

EIS PTA NEWSLETTER

ESSENCE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL KADUNA , NIGERIA, 2014

New Playground Equipment At AHV Primary



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Fun and safety for children

A very colorful addition has arrived at the African Heritage Village. The equipment is called *Red Alert*, and it features many delightful play events including four slides, a rock climber, a spiral stair case and climbing handle rings. The children are always eager when it is play time and they get plenty of exercise, outdoor fun,

and sunshine. We are teaching the children to play safely and to respect each other by not pushing or shoving. The nannies in the village have been asked to keep an eye on the children during break time, and we do talk about playing safely during assemblies.

Inside Story Headline

HIGHLIGHTS OF P.T.A. MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Guaranteed Education Platform:

Mal. Ali Joda informed the house of the progress recorded so far. He remarked that over 20 students are currently on the scheme.

2013/2014 Budget: The house passed the budget which captured a total expected income of N10,865,811.40 (ten million, eight hundred and sixty-five thousand, eight hundred and eleven naira, forty kobo) and a budgeted expenditure of N9,045,750.00 (nine million, and forty-five thousand, seven hundred and fifty naira) showing an expected income over expenditure amount of N1,845,651.00 (one million, eight hundred and forty-five thousand, six hundred and fifty-one naira) only, with 5% of the total budget N430,750.00 (four hundred and thirty thousand, seven hundred and fifty naira) for contingency.

Principal's Message: The Principal, Mrs D.L. Mohammed announced a 30% increment in school fees. The house was also briefed of the purchase of new playground equipment likely change of Essence school uniform in the coming year, the 100 book challenge to encourage students to become proficient and avid readers, community development/service, preparation for LEA, Spelling Bee, Geo Bee, graduation, Prize-Giving-Day .

Presentation of Prizes: The Princi-

pal, Mrs D.L. Mohammed recognised some ex-students who have distinguished themselves in their chosen courses of studies and careers. They include Mariam Awaisu, the best graduating student of American International University of Nigeria, and Adesuwa Ebuehi, the second best graduating students of NECO in Kaduna State.

Demonstration of a Finished Inverter: Malam Sambo Saleh jointly presented and demonstrated before the house an inverter constructed by those who attended the inverter training organized by Engr. Isa Musa.

Report on Trip to Dubai: The H.O.D. of Science, Mrs Chinwe Okoye and the Internal Auditor, Hajia Rabi Salisu-Olodoja presented a report to the house on the trip organized and sponsored for the longstanding teachers to Dubai. They expressed appreciation to the school and the P.T.A. for the opportunity

Distraction for Students: The School Counsellor, Mrs Titilayo Buti appealed to parents to take away distractions from their children which had become a hindrance to reading and studying. These distractions according to her included: flashy phones, laptops and other electronic devices.

Professional Teachers Speak Out

A Dedicated Teacher

By Mrs. Hauwa Ibrahim



A teacher is a role model for the student. A true teacher is the one who can immediately come down to the level of the students, transfer his soul to the student's soul and see through and understand through his mind. A true teacher is the one who uses himself as a bridge over which he invites the students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing joyfully, encourages them to create their own. A true teacher can always understand the students and show concern and love to them. A true teacher is one who impacts knowledge unto others. This is to say that a true teacher must have mastery knowledge over the subject to be taught. A true teacher's mastery knowledge is necessary because learners are inquisitive and are bound to ask a number of questions. A true teacher must develop accommodating characteristics and patience in dealing with learners. This is necessary

because we have different categories of learners. There are fast learners and slow learners. A true teacher should not be discouraged over slow learners but rather make further research into how best to meet the extra needs of the slow learners. Group discussions in class assist slow learners to catch up with fast learners. Professionally, a true teacher does not write-off a slow learner but rather supplies methods and methodologies to bring out the hidden talents in every individual. Graduation does not make a teacher. This is so, because learning is a continuous process. For instance current affairs are a changing phenomenon and a true teacher must study to be abreast of the current phenomenon. A true teacher must study to be conversant with contemporary issues. A true teacher is an 'educator' of learners, and places most interest in developing learners under his tutelage, far above personal interest. A true teacher puts into practice every acquired skill to develop learners under his tutelage. A true teacher is a 'talker' to others and so, must be given to fluency in speech making. A true teacher is a 'drawer of interest' to make the subject of his lesson clear to learners. That is why Alexander the 'Great said "I owe my birth to my parents but life to my teacher" There are categories of teachers born or trained, an up-date or assuming teacher-where do you belong?

