

## The Shonda Project – Summer 2019

The St John's First Baptist School has continued to excel in the past year. Some of the highlights include:

- Excellent end of school exam results with one pupil, Amos Ongwae achieving the highest marks ever for a pupil from St John's.
- Construction of a new building that includes a Computer Lab and classroom
- Construction of a new perimeter wall to protect the school from encroachment
- Testing of pupils eye sight and providing glasses where necessary
- Continued financial support from individuals, churches, schools and businesses

## Financial Position

### 2018 Performance

- The year turned out to be better than expected and the concerns that we would have to reduce our monthly funding of salaries mid-year were largely resolved by a very generous donation coupled with some increases in monthly contributions. This allowed us to provide funding for approximately two thirds of the school payroll.
- As the school has grown so has the proportion of fee paying students such that fees generated are sufficient to fund the balance of salaries together with the running costs.
- A similar trend has occurred within the feeding programme which is able to collect monies from the better off parents.
- The outcome was a small deficit on ordinary funds whilst at same time we were able to fund projects including the completion of the computer facility and a contribution towards the kitchen and admin block from monies specific held for such purposes.

### 2019 Forecast

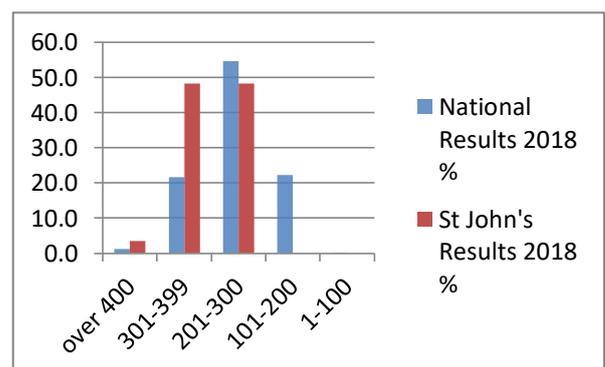
- Looking forward however, we face a similar situation as foreseen last year and we will probably have to reduce our funding such that it will represent about 50% of the salary bill.
- There is no doubt that increasingly the school is making a successful transition to a position when they are able to meet their operational needs whilst requiring support only for the cost of sponsorship of children from poor families and for capital projects.
- There is not an easy task and we are actively engaged in providing whatever help we can to facilitate a smooth and safe transition.

## Exam Results – Highest Mark Yet!



Around 7 years ago we celebrated when Ronald was awarded a place at a National School. These are the best secondary schools in Kenya, all privately run and mainly boarding schools. It is every child's dream to win a place at a National school. This year we have

five pupils who will be invited to join a National School. Amos Ongwae scored an amazing 421 marks. This marked a very significant milestone in the school and was recognized in both the local and national press. The following chart shows the performance of St John's against the national norm.



This is not just a one off and reaffirms St John's as one of the top 10 schools, out of over 200 in the Likoni District. The results have also ensured every pupil should be able to attend a secondary school.

### Sponsorship for Amos

Our first pupil to attend a National School, Ronald, was sponsored by a couple through secondary school. Ronald is now studying Geospatial Engineering at Nairobi Technical University.

To secure a place for Amos at a secondary school we have advanced monies to pay for fees, uniform and books but we are looking for sponsorship to cover Amos's fees and living expenses. This will be for one month, a significant amount but we are sure it will change Amos's life.

**Sponsorship achieved!**

Please contact Shonda Mills for more details. (01672 861632 / shonda@clatford.org.uk)

### New Classrooms

The number of pupils attending the school has increased significantly in recent years, mainly as a result of the quality of the teaching and local development. The following pictures show how we have addressed this need by building a new block that includes a new Computer Lab, classroom and headmasters office and staff room.



This will eventually be two classrooms. It was used for exams in the summer.



