



KEEI NOTES

The Newsletter of Kijana Educational Empowerment Initiative

Empowering Kenyan and American youth through school development projects and cultural exchange.

Fall 2006 / Issue VI

Kijana

"Youth, or Young Person"
(In the Swahili language)



*A person is a person
through other persons.*

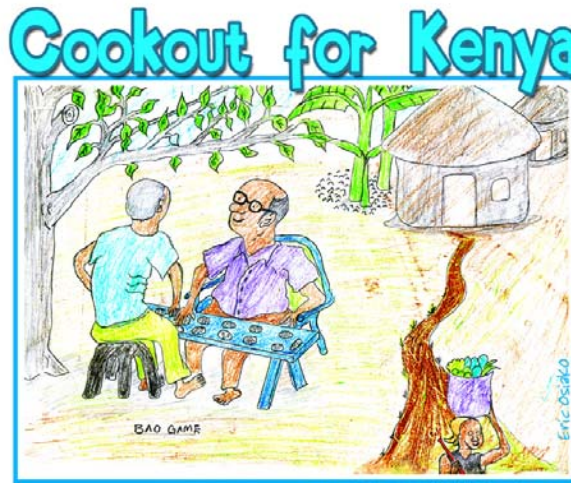
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Kenyan Visitors Join Us at 4th Annual Cookout for Kenya



are providing items to raffle: Flower Kingdom, Palm Beach Purses, Oxygen Health and Wellness Fitness Center, Skin Esthetics by Sherina, RN, among others. We will have African art and crafts for sale and as prizes. Moreover, we will be welcoming three Kenyan visitors at the event. Philip Mungai of Vizazi International, Rev. Charles Anabaka, and Susan Otuma will be our special guests. We will again enjoy the cooking of Valerie Schuster who has so generously volunteered her time and talents. We anticipate our best turnout yet. Please don't miss it!

Mark your calendars for Saturday December 2nd, when we will be holding our annual Cookout and fundraiser. The event will again be held at Ocean Cay Park in Jupiter. We want to thank the following sponsors of the event: the various Upper School organizations at The Benjamin School, News12, The Palm Beach Post, John Pew Racing, Erdenheim Farms, Imperial Frame Gallery, Elite Art of Africa, Jack Daubert MD, Kiwanis Club of North Palm Beach, and Tubi Exhaust Systems. Additionally we appreciate the various businesses that



Energetic Benjamin students generate global exchange

The week after Thanksgiving, the Benjamin School Community will welcome three visitors from Kenya for a two and a half week visit. The visit is the result of Benjamin students' curiosity and initiative. During the past few years, Benjamin teacher, Jim Cummings has interviewed students in Kenya by video and shared the student interviews with students at Benjamin. After viewing the interviews, many students expressed an interest in bringing

Mission

Kijana Educational Empowerment Initiative, a non-profit organization, promotes and cultivates youth empowerment through educational development, cross-cultural dialogue, and sustainable and environmentally friendly economic growth, among rural Kenyan school communities and American school communities.

students here to visit. The Benjamin Environmental Club, Human Rights Club and Student Council took the initiative to raise funds to make it happen. They organized a dance at the school, held a small concert and several students have sold Kenyan bracelets to raise funds to make it happen. We are particularly thankful for the leadership of students, Alyse Bentz, Maggie Spicer, Johanna Birney, JB Corey, and Rob Clark. Rob Clark also put together a brilliant video advertisement for the dance. The funds raised by the students, helped inspire some generous sponsorships of our event, which has prompted our cultural exchange. As mentioned previously, we will welcome three adults from Kenya. We hope to bring students over in the future. We thank our motivated students and hope it will stir more connections and efforts to bridge continental and cultural divides.

KEEI embarks upon path-breaking cross-cultural endeavor



In July of 2006, KEEI joined with Philip Mungai of Vizazi International to facilitate a unique cross-cultural visit to the Mount Kilimanjaro area of Kenya. 6 students and 2 teachers from Ebusiloli, along with 3 youths from Nairobi, 2 Americans and representatives of KEEI Kenya joined together to share experiences and thoughts with students at three schools near Oloiktoktok Kenya. Philip Mungai and Jim Cummings had shared an interest in promoting more communication and cross-cultural interactions among Kenyan students within Kenya. Together, the two planned and implemented the cross-cultural meetings. Mr. Mungai led student discussions and team-building activities. Apart from boarding schools, there is little infrastructure for such sharing among young people of different ethnicities in Kenya.

In building a more hopeful future, it is our belief that providing the means for young citizens to work together and share their ideas and visions, will move us a step closer to a more positive future. The students from Western Kenya and the Nairobi students were also able to visit Amboseli National Park, gaining more first-hand knowledge of one of their national treasures. This was a rare opportunity for the western Kenyans to visit another part of the nation and they enjoyed and learned tremendously from the experience. We anticipate continuing our partnership with Mr. Mungai and Vizazi International and are exploring future endeavors.

Mwituha Secondary School – July 2006



See previous Newsletter or our website: www.kijana.org for the story and details of the revival of Mwituha Secondary School.

Kijana Educational Empowerment Initiative

516 Gulf Road
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Your contribution is making a fundamental difference on two continents. Please visit our website for more information and photos of our activities.

www.kijana.org email: kijana@kijana.org