Reading: An Educational Milestone to Surmount

Reading is the process of interpreting a written language. It has to do with speaking written or printed words aloud, to one's self or to an audience.

Reading is the key to learning. The ability to read is essential to being able to learn any subject taught in school. In our high-tech society, proficiency in reading is a must to compete favourably in today's job market. The information age is here with us, so greater demand is made on reading ability.

As parents and teachers it's up to us to make sure that our children and pupils can read, write, spell and pronounce words correctly. Reading and writing are simply talking on paper. So, learning to read should be made to be as much fun as learning to talk.

Reading is one of the challenges we learn everyday to conquer. It is learnt gradually, actively and it takes lots of practise throughout school life and beyond. It is a life long procedure. Hence, we must try to lay an enduring foundation.

Children with poor reading skills often portray the following traits:

- Poor grades,
- Are easily frustrated
- Have difficulty completing assignments
- Have low self-esteem and behaviour problems
- Have more physical illnesses due to stress
- Don't like school
- Grow up to be shy in front of groups.

Pat Wolfe, an education consultant author of the book "Building The Reading Brain" says you can tell by Kindergarten – age whether a child is likely to have trouble with reading; can the child hear rhyming words, and know that squiggles on a page stand for sounds when they talk? These are key pre-reading skills that lay the foundation for reading.

Often children start reading in the first grade. During that school year, parents and teachers should watch for these signs of reading difficulty like; confusing letters, connecting the wrong sound with letters, skipping words, not remembering words or frequently guessing at unknown words rather than sounding them.

According to a research team at Yale University's Centre for learning and Attention led by Dr. Sally Shaywitz, it was discovered from the research that the brain reads sound by sound so people who know how to sound out words can rapidly process what they see. In a nutshell, this research seems to be saying that the brain learns to read the same way it learns to talk, one sound at a time. So, as parents and teachers, we should encourage pupils to covert letters into sounds and the groups of sounds into words.

Reading is not automatic, but a skill to be learned. The reader must develop a conscious awareness that the letters on the page represent sounds of the spoken words. For example to read the word 'bag', the reader must parse or segment the word into its underlying phonological elements. Once this is done, the word can be identified. Dyslexics (or poor readers) can only be helped by the use of intensive phonics. This also applies to everyone who wants to learn how to read.

The intensified phonics approach for reading is the best. But often

times, the whole word (see and say) approach or a cursory use of phonics along with the whole word method are used. Some people or students can learn via this approach but its not the best because English language is a phonetic language hence should be taught through phonics. Unlike Chinese or Japanese which are picture languages and taught through word pictures and guessing.

There are about 44 sounds while there are over a million words in English. These facts readily explain why having to memorize 44 sounds as opposed to memorizing hundreds of words is the most efficient way to learn how to read.

As the fundamental phonological elements are being learnt, parents and teachers will now bring in vocabulary building. If you don't know what a word means you can't make much sense of a sentence containing that word. Reading a lot and using a dictionary can help build your vocabulary.

We as parents and teachers can encourage our children and pupils to enjoy reading by:

- Reading to and with our pupils. No matter what age your child is he will benefit from listening to you read aloud to him everyday possible.
- Discuss the books you read with your child.
- Be a good reading "model" by letting your child see you read.
- Introduce your child to books that discuss his hobby, interests or new experiences.
- Buy books as presents for your child and he'll learn to value books.
- Make sure your child has a library card.
- Have your child read out loud to you. Listen carefully and make sure to praise your child's reading.

The two most common pieces of advice about making children excel at reading are:

Having your child read more and inspire a love for reading in your child.

In conclusion, people don't become world class athletes by walking instead of running and they don't become World Class Mathematicians by just doing a lot of easy Math. To make a child excel at reading, use a direct approach that builds phonics, vocabulary, grammar and concentration skills. These all begin with us as parents and teachers.



Mrs. Abigail Watat

PARENTS AND TEACHERS: A FORMIDABLE TEAM



Upon careful study I found, that a good number of the world's greatest individuals, all of whom carved enviable niches for themselves in their chosen spheres of interests, shared one thing in common; which is, that they grew up under the care and tutelage of parents who chose to give a blind eye to their limitations/challenges but decided to talk them into seeing the 'how' of maximizing their strengths and not allowing their limitations to deprive them the opportunity of realizing their fullest potentials in life.