The Computer Lab has steel doors and steel mesh on the windows

### Perimeter Wall

A lot of development has taken place around the school compound with some even grabbing the school land. A perimeter wall is under construction to secure the boundary.



The school sits on a bed of coral rock and this is quarried to produce building blocks for the wall and school building.



## Computer Lab – Take 2

Following the break-in and theft of the computers over a year ago we have helped fund a new Computer Lab and have also raised money and received a donation of computers. The school is being very careful to ensure there is good security to prevent further thefts. A new computer teacher has been employed and as you can see from the following photos the pupils look very excited and engaged!



## Feeding Programme

The Feeding Programme is now an established part of the school providing morning porridge to nursery children and lunch to pupils and staff. Elizabeth manages the kitchen and ensures that each day over 200 pupils receive a nutritious meal, usually of pulses and rice, with meat on a Friday.



## Eye Care

Working with a charity that provides adjustable glasses over 69 children and adults were tested and 28 pairs of glasses issued. Not all eye problems could be solved by glasses so working with the Kwale Eye Centre specialist support has been given to some of the pupils. An albino boy, Said Shee has been given special glasses – he has now moved from position 19 in class to 10 and are encouraged him to work more harder because we believe he has a great potential. One of the teachers has been trained so ongoing eye care can be provided in the school.



## Visit from UK

Dave Smith, Liz and David Woods with their son Chris, and Sheila and Simon Mills visited during March. During a packed visit they re-established long friendships, encouraged the staff, listened to the

school needs and issues, reviewed and audited procedures and accounts and helped develop future plans.



**Dave auditing the financial records with Joseph, the School Manager**



**Simon testing the pupil's use of calculators, (donated by Kennet Valley School.)**



**The Parents Meeting. Simon introducing Georgia and Ronald, past pupils now at university.**

## Governance

Good governance and accountability are the foundations for the successful operation of the school. The School Manager, Joseph and the Caretaker Board run the school with Theo Marube, The Shonda UK Representative available to give advice and provide oversight.



**Mr. Marube, 3rd from left, two board members, two of the security team and the school head teacher, right.**

## Let's hear it from the school ...

The following are extracts from reports provided by the school.

### *Global Handwashing Day*

*We received visitors in our school on this day. They were from Bomu hospital. They taught the learners on the importance of good health and how to manage good health through washing hands. They equipped the learners with knowledge on why they should wash their hands and when it should be done. Before the real activity, the learners were asked a lot of educative questions and each question one answered, there was a present. They were given a lot of books and pencils. In the picture below you can see how the learners are competing to answer questions so as to get presents.*



*At last the hand washing activity was done. One of the visitors did it as an example showing the kids how they should wash their hands with soap and wipe the water using a clean handkerchief. In case there is no handkerchief, they were shown an optional way of drying out the water.*



### ***Closing Ceremony***

*This was the long awaited day by the pupils after along academic work. On this day top three pupils were awarded with different prizes like exercise books, pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, pens, rulers and mathematical sets*



***Examination chairperson addressing pupils***



***Examination secretary announcing results***



***Top three nursery pupils with their presents.***

### **Making it all Possible – fundraising**

We are grateful to the various organisations that raise money and contribute to the Shonda Project, these include:

- **Pinewood School**, near Shrivenham, Wiltshire, Pinewood donated money from the December carol service.
- **Love Food Ready Meals**, whose 'Share the Love' campaign donates a meal to a child in Shonda for every ready meal sold.
- **Birstwith C of E Primary school**, near Harrogate for the contributions they continue to send us – most recently from their Harvest Festival.
- **St Peter's Church** Brockely
- **St. Mary's Church** Marlborough.
- **St Mary's Church Toddler Group** in Oxted.
- **St John's Primary School**, Redhill
- **Kennet Valley School**, near Marlborough

Without these, and the many other individuals who support Shonda, none of this would be possible.

From the parents, pupils, teachers and staff at St John's School and the representatives of Shonda UK, **Thank You.**