



DINKA SCHOOL NEWS LETTER TERM 1- 2019

Dear parents and guardians,
We're pleased to have come to the end of our first term, 2019. It was a very full term with new implementations, visitors and development. We appreciate the constant feedback of our parents and the involvement parents show us is valued and appreciated. We believe that our young Dinka School (6th academic year) is improving every term. This could not be done without the wonderful motivated teachers we have, together with the critical feedback we receive and act upon from our parents. In this newsletter we look back on what took place this first term, from January to early June and we like to share as much as we can with you.

Term overview

Our year started with great ambitions to implement the newly set academic goals. We reviewed our school rules and regulations as well as renovations were implemented to our school. This term we made great steps forward in terms of academic goals, school enrolment, staffing, transport, and facilities as well as quality and communication. We started the year by enrolling more than 50 new students. This was a big challenge that forced us to buy a bigger school bus that could take more than 34 students at once. Following the challenges we faced in the year 2018 with the teaching books for the new syllabus, we reviewed the books we were using and thus came up with a new set of books. We are pleased to say that everyone is now settled with the new curriculum. In March we celebrated "World Book day" whereby children came to school in their pyjama's as we connected this day to "bed time stories". It was a wonderful day whereby we had a lot of fun and focus on appreciating all our reading books at Dinka School and being able to read. In April we celebrated "Career day", which we connected to the "Young entrepreneurship" theme. Children came to school dressed up like all different kinds of professions and presented their professions at school. This year our pupils participated in the school UMITASHUMITA sports competitions whereby some of them are still participating at a higher level.





A word from the Principal

I joined Dinka School in 2018 and have been working diligently towards academic excellence, to set strong academic goals and to offer quality care in every aspect.

My focus was on the following this past term;

- * To ensure the best performance of each individual student
- * To set, follow and improve the school academic goals
- * To prepare individual student's tuition plans and evaluations
- * School bus safety, punctuality and arrangements
- * Punctuality in leading the team on their work schedules, set exams, lesson plans, setting targets and ensuring they are met, lesson notes and following the daily academic timetable
- * Improvement on communication between the office and the parents.
- * Optimal student hygiene and uniforms
- * School arrangements, aesthetics, presentation and organisation.

This past term I have visited the Dutch initiative, IBES school in USA and Kennedy House International School in USA, to observe, learn and share more efficient teaching and learning techniques used in these schools.

A word from the Academic Master

It was our pledge at the end of the year that we would be "better" in all areas. We believe our children deserve the best and at Dinka School we work towards this relentlessly everyday. Our main focus is on our children as we tailor every aspect of their daily lives towards academic excellence and personal growth. We achieve this by focusing on the individual child's needs by ensuring each child receives constant attention in all aspects of their lives in school.

The classes doing examination receive extra lessons daily from 17:00 to 19:00 in the afternoons, on Saturday from 08:00 to 12:00 and during the June and September holidays we have prepared a special tuition program.

We're striving to be in the top 10 schools in the district in 2019!

Academic goals

At Dinka School we are committed to be an exemplary academic school in the region. Our main emphasis is on our academic excellence. We offer very unique and special programs aimed at building self-confidence and broad knowledge. Our academic goals set for term one and two 2019 are:

1. Saturday programs for classes four and seven to be continued
2. September holiday tuition for class four
3. Classroom computer usage starting from class one
4. Tuition program for struggling students daily during the school hours
5. Inter-school exams for classes four and seven
6. Internal workshops (monthly) for teachers
7. External workshops (once a term) for teachers
8. Improving our set exams and setting a higher expectation
9. More classroom reading and book presentations in all classes
10. Individual attention to all students by more assistant teachers
11. Weekly math timetable homework and practice in class through singing them and a test each Friday.

12. Weekly dictation homework and Friday test
13. Word of the week to be practiced in each class
14. More practical work during science and mathematics in class
15. Clubs for Science and Mathematics
16. Hand writing competitions

This term during our closing day we presented the curriculum to all different classes and for those parents who were not able to join us, we decided to update you through this newsletter. Below we listed down the NECTA subjects in each level.