History abounds with examples of great men and women whose successes wouldn't have been possible without the early presence of parents who believed in them. **From Ben Solomon Carson to Chimamanda Adichie; from William Edward Burghardt DuBois to Luis Lionel Andres Messi; from the late Pakistani Pro-Democracy Activist, Benazir Bhutto to our own Adesua Ebuehi;** the list simply stretches to infinity. But having juxtaposed parental inputs in the lives of each of the afore-mentioned individuals vis-à-vis the successes they eventually recorded in life, I arrived at this one conclusion that *'one of the greatest disservices any parent can do to themselves, their children and the society at large, is to think of the development of a child (academically, morally and otherwise) as the sole responsibility of the teacher'*. This trend, unfortunately, is what obtains in today's ever-busy society, where parents are prone to giving up hope on their under-performing kids/children or simply abdicating their parental responsibilities to nannies and experts, all of whom only have third-person knowledge of the nuances of the child's behaviour. Gradually, as the child develops and advances in age, he begins to get the feeling that parenting is not as primary as work, career and the quest for self-fulfilment.

I have a firm belief that to nip this ugly trend in the bud, that critical synergy of parental (outside the class) and teacher (in the class) inputs, necessary to position a child to move past the point of being a dependent to becoming a first-class citizen of the society, must be struck with the understanding that Nigeria and indeed the entire world as we know it, is in dire need of men and women who possess the moral and intellectual stamina needed to provide answers to the myriad of problems and challenges that face us as a race.

The next two sections of this piece—**specifics and conclu-**

sion—are intended to add flesh to the primary argument supported in this write-up and also to encapsulate the central idea discussed.

Specifics

Due to brevity of time, I have decided to limit my supporting examples to four.

Benjamin Solomon Carson (born 1951) is an American doctor who overcame poverty, racism and a violent temper to become a world-renowned paediatric neurosurgeon. In his profile on the American Academy of Achievement website, it was noted that Carson 'had a temper so violent that he would attack other children, even his mother, at the slightest provocation'. But because Ben's mother, Sonya Carson, mandated him and his brother, Curtis, to read, revise and summarise at least one book every week and the fact that his geography teacher allowed him to express his views on what he understood about larva formation, Ben rose from being the dummy of the class to becoming a prestigious paediatric neurosurgeon and a recipient of the **Presidential Medal of Freedom** (the highest honour conferred on a civilian by a sitting American president) at the White House on June 20, 2008.

Luis Lionel Andres Messi

Leo messi, as he is famously called by football lovers all over the world, was born on June 24, 1987 in Rosario, Argentina. He was born with a growth hormone deficiency and so his parents, Jorge and Ceclia Messi, decided on a regimen of monthly growth hormone injections for their son, who at the age of 13 was already showing uncommon deftness with his feet on the field of play. 3 years later, his parent's absolute faith in the auspiciousness of his future brought them in contact with football scouts from FC Barcelona's youth academy, La Masia, and the rest was history. In 2012, Messi has made history as the only player in the history of the game to be named FIFA's player of the year for a record fourth time. While Jorge and Ceclia (his parents) watered Leo Messi, La Masia (his teacher) processed him to a finished product and the world celebrated him and still does. What a fine combination.

W.E.B. DuBois made history as the first African-American to obtain a PhD from Harvard. This academic feat marked a watershed in black American educational history as most African-Americans then, resumed the pursuit of their academic dreams with renewed vigour and fillip. He sure wouldn't have completed his PhD dissertation—*'the suppression of the African slave trade in the united states of America'* without a father who had an unflinching confidence in his leadership and intellectual abilities and constantly told him 'if it will be son, it is up to you'. Those ten words from DuBois Sr. Positioned W.E.B. DuBois, to be one of the leading voices against slave trade in America and beyond.

Adesua Ebuehi

I had the privilege of having a first-hand interaction with Mrs Ebuehi, a time-out for science (T.O.S.) teacher here at Essence International School, Kaduna. She told me how relentlessly she pushed her daughter, Adesua, to always strive to sit in the first row of the class, during normal lessons and during exams. This constant reminder from a concerned parent made young Adesua to approach her studies with more seriousness such that in 2013 when she graduated, she placed second on the NECO exams chart in Kaduna state. She is currently pursuing her baccalaureate at the University of Petroleum Resources in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria.

