

Greetings From the Editor

by Elizabeth Thomas, PHS Student

Hello! The new semester has just started, we are thankful for the wonderful semester that has just passed. Things were very fine in different areas of life here at Peace House Secondary School (PHS).

We enjoyed the semester altogether. Teachers were very encouraging in class and we were also supported by other employees.

We faced some changes happening in our school. Some employees left to work at other places and some new teachers came to PHS. We are happy with the new teachers and support staff.

This summer we said goodbye to our director, Mr. Paul Kaufman. We would like to convey our thanks and gratitude for his fantastic work. In September, our new director, Mr. Jeff Hollister arrived. We are happy to say, "Welcome, feel at home! We hope that you will continue the fantastic job that has been started at our school."

This first *Peace House Drum* student newsletter will be the beginning of many newsletters coming afterwards. The paper will cover a range of information from the students; the happenings in our school, different academic issues, extra-curricular activities, sports, volunteer news, teachers and staff, our school environment and other topics like local politics, economics and social issues.

I call upon my dear readers to take time to pass over the marvelous articles written by the Peace House Secondary School students.



School Life

by Bahati Lemayani, PHS Student

Life at Peace House Secondary is so good. At PHS there are good teachers, many books, good shelter, and good buildings. On top of that, there are variety of after school activities such as swimming, sewing, football, netball, volleyball, rugby and so forth. We also have electricity, water, a nice environment and a garden for cultivating various crops such as maize, beans and bananas. Rabbits and sheep are also kept on campus.

School Life continued on page 2



Volunteer News

by Carolyn Gilbert, Volunteer



On a previous trip to Tanzania, I fell so deeply in love with the land, people, and culture (I can't say the same for its driving) that I got a job back in my home of Vermont to pay for a returning trip. As a minor travelling to East Africa solo, I needed a place that combined safety with freedom and my desire to help those in need. I found Peace House Africa by chance online and spent the month of July 2009 on campus.

During my stay at PHS, I found that the people there welcomed me to their desks, dorms and hearts. I came expecting to see how the students live and found myself living among them. I attended classes and joined the rugby team (even scored in our match) and over the course of my stay I spent over a week in the girls' dorm with my new friends. In our free time we played volleyball, cards, and jammed to Chris Brown and Lil Wayne!

Originally, when my friends in America asked what I was doing in Tanzania, I said I was teaching English. However, I was mistaken. Although I do believe I achieved that task, I learned more that I could have imagined. In reality, I was the biggest student at the school. My friends and classmates at PHS taught me about generosity, modesty, appreciation, determination, hope, and myself.

I'd like to thank Theo for welcoming me to her school and most of all to my classmates and friends at PHS whom I will never forget and will always love.

School Life continued...

I like studying hard since the environment does allow to do so. I also do sewing as my extra-curricular activity and enjoy it. The students here respect each other. We live as one family in peace, love and unity.

I enjoy the well arranged weekly school time - studying from Monday to Friday.

Personal study time and group discussion are at night. Weekend programs include hosting games, sports outings, workshops, formal and informal talks with the staff and so forth. I see myself growing holistically through all these experiences.

Students at PHS work hard so that we can persevere and reach our goals.

We thank our teachers and staff who are always by our side to make sure that we reach our goals.



PHS Environment

by Diana Sildion,
PHS Student

Peace House Secondary School has an amazing environment because it is surrounded by trees, grass, and flowers which make our school beautiful. It has nice classrooms for students to read. It also has good quality houses for teachers and volunteer visitors.

Recently, the library was opened. The library is named Kirchner Learning Center. It has been named after the key library benefactors, the Kirchner family. We are proud of the nice library! On top of that, we have nice scientific laboratory. We can do our practical's nicely. We enjoy studying in this kind of environment because it makes the learning process easy and enjoyable.

As students, we have very good accommodations; well decorated dorms and good shelter. Our environments are nice and clean. Every one of us is proud and enjoys being in this fantastic environment.



A Word from the Staff Representative by Angelo Kihaga, PHS Social Worker

I welcome you to enjoy the beats of *Drum!* We have just opened the new academic year (July –December 2009). The previous semester was of great success to both staff and students.

Academically, we had a nice time altogether. Teachers taught effectively and students performed well. However, some are encouraged to work harder so that they can do better this semester. Form II students are to take note of the coming Form II National Exams. Form I are to prepare for the coming end of semester papers; they are eventually required to meet the given school average.

Socially, we enjoyed being together as a family; eating together and sharing stories. Spiritually, we have been attending Sunday services. We appreciate the pastors who normally come to give a word to our students every Sunday.