Nursery level one/ two and Pre unit

- Mathematics concept
 - Health care
 - Communication
- Environmental care
 - Arts

STD. One and Two

- Reading
- Writing
- Numeracy
- DSA (*Developing Sports and Arts*)
- Health care and Environment
- Religion

STD. Three, Four, Five

- Mathematics
 - English
 - Kiswahili
- Science and Technology
 - Social studies
 - Civics and Morals

STD. Five has an extra NECTA subject- Vocational Skills.

STD. Six and Seven

- Mathematics
 - English
 - Kiswahili
 - Science
 - Civics
 - Geography
 - History
- Vocational skills
- PDS (*Personality Development and Sports*)

Overview of our co- curricular subjects:

The co curricular subjects are connected to the NECTA subjects and we implement them to enrich the curriculum.

Nursery level one/ two and Pre unit

- *International lessons* - *Sports and games*
- *Dance* - *Drama*
- *Book presentations* - *Handwriting*
- *Extra tuition* - *Nature lessons*
- *Music and dance* - *Creative Arts*

Classes One and Two

- *International lessons* - *Dance*
- *Drama* - *Book presentations*
- *Handwriting* - *Kiswahili*
- *Gardening/ Cooking* - *Reading buddy*
- *French* - *ICT*
- *Special sports* - *Extra tuition*
- *Music* - *Creative Arts*

Classes Three, Four, Five

- *Drama* - *Book presentations*
- *Handwriting* - *Religion*
- *French* - *ICT*
- *Special sports* - *Extra tuition*
- *Music* - *Creative Arts*
- *Gardening/ Cooking* - *STD. 3 and 4 only*
- *Reading buddy* - *STD. 3 and 4 only*
- *Health Education* - *STD. 4 and 5 only*

Classes Six and Seven

- *Drama* - *Book presentations*
- *Handwriting* - *Health Education*
- *Religion* - *French*
- *ICT* - *Special sports*
- *Extra tuition* - *Music*
- *Creative Arts*

On-going special programs

Next to the NECTA curriculum and the Co-curricular subjects we also continue to have our special programs that are implemented in all lessons as a school culture.

1. Theme of the month
 - * From January to April, we had the theme “African Heroes” which was about the heroes who have contributed a lot to make our Africa what it is today.
 - * From mid-April to May we had the theme “Young Entrepreneurs” aimed at giving our young learners room to have an insight into different occupations.
2. Question wall every Wednesday after lunch- all classes
3. Monday morning assembly and award hand outs
4. Weekly science experiments for classes 1-7
5. Weekly songs practiced during assemblies
6. Dutch friends for classes 3-7
7. Self-confidence program aimed at making students able to express themselves
8. Water drinking project aimed at inspiring our kids to drink more water daily to improve their health and thinking skills
9. Merit and Effort awards given out weekly to encourage positive behaviour
10. Traffic lights also aimed at encouraging positive behaviour in school
11. Animal of the week aimed at learning about different animals
12. Spelling contests in each level
13. Sentence copying, punctuations and handwriting.
14. Weekly mathematics tables homework and Friday test
15. Weekly dictation homework and Friday test
16. Word of the week in all classes
17. Focus of the day
18. Sports - Introduction to different games e.g. hockey, basketball, tennis, table tennis, football, netball, volleyball, and badminton.
19. The “see, think and wonder program” aimed at the thinking ability
20. Classroom evaluation questions which are used at the end of every lesson to test the understanding of the learners
21. Time reading to enable them to understand the different times of the day
22. Celebrating birthdays
23. Recognizing colours/ shapes
24. Newspaper program for boarders
25. Teaching our students to greet properly
26. Motivating students to ask questions when they don't understand
27. Table manners
28. Tooth brushing after lunch
29. Reading story books for the children



Extra curricular lessons:

Ballet is a classical dance whereby we teach our children to learn graceful movements and balance. This is a group lesson, which takes place every Friday after lunch. After the ballet lesson your child will join the on-going sports program. For this lesson you have to sign up your child this June before the new term starts.