Conclusion

As a parent, has it ever crossed your mind that your attitude toward a child today could make or mar him 10 or 20 years down the line? If you understand that your child has a specific role to play in the growth and advancement of your country and that what happens to a child outside the classroom could either make or mar the teacher's efforts in class, then, you will give that child the kind of attention he/she needs to become truly great. Teachers at all levels should also be reminded of these two lines from **ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S LETTER TO HIS SON'S TEACHER:**

*...teach him always to have sublime faith in himself,
...because then he will have sublime faith in mankind.*

Words and attitude when used rightly could bring about a tremendous positive change in every sphere of human endeavour.

I rest my case.

Written by: Mr Okpara Samuel

HIGHLIGHTS OF P.T.A. GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014

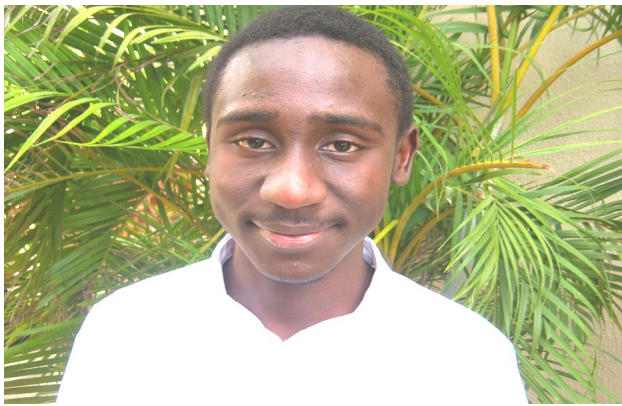
Increment of PTA Dues: The President, Mrs Hadiza Ali announced the increment of the PTA Dues by N1,000. She noted that this was necessary due to many philanthropic activities and capital projects embarked by the school and the need to get adequate funding for these projects.

Commissioning of Borehole: The house was informed of the commissioning of the borehole which was scheduled to take place on March 29, 2014 at 11:00am prompt.

Resurfacing of Sports Arena Phase I and II: The President, Mrs Hadiza Ali informed the house of the ongoing capital project. She stated that the project will be carried out in two phases. The facilities of the sports field will be upgraded with interlocking tiles for the basketball court and new basketball uprights. The other parts of the field will also accommodate various athletic activities including bicycles, tricycles, unicycle riding, a tennis court and guided outdoor exercises.

Principal's Message: The Principal, Mrs. D.L. Mohammed gave background information on the upgrading of sport facilities. The Principal remarked that the school held its Field Day and Geography Bee within the week and would be recognizing the winners from the African Heritage Village. Trophies were presented to all the winners. The Principal finally thanked all parents who took the time to attend the school activities.

Financial Report: The Treasurer, Mrs Hafsat Bukar presented a financial statement, which reflected a credit balance of N4,074,000 (four million and seventy-four thousand naira. Detailed copies of the financial reports were distributed to members.



Journey to Rugan Fulani

The Rugan Fulani is a small village where most Fulani people live and from time to time move on and change environment. The Fulani people are known for cattle rearing and migrating from one place to another. They have a nomadic life style. They are good and accommodating, especially when they meet a stranger who speaks and understands their language (Fulfulde). They are very shy and adaptable. This was my experience when I visited them. I was welcomed by their leader and was accompanied by Mal. Sambo and Mal. Nasiru. I was given a brief history of how “The Open Classroom” came to them. I was really thrilled by the story. The leader extended his greetings in hausa and in Fulfulde. He looked thankful and I asked him how his family was doing by saying “noi iyalu mada be luttube”, and he answered “Bedon Jam” with a big and toothy smile. Then the rest of his community members came and we exchanged greetings. Then we were directed to the Open Classroom blocks where the academic exercises take place. First, I was taken to the toddlers’ classroom. They were surprised at hearing me speak to them in fulfude. They all responded with flashy smiles and excitement. I noticed that they were all well-seated and well-behaved and most importantly, ready to learn! Their teacher uses songs and popular rhymes to drive his topics home. They even took the singing to the playground during break.... Amazing!

I went through some of their copy-books and found their effort commendable! I got the chance to talk to one of the pupils called Sakina, who managed just to give her name out of shyness. Then, I moved on to the next classroom. In all, there are about 8 classes. The next classroom had the primary pupils. I greeted them in Fulfulde, encouraged them to be at their best behaviour before leaving, but not before telling them how privileged they are to have the Open Classroom and the initiator of the project as a God – sent to them. I used this opportunity to encourage my principal, Mrs. D.L. Mohammed not to give up, no matter any obstacle. She has taken a huge responsibility that only God can reward her for. I used the opportunity to extend my condolences to the family of late Usman, who died recently. Then Mal. Sambo handed them the Open classroom printed obituary paper before we said goodbye to them. I love what I saw in terms of structure and the efforts of the Open classroom. May God continue to Bless and keep Mrs. D.L. Mohammed and the Open Classroom for all their efforts. Thank you madam for giving me this rare opportunity to be part of what the school-based NGO - the Open Classroom is doing at Rugan Fulani, More power to your elbows, Madam!

