

12<sup>TH</sup>  
EDITION

2018/19



# MEKAELA TIMES



MEKAELA RATINGA  
KCPE GRADUATES -  
THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

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# MEKAELA ACADEMIES

*Congratulations!*

**2018 K.C.P.E HEROES & HEROINES**



**MVURYA HASSAN WANINI**  
(440 MKS)



**BOGA TWALIB MWASIWA**  
(432 MKS)



**MWAPHEKU J. BWAGIZO**  
(422 MKS)



**OBUYU J. MBOYA**  
(421 MKS)



**JOYSON OMARA MBWANA**  
(421 MKS)



**NDEGE HASHIM JUMA**  
(416 MKS)



**MWINYI CHIMBA ZIRO**  
(412 MKS)



**UBA ATHUMAN DENGEREKO**  
(407 MKS)



**MWADUME M. RASHID**  
(404 MKS)



**PAKIA ABDUL MWAZEWE**  
(402 MKS)



**FAITH MWENDE CHESTER**  
(401 MKS)



**EDDY KAIRO WANGENYE**  
(401 MKS)

## From the Editors' Desk

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### Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Mekaela Times.

The year 2018 has been a blessing to our schools. Ask why? We produced the best candidate in KCPE in the coast region. Find out who this is in this magazine and how Manuel Alexander School has reminded its baby schools that it calls the shots in performance too. And find out why Ratinga Primary School, whose graduates are flying on the cover page, is no longer the new kid on the block.

You will agree with me that the current state of corruption and the high cost of living in the country is annoying. This has been discovered in many ministries and parastatals in the country. Our young ones have also noticed this and it brings them a lot of bitterness. Get to know what they have to say about this.

Our pupils have also written items on various academic and non-academic programmes that are run in the school to bring the good performance that we are known for.

Have fun reading!

Tereza Ajumbo



*Tereza Ajumbo  
Chief Editor*

### Mekaela Times Co-Editors:



*Florence Mayabi*



*Fredrick Otieno*



*Joseph Kisilu*



*Wilson Odhiambo*

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Thanks to Base Titanium for sponsoring Mekaela Times the sixth year in a row. Base is spending a huge amount of its income on projects supporting education, housing, medical care, environment, farming and infrastructure to name but a few.

The company is growing and has set up shop in Madagascar but it is also exploring opportunities to expand its current mining activities in Kwale. Let us hope for the best.

Thanks a lot, Base Titanium, for your loyal support, and good luck with your expansion plans.



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## From the Management's Desk

Dear Reader,

2018 has been an incredible year for us in many ways in all our schools.

Needless to say, it has taken God through our parents, supporters, learners and staff for the achievements realized this far.



*Elijah Musili Maanzo  
Managing Director  
Mekaela Academies*

We started the year by redefining our mission and came up with a tag line "breaking the existing records". This created the mood for excellent performance in all our learners and staff. We have walked this journey faithfully focusing on the ultimate goal, excellent academic performance and developing character of responsible and reliable generation.



*Florence Munke  
Head Teacher  
Likunda Primary School*

We started our own PAC (Parents Academic Committee). This team of dedicated parents have been very instrumental in our success story this year. We intend to take this initiative to a higher level come next year. Parents' involvement in our schools will remain a major focus going forward.

In line with our motto, "learn to make a difference" we ran very competitive programmes that gave every learner an opportunity to exploit their talents. Some of these programmes include music, swimming, games, sports, public speaking, news anchoring and talent exploration, among others.



*Anderson Mwero  
Principal  
Lulu Boys High School*



*Mekaela Weber Students with our new motto on their shirts*

This year, we opened yet another ultra-modern pre-school unit at Manuel Alexander School, tailor made to meet the required standards of the new curriculum.



*Official opening of the new MAS pre-school Unit  
by the donors from Fly & Help in October 2018*

### Expansion plan

It has been our dream to take our services closer to our esteemed parents. In line with this we are pleased to inform you that we have started construction work for our new "Mekaela Weber School" in Kombani. It was officially opened on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 for classes up to STD 5 and should be completed in May.



*Shadrack Kalisa  
Administration Manager  
Mekaela Academies*

We are really very grateful to all our stakeholders and partners for believing in us and supporting us in realising the dreams of founder members of Mekaela Academies. We promise to do the best of our ability in service delivery, make impact and leave permanent footprints in the education transformation story in Kwale County and Kenya at large.

### Mekaela Academies Does It Again

Mekaela Academies is no doubt one of the best performing schools in Kenya. This year, the group of schools consisting of Mekaela Likunda School, Ratinga Primary School and Manuel Alexander School managed to stay top in the 2018 KCPE performance.

When Ratinga Primary School got a mean grade of 355 in the 2018 KCPE result, it was all celebrations. "Being the first time doing KCPE and managing to beat many giant schools in the county was an uphill task, but the grace of the lord is sufficient."