Taekwondo is a Korean martial art whereby we teach our children a boost in self esteem, self-discipline, socialization skills, physical activity, learning the ability to fail, goal setting, respect, increased communication skills, teamwork and self-control. This is a group lesson, which takes place every Friday after lunch. After the Taekwondo lesson your child will join the on-going sports program. For this lesson you have to sign up your child this June before the new term starts please.

Music in our school has really gone up, all classes now receive music lessons. We have started our school band whereby some students are now able to play musical instruments to produce some good music. Next to the class music lessons your child can develop his/her musical instrument skills and music reading in individual lessons with our music teacher. These individual music lessons take place once a week during school hours, planned properly by the academic master. For this lesson you have to sign up your child this June before the new term starts please.

Among the programs offered are:

1. Individual Piano lessons
2. Individual Singing lessons
3. Individual Recorder lessons
4. Individual Guitar lessons
5. Individual Drumming lessons



Our visitors this term

We started the year by receiving Evelien from the high University of Amsterdam who came to our school on January 2nd and had workshops with our teachers for one week. Mr. Andre from Holland also visited our school this term along with a Dutch family. Mr. Paakway from Mbaash Primary school came for knowledge sharing in February. Alliance Français visited us to observe the quality of our French lessons at Dinka School. The American School of The Hague visited us in February and introduced different practical mathematics lessons to our school. Later we had Renee, Lina and Heidi from Holland and Sweden for their teaching internship.



Achievements

- i. We bought a new school bus in January 2019.
- ii. We successfully separated and renovated nursery class from pre-unit class and added a pre-unit class teacher
- iii. Our administration office is now fully operational.
- iv. We enrolled more class seven candidates in the year 2019
- v. We started Whatsapp groups with all class parents for better communication
- vi. We launched the school website www.dinkaschool.co.tz
- vii. We started the school students committee
- viii. We purchased a small van to transport teachers during the late afternoons and evenings especially for the purpose of tuition program for the examination classes.

Development and on going projects

1. Boarding renovations during the June holiday
2. Dining hall roof renovations during the June holiday
3. Pavement during term 2
4. Library development during the June holiday

We are looking for more tires to make a special playground design. Please donate your old tires to Dinka School.



Development plans:

We are planning to do more renovations this year in the classes, toilets and dining hall and kitchen.

Students committee and class representatives TERM 1- 2019

Head Girl:	Halima H. S.
Head Boy:	Alexanda F. M.
Dining hall prefects:	Penina O. L. and Erick Z. N.
Dormitories prefects:	Grace D. Z. M. and Steve S. D.
Class One:	Brayden R. and Derrica D. M.
Class Two:	Angelina L. T. and Jacob E. M.
Class Three:	Peter P. K. and Francisca M. K.
Class Four:	Lightness E. M. and Elijah P. V.
Class Five:	Daines D. M. and Zakayo M. M.
Class Six:	Christopher J. S. and Tabitha H. P.
Class Seven:	Bright C. K. and Prince M. D. M.

Class monitors responsibilities:

In general the class monitor is responsible for good classroom arrangements, leading his/her fellow classmates. The class monitor is responsible for discipline in class when the teacher is not in class. The class monitor is also responsible for announcing the next upcoming lesson and to make sure all classmates are prepared well before the next teacher comes in. The class monitor leads the class to the dining hall. The class monitor is the class representative and is part of the school students committee.

School students committee:

The students committee comes together once a month with Madam A. and Mr. J. in the school meeting room. The students who join these meetings are the class monitors, the school prefects and the head boy and head girl of the school.

The prefects discuss school matters, class matters and share ideas to develop programs in the school. The school management seriously considers the ideas and advice they come up with.

DINKA

Team wishes you a good second term !

