

# MIFUMI PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

9/April/2008

What an amazing time we've had in the month of March! A series of activities took place at school both outside and inside the classrooms though most of them involved the children in active learning in the classrooms.

As efforts continue to improve upon the academic standard of the children, the teachers have this time greatly involved the children in the learning process. The children have had great opportunities to do peer teaching and participate in co-operative learning in the various classes.

**Agriculture** – in an effort to impart practical skills in children, the school has continued to cultivate some crops in the school gardens i.e. soya beans, maize and beans. These gardens are used for demonstration purposes. The produce at the time of harvest will help to supplement the children's lunch at school.

Furthermore, the children with the teachers' guidance have made several ground maps and shapes around the school compound. This besides, posters have made the school have a talking compound. One of the happy children, Bireza William (P.7) said the ground maps and shapes would aid them to do Primary Leaving Examinations better because wherever they moved, they had some educational message to read.

Having had a full week of campaigns, the children had the chance to democratically elect their school prefects. The most outstanding and bitterly fought posts were that of the head girl and head boy. The children who took the posts were Adikini Clare and Omali Paul respectively.

I'm happy to report here that some children with special needs got elected to the prefects body – most notable is Oketcho Patrick (P.5) who among others is also responsible for beautification of school compound i.e. ensure the school flowers are well protected. Oketcho Patrick enjoys his responsibility and this has made him one of the first few pupils to arrive at school daily. The elections were presided over by Oketcho John Martin as Chairperson, Amito Grace Secretary, Headteacher as election observer and the remaining teachers as polling agents.

The children are taken to Mifumi Health Centre in turns by class for health screening. This has greatly helped us to identify children who have health problems for treatment.

Following a joint meeting held in early March among the mothers of girls P.5 – P.7, the girls and staff counsellors, I'm indeed pleased to say that the pupils are smarter, cleaner and more open to staff counselors with their problems. We hope to carry out more of such sensitization programmes and extend it to the fathers as well.

## **Prizes:**

The pupils who participated in athletics competitions have all been given prizes – Exercise books and pens in recognition for their fabulous performances and sportsmanship. This was made possible by donation from Mifumi project.

**Debates and quizzes** – The pupils in the whole school have been fully engaged in this to help them build confidence in their work and develop language i.e. English. They discuss topics/motions like Bride price and its effects, Effects of Domestic violence on children.

**Story telling** - This is now greatly practiced and encouraged in the lower primary to enable our children develop their speech organs, confidence and interest.

**Music, dance and drama** – practised by the pupils both in class and outside class. In term II, the school will practise on competitive basis and compete with other schools. The school has acquired just a few costumes and repaired some musical instruments to improve upon the standard of music in the school. The school however, looks to anybody who can come forward to help in donations to purchase more musical instruments and costumes.

**Finance/Grants:**

The school has received a grant of 224,700/= (£73) from the government to cater for 430 children for school activities in the first half the term. This is very little and has made running school programmes difficult.

The Mifumi project grant to school so far released totals to 1,146,000/= for school programmes. These include Agriculture, monthly tests, stationery and co-curricular activities plus school borehole repair/maintenance.

Evelyn Schiller of the Mifumi project on 01/14/2008 visited the school and had a few chat with both teachers and children during which video coverage of school programmes was carried out.

On the 8/April/2008, the children’s congress was launched by the Mifumi project. The major activities here will be in full gear in term 2.

The teachers have continued to implement school policies relentlessly. The mathematics head of department Owora Mary who put in every effort to ensure the school has ground maps and shapes said that she values ground shapes as this enables children to learn practically since the learners are fully involved in making the shapes/diagrams.

The teachers have also had internal seminars to enhance their performance in the disciplines of Mathematics and English.

Now and for the remainder of the term, our attention is in class and turns to examinations as the term ends on 25/April/2008.

**Conclusion:**

We thank all our partners, donors, parents, who have tirelessly continued to contribute towards the achievement of our vision.

Best Regards,

**Onyango Bernard  
HEADTEACHER**