Physically, we enjoyed seeing our sports teams playing against other neighboring schools. We have four sports teams at our school. These are football, netball, rugby and volleyball. We were impressed by the victory of our football and netball teams in the national UMISETA competitions. We were recognized by the Ministry of Education as the Kisongo zone champions after winning all games in both football and netball (Kisongo zone has 8 secondary schools). We were also pleased by the regular victory of our rugby team. Two students from PHS were selected to join the national youth rugby team and one netballer was selected to play in the regional team in national competition representing the Arusha region.

Emotionally and psychologically, we had nice one to one encounters with the students. The Social Work Department's formal and informal talks helped our students. Counseling services to the needy students was of great importance. We found some students emerging from trauma/depression and coping with environment, people, life situations and studies as well. We appreciate the contribution from social workers, teachers and the rest of the staff.



Kirchner Learning Center at Peace House Secondary School



Football at PHS



View at PHS

Extra-curricular Activities

by Ruth Desdery, PHS Student

Unlike many other schools, at PHS we have official extra-curricular activities which are under the Social Work Department. These activities are supervised by teachers and the support staff. After school activities is the range of activities which are to be done after class hours. Here at PHS, we normally perform these activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Generally, we have a variety of activities taking place at our school such as cooking, art, sewing, choir, young farmers, running, English club, netball, volleyball, rugby and football. These special activities are beneficial to our development especially on targeting one of the essential school objectives - holistic growth.

It is a fact that these activities make us healthier and stronger. Also, they enable us to reduce stress. We found ourselves having good relationships and mutuality since they are at the center of socialization. We have access to meet other people (students) from other schools especially in games which build friendships. Additionally, relaxation, comfort and creativity have been attained as a result of these activities, especially when playing different games.

We are proud of our activities supervisors who normally support us when accomplishing different activities plans.



Extra-curricular activities at PHS



Academic Life

by Walter Laban Elipokea, PHS Student

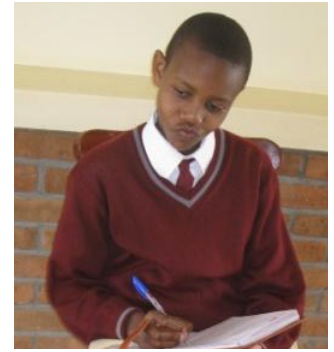
In our school, we get a quality education. Our teachers are experienced, they teach very well. We comprehend what we are taught because teachers use vivid examples when teaching, which is good.

Students and teachers try to work together in order to get a hold of the ideas by solving different questions and analyzing different concepts. Here at Peace House, there are two categories of cooperation. The first one is cooperation between students and

Students at Peace House always say that, "We are the young stars, and when we become mature stars, we will shine."

teachers, and the other one is the cooperation among the students. Students cooperate among themselves through joint revision in the classes in absence of teachers as well as group discussions.

We normally have study time (preparation) for two hours a day, most of the time is done during the night. During preparation time we study hard so we can attain better grades in our exams. Teachers always insist that we should read effectively so that we can pass and fulfill our ambitions.



Michigan Tech at PHS

by Cara Hanson, Volunteer/Researcher

Our team of eleven researchers from Michigan Technological University, USA, the University of Minnesota, USA and the University of Dar es Salaam arrived at PHS on June 27, 2009. We are part of Peace House Institute, Peace House Africa's initiative to promote research in Tanzania and interaction between students and scientists.



Significant public health problems challenge Tanzania and our research focuses on using appropriate technology to address these problems. The American government funds our work, which brings together American and Tanzanian Scientists, creating collaboration between Michigan Technological University and the University of Dar es Salaam. The program is called "Developing Global Scientists and Engineers through Collaborative Technology Innovation for Public Health Improvements in Tanzania." A new group of researchers will be back to PHS in June 2010 and 2011.

Research projects this year include: exploration of wastewater treatment at PHS (Cara Hanson), appropriate technology for avocado oil extraction (Bryna Fahrner), fluoride in local water (Damson Leonard), possible wind power in the Arusha area (Joel Mbwiga), technology in rural communities (Jarod Maggio), improvements among food process business incubators (Divina Kaombe), and appropriate fuel efficient stoves in Arusha (Patty Cobin). Work on these projects will continue for the next two years.

We are so grateful to have had the chance to learn more about Tanzania, do research and interact with the community. "I admire the students' continued motivation and enthusiasm towards their studies and their curiosity towards our work," observed Patty Cobin. Most of our team had the delightful pleasure of observing a class or two and also participating in after school activities at some time during our stay. Bryna commented, "Running club was intense. Trying to keep up with the students, dodging cattle and goats and taking in the rugged scenery was an exhilarating experience."

When any of us think back on this trip, we will always remember the people we met at Peace House. Thank you, Peace House community, for your warm welcome and for making our stay in Tanzania a great one!