By: Affan Maiwada (SS.2B)

EIS GEO-BEE WINNERS



class	1st place	2nd place	3rd place
Primary 1	Asim Amir Ahmed. 1D	Usman Mahmood. 1D	Hayatudeen S Bello. 1E
Primary 2	Abdulbasit Audu. 2B	Jamila Mohammed. 2E	Mona Abdulsalam. 2B
Primary 3	Salamatu Mohammed. 3E	Ashraf Ajoge. 3A	Bhumika Nandawat. 3A
Primary 4	Toyesh Ramesh. 4A	Tahir Grillo. 4A	Majjida Laka. 4B
Primary 5	Nafisat Abbas. 4D	Farouk S Umar. 5B	Munira Abdullahi. 5D
Primary 6	Akash Kariyawasam. 6A	Samir Amir. 6B	Jude Olawuyi. 6A
JSI	Ruth Oforji. JS1A	Mercy Ubani JS1C	Chibuike Ekwujuru. JS1B
JS2	Alex Nwadike JS2A	Maryam Aliyu JS2A	Benedict Obi JS2B
JS3	Manas k Sharma JS3A	Zulkharnain Mahmood	Jocelyn Ajjola Oluwa JS3A
SS1	Hardik Nandawat SS1B	Sharon Watat SS1B	Halima Abba SS1B
SS2	Suleiman Lawal Kontagora SS2C	Abdullahi Adamu SS2D	Hafsat Mustapha SS2C
SS3	Yasmin Bawa SS3B	Saratu Gaiya SSB	Zainab Muhammed SS3A

You feel more international when you are learning about the world, so keep the globe in focus!



Left to right: Amir Ahmed pry 1 Akash Kariyawasam pry 6, Nafisat Abbas pry 5, Toyesh Ramesh pry 4, Salamatu Mohammed pry 3, Abdulbasit Audu pry 2, Asim Amir Ahmed



Left to right: Ruth Oforji. JS1A; Alex Nwadike JS2A; Manas K. Sharma JS3A ; Hardik Nandawat SS1B; Suleiman Lawal Kontagora SS2C; Yasmin Bawa SS3B.

EIS Math Bee Winners

class	1st place	2nd place	3rd place
Primary 1	Usman Mahmood 1D	Sanjay Kariyawasam 1E	Khadija Moham-med 1B
Primary 2	Abdulbasit Audu 2B	Ishaq M. Kakangi 2C	Aisha Munir Yaku-bu 2D
Primary 3	Ashraf Ajoge 3A	Musa Musa Gumel 3C	Imam Yazid 3E
Primary 4	Ibrahim Sulu Gambari 4B	Srimanas Madhu 4C	Toyesh Ramesh 4A
Primary 5	Moyosola Olowokure 5A	Farouk Umar Sagir 5B	Eghosa Iyamu 5B
Primary 6	Akash Kariyawasam 6A	Samir Amir 6B	Aliyu Suleiman 6A



FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, PRY 1-6: USMAN MAHMOOD, ABDULBASIT AUDU, ASHRAF AJOGE, IBRAHIM SULU GAMBARI, MOYOSOLA OLOWOKURE, AKASH KARYAWASAM.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Mrs Rita giving a face paint to the little ones during the tea party event.



Displays of face paintings during the event.



Primary three students showing off the secretary bird mask.



SS2 students dissecting the puzzle of the digestive system.



BOREHOLE AT AHV

The new constructed borehole at the African Heritage Village was graciously sponsored by a parent, Alh. Bamali in loving memory of his late daughter Zara Bamali. Many thanks to him.



Students were tasked to assemble the puzzle of the digestive system and to make a presentation to the Biology teacher Mrs Genevieve Onyeuko

EXCURSION TO GAMJI PARK



The tour guide; Mr Ayuba Kwasau explains various issues to the students.



Cross section of students at the Gamji park.



Amazing! The Ostrich egg in display before it is hatched.



Crocodiles basking in the sun. What a relaxation!



Students pose for a snapshot after the excursion tour with their teachers. Mr Wasiu and Mrs Genevive.



Hanifa Hassan Labo Polo player and champion displaying her trophy .