



Q4 KEEP Report from Kakenya's Dream December 2022

CLASS 8 UPDATES

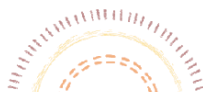
For the past three months, preparations for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams have been in full swing for Class 8 students. The national exams, which take place from November 28 to December 1, are critical for determining the high school placement of each student. Last month, we invited test examiners to the Kakenya Center for Excellence I (KCE I) campus to teach students best practices in test taking. The girls received valuable feedback and practical advice on navigating the exams successfully. By working with the test examiners and participating in extra tutoring, we are confident that the students were well prepared for the KCPE exams.

We also held a Prayer Day in late October to celebrate the girls' hard work over the past year and inspire them for the KCPE exams. To commemorate the day, the girls enjoyed cake and listened to words of encouragement from parents, teachers, and staff. In mid-December, students will close out the 2022 academic year by participating in a week-long training on sexual and reproductive health education and life skills. These workshops and extracurricular activities are a vital component to our holistic model of education, helping equip the girls with the tools and resources needed inside and outside the classroom.



ONGOING CHANGES AND OTHER NEWS

The nation-wide transition to the new school curriculum, the **Competence Based Curriculum (CBC)**, remains ongoing. After being incorporated for Class 6 students this year, it will be introduced to Class 7 students in 2023. To manage the administrative and technical changes of the CBC, our boarding high school, the Kakenya Center for Excellence (KCE II), will expand to include junior high students, starting at Class 7 and serving through Form 4 (12th grade). This will also allow us to double the number of incoming fourth grade students at KCE I. We are working closely with the



local Ministry of Education to train our teachers in the new curriculum as quickly and seamlessly as possible. We look forward to sharing more updates in the new year once the 2023 academic year is in full swing.

Under our Network for Excellence, every KCE graduate continues to be holistically supported with mentorship, academic guidance, and scholarships to continue their education through high school and beyond. The program currently serves 174 girls from grades 9-12 and 136 post-secondary students with quality education, life skills training, and professional development opportunities.

During school holidays in the spring and summer, NFE high school students participated in workshops designed to build their self-confidence. They were taught about topics like adolescent sexual and reproductive health, self-defense techniques, gender-based violence, mental health, peer pressure, teen pregnancy, and healthy relationship practices. We also conducted career exploration sessions for girls to set professional goals and paired interested students one-on-one with active professionals in medical and legal fields.



For our gap year students planning to enroll in tertiary studies, they spent the five months from the end of the 2021 school year in mid-April to early September volunteering at local primary schools or at our program offices to build professional development skills and work experience. Our staff held an orientation at the start of the gap year programming to provide practical assistance in submitting university applications, choosing college courses, and transitioning to a higher education environment.

STUDENT PROFILE: DOLPHIN KOMONI

Dolphin, one of our current Class 8 students, comes from a single-parent family with six siblings. Her mother is the sole breadwinner for their large family. Before arriving at our campus for an enrollment interview in 2018, Dolphin had never heard of Kakenya's Dream, but upon seeing the impressive school buildings and noticing her mother's anxiety for her interview performance, she became determined to join our school. Later, when Dolphin's mother received the news of her acceptance, their joy was mixed with gratitude and relief. **"My mother was crying as she broke the news that I had been considered for a scholarship by Kakenya's Dream. At first, I could not understand why she was crying. She later told me that she will be relieved of the struggle of paying fees and other requirements."**

On admissions day, Dolphin's apprehension for her new school gave way to elation, recalling, **"I was excited to get a new mattress. I had never slept in one before because we use maize**

sacks at home.” Alongside the novelty of receiving a mattress, new uniform, and shoes, Dolphin soon found herself academically challenged and motivated by KCE teachers compared to her old school. Looking back over her years here, Dolphin feels lucky to have joined KCE I. As she prepares to graduate from our boarding school, she is confident that she has what it takes to fulfill her dream of becoming a medical doctor thanks to her hard work and the support of her friends, family, and the Kakenya’s Dream community.

