edge and more exposure in sports.

L. The Gate Pass is now in use. This, along with surveillance through the CCTV cameras, has added greatly to the good care of our children's whereabouts and safety, especially when they depart from school.

M. The others key annual events held were the debating, elocution, cultural and talent show, education expo, academic quiz challenge and Lions International Annual Peace Poster competition. All of which kept as well engaged and active throughout the year; all in harmony with our rallying call for the year that was; 'Bringing the best of our talents'.

N. Our 4th edition of the school magazine, "The Melvin Times" is out. As usual a copy will be issued to all parents, courtesy of our School Management Board. Ensure to go through it and see how our learners continue to partner with the teachers as they enhance their educational experiences through script.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen; I must say that we are greatly indebted to the Lions, who work tirelessly to see to it that we meet the needs of our school as it continues to develop and excel. Kindly allow me to thank Lion Anil Walia, Chairman of the Lions Club of Nakuru Schools Management Board; along with his team of dedicated Lions, for their great and selfless input. We thank the immediate former Club President, Lion Yashvi Shah, for her good care during the Lionistic year just ended.

The Lions investment and support in key areas is well expressed through their latest undertakings. These include the production of *the 4th edition of our annual school magazine; the development and soon to be launched school website; the execution of our 2016 Melvin Education Expo; the use of the Gate Pass for secure & monitored movement of our learners through CCTV surveillance; general refurbishment of our infrastructure; the planned purchase of more upgraded computers for better teaching and research; the enhancement of our Literacy and Reading Programme scheme; the interaction and exposure of our staff to ventures and involvement that fosters their professionalism; our engagement in the many external and*

internal child empowerment activities as earlier highlighted..... Just to mention but some.

I take this chance to assure our sponsors, the Management board and parents, of our dedication to the right course. I appeal to all our learners and staff to fully utilize the resources offered, so that we can together, continue in our rise as a centre of excellence both in our output and outlook.

Ladies and Gentlemen, *kindly put your hands together in appreciation of the Lions for their invaluable input.*

To our dear children I ask this question; “When do you start to realise your destiny?” The answer to this question should already be known to you. It is right now and from this moment onwards, for those who have not yet done so as yet! Your biggest enemy would be your focusing on things which are of no positive value in your life, while leaving out those which are meant to help in shaping well your destiny. Please stay truthful to the right values, attitudes, skills and knowledge, and avoid entirely the numerous distractions that only end up spoiling your life; whether now or in future.

Dear Parents: I thank you for making Melvin Jones Lions Academy your school of preference. We are under no illusion about the fact that you have entrusted us with your most valuable assets: that is your children. I appreciate the healthy partnership that we have forged with you parents in the business of our children’s education

Your Excellency Ladies and Gentlemen; As I conclude, it would be careless of me not to mention the outstanding work of our staff. Without their support my office would not be able to operate as it does, especially given the fact that they carry out their duties with admirable consistency. A school Principal’s job is becoming an increasingly challenging role and without a well organized, efficient and ambitious team it would not be as enjoyable. I say a big thank you to our Administrator, Mrs. Jaswinder Bhangu; Our two deputies, Mr. Juma and Mr. Mwaniki; The Departmental Heads; teachers; All administrative and maintenance staff. I thank our staff for staying the course together, both in times of highs and lows. Their consistency, dedication and

professional collaboration has been admirable. Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, kindly allow me to request our staff to be upstanding wherever they are, so that we may appreciate them with a good round of applause..... Thank you

I wish the entire Melvin Family an enjoyable and fruitful long vacation. I remain hopeful to seeing you all on 30th August, for the commencement of the next Academic Year. Let us all be there for one another. After all is said and done; we remain that one and noble Melvin Jones Lions Academy Family.

Thank you and God richly bless you all.

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YEAR SIX GRADUATION

LADIES AND GENTLEMENT THIS IS NOW A GREAT MOMENT IN THE LIVES OF 34 PUPILS WHO HAVE NOW COMPLETED JUNIOR SCHOOL. THIS, FOR THEM, MARKS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN THEIR ACADEMIC JOURNEY. THIS CLASS WILL BE JOINING THE SENIOR WING IN SEPTEMBER. I NOW PRESENT TO YOU THE 2015/2016 YEAR SIX GRADUATING CLASS AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY INTO THE HALL LED BY THE JUNIOR SCHOOL DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MR. MWANIKI

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AT THIS JUNCTURE IT IS MY HUMBLE REQUEST TO OUR CHIEF GUEST TO COME UP TO THE STAGE AND PRESENT THE YOUNG ONES WITH THEIR GRADUATION CERTIFICATES AND JUNIOR SCHOOL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS.
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