



KEEI NOTES

The Newsletter of Kijana Educational Empowerment Initiative

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

Summer 2007/ Issue VII

Kijana

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



A person is a person through other persons. -Bantu proverb

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Ebusiloli Secondary School Makes Leap in National Exam Scores, Culminating Decade of Growth and Development.

Ebusiloli Secondary School, KEEI's flagship secondary school, recently recorded significant improvement in the 2006 national exam scores. Ebusiloli won the most improved school in their regional division advancing from 7th to 3rd place, while increasing the number of students taking the exam. The school's mean score topped 5 for the first time in school history and the school had 10 students score B- or above on the exam. Never before has the school had more than 5 achieve that mark. A B- is a much more difficult grade to achieve in Kenya than in the USA. Additionally the school received trophies for best marks in a district school in their division for each of the following subjects: Biology, Kiswahili, Mathematics, Physics, History, Geography. Kiswahili students achieved the highest mean score. H/M, Naman Anjichi, attributes the success in Kiswahili to the extra effort by the Kiswahili teacher, Mr. Bernard Obong, (cont'd **Exams**)



Ebusiloli students experiment with one of laptops - recently donated by The Benjamin School.

KEEI makes large book donation to TWO Kenyan Secondary schools.



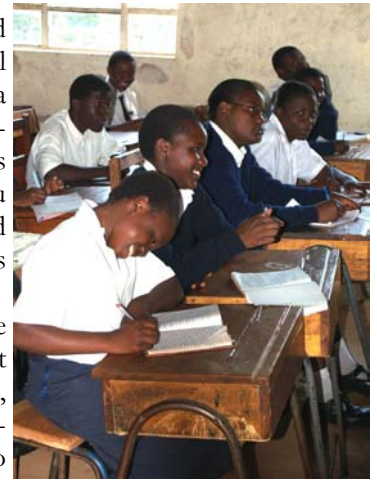
Essaba students display books recently donated by KEEI..

Recently KEEI made significant contributions to two Bunyore area schools- Ebusiloli and Essaba Secondary Schools. Each school received \$3000 worth of books to inaugurate their new libraries. The libraries were built by the school communities with assistance of the National Constituency Development Fund. KEEI is proud to help the schools get their new libraries functioning. Since the dollar goes far in Kenya, we were able to provide each school with over 500 books including over 80 different titles. Ebusiloli's new library now holds approximately 2500 volumes. The school library far surpasses most of the other schools in the area. We anticipate that the contributions will provide a significant academic boost to the school community in academic development and in school morale. Thank you to all of you who helped make this possible.

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.

(*Exams*) along with the high number of Kiswahili textbooks and media technology purchased for the school by KEEI in the past few years. Moreover, five of the top ten scores by local boy and girl students in district schools were Ebusiloli students. Kennedy Oywayo, Rhoda Musimbi, Helen Ogotse, Evelyn Asira, and Scholastica Hoka were all honored for their academic achievements. Additionally, the school choir, mentioned last year in KEEI Notes, has again made its mark in Kenya. The choir qualified for the national competition in Nakuru and moved from 8th in the nation in 2005 to 6th in the nation in 2006. Kenya has an estimated 4,500 high schools. In the final competition in Nakuru, 16 school choirs competed for this category- 2 from each province. Ebusiloli had placed first in their province.



Ebusiloli students in class.

The successful exam scores cap a decade of growth for Ebusiloli. Since 1998, when we began our active developmental relationship with Ebusiloli, the school has seen its enrollment skyrocket from less than 100 to 438 students today. The school has also built, during this era, a science laboratory, a library, and four additional classrooms, in addition to making numerous other physical improvements. Kenyan secondary schools are divided hierarchically into national, provincial, and district schools. National schools are the most established, best equipped and staffed schools. District schools are the least developed institutions. Ebusiloli, a district school, is now performing better than many provincial schools in the district and region. KEEI's sustained support of the school has helped inspire the increased demand for an Ebusiloli education. The various school constituencies, students, faculty, parents, and community leaders, are enthusiastic about the school's future. Mr. Anjichi states that the students are inspired to reach another new high this year. The recent contribution of books by KEEI to Ebusiloli's new library will help provide the resources for the students to reach their goal.

Cookout for Kenya Reaches Milestone: Fifth Annual Slated for December 2nd



Teacher and students greet visitors at Essaba Primary .

On Sunday December 2nd, we will hold our 5th annual *Cookout for Kenya* at Ocean Cay Park in Jupiter, FL- from 12-3 pm. The event is our most significant annual fundraiser and has been growing each year since its inception in the fall of 2003. This year's *Cookout* follows our most successful event yet: the 4th annual *Cookout* held last December 2nd, in which we raised over \$15,000. We were also fortunate to have several Kenyan visitors at the event-most notably Rev. Charles Anabaka and Ms. Susan Otuma. Both are from the Ebusiloli school community and each spoke candidly of KEEI's impact. Rev. Anabaka explained how the development

of *Mwituba* is providing a new life for many young girls-who now have the option of going to school and getting an education, rather than serving as domestic maids, etc. in local homes. Ms. Otuma discussed on a personal level how KEEI has helped provide her with opportunities which would not have existed otherwise and how the organization has her advance both professionally and personally. The two also spoke in several Benjamin School classes and their visit inspired a connection with Benjamin Middle School teacher Cara Scarola and Patrick Hansen. Cara and Patrick have since moved to Ebusiloli for several months to teach and help build bonds between our communities. In an effort to promote the artistic skills of the students in the Kenyan schools, we select a student created piece as our Cookout T-shirt and poster design. Last year's art was the work of Eric Osiako - presently a Form IV student at Ebusiloli Secondary School. We look forward to unveiling our 5th annual Cookout design soon. Hope to see you at Ocean Cay Park on December 2nd.



David Watterson, Benjamin School alum and KEEI volunteer gives music instruction on new electronic keyboard

Kijana Educational Empowerment Initiative

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