*Ronald Mwasaru  
Head Teacher  
Ratinga Primary School*

These were the words of the jubilant head teacher of the school, Mr. Ronald Mwasaru. The last candidate in the school got 299 marks while the best candidate, Mwinyi Chimba Ziro, scored 412 marks.

## From the Management's Desk

This was the first time the school was presenting candidates to Kenya Certificate of Primary Education and the teachers felt obligated to make a great start. This, they did.



*Hassan Mvurya Wanini  
Best KCPE Graduate of 2018  
in Coast Region*

In Mekaela Likunda School, things were no different. Its students posted a sterling KCPE performance that produced the best student in coast region: Hassan Mvurya Wanini, the son of Kwale County Governor Salim Mvurya achieved 440 marks.

Hassan is described to be a diligent and disciplined student. These qualities

coupled with the commitment and self-driven nature of his teachers propelled him to this level that came as a surprise to him, his teachers and his family.



*Abdallah Nyundo  
Head Teacher  
Manuel Alexander School*

The mother of all Mekaela schools, Manuel Alexander School, carried the day, hitting a mean of 371.1 with the best candidate, Twalib Mwasiwa Boga scoring 431 marks and none scoring less than 300 marks. It stood tall in the county only being beaten by one school. Being the pioneer school in Mekaela Academies, it



*The new Mekaela Weber School is located in Kombani near the Maganyakulo Revenue Station*

has lived by example by always coming ahead in the KCPE. The head teacher of the school attributes this good performance to the co-operation of the teachers.

The management feels proud of the dedicated teachers, administration, pupils and not forgetting the parents who supported the schools in an endeavour to nurturing and exploiting the potential of each and every pupil.



*Faith Mutua  
Principal  
Lulu Girls High School*

Congratulations, Mekaela Academies.

May God bless Mekaela Academies!

**Mekaela Academies**  
The Management



*Artists performing at the official opening of Mekaela Weber School in January, 2019*

## What Our Visitors Have To Say

### My Life Purpose

It is such a pleasure to share in the intensity of the emotions filled in this field this morning. It's an honour to stand before you in celebration of the 2018 Graduation ceremony. Graduands Hoiyee!!!

What is your life purpose? What fills your Jar every day when you reflect? Purposes arise from either the special gifts we might have, our connection with other people, at times it's associated with our physical or mental health.

Our life purpose journey leads us to different routes in life. Purpose it's adaptive. Each one of us is where they are due to the choices they have made in life. Some of the choices we have made are not necessarily our Life Purpose. And if one has not already discovered it they need to cultivate one. They need the zeal to pursue it and the energy to hold on to it and the faith to carry it on. Till they find it.

What is life purpose then? You choose your life purpose. Your children will not choose your life purpose for you nor your wife, husband, teacher, administrators, mentors or your friends. You choose. You need to find your own rhythm. The need at times to go back to heal the small boy or the little girl in you. Forgiving yourself and knowing that you live each day with your possibility.

Let's ask ourselves; how do I lead my life? Who am I? Who does the next door neighbour say I am? Am I the being that the creator moulded me to do? What are my life values, actions, and my behaviours?



At the Graduation Day in November, 2018:  
From left: F. Muether (Founder), E. Waziri (Guest of Honour),  
S. Mvurya (Kwale Governor), S. Wentzel (Founder)

Your goals in life should be aligned to your life purpose. Life purposes change over with time. So this is an individual exercise that you have to choose wisely. Purpose is the thing you build and not a thing you find. It may take time



to build and it's primarily derived from focusing on what is so meaningful and purposeful about a certain thing or job and doing it in such a way that its meaning is enhanced and takes centre stage. It's that which gives you an opportunity to recreate yourself out of

love. Mother Teresa served the poor as part of what she believed was a higher calling. Some of us have multiple sources of purpose in our lives. That is which helps you find value in your work and in your life. It could be from a powerful pain that you experienced. It could be an awareness of

something in your life you can feel and not nail down. Could be from a divine voice the special "small voices" that we ignore from time to time.

It should be that which energises you, that and you are willing to sacrifice for. The experience is the reward and fulfilment and the peace that you get. Clarity comes with the process of exploring it and Action is where you get the Results. Live a purposeful driven life.

"Experience is not what happens to you. It is what you do with what happens to you. Don't waste your pain; use it to help others."

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here for?*

*Mrs. Edith Waziri*  
*Human Resources Manager*  
*Base Titanium Ltd*

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## Creativity

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### Never Quit, Fight For Your Destiny

When the funds are low and the debts are high  
And you want to smile but you have to sigh  
When care is pressing you down a bit  
Rest if you must but don't quit

Life is queer with its twists and turns  
As everyone of us sometimes learns  
And many a failure turns about  
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow  
You may succeed with another blow

Often the goal is higher than nearer  
It seems to a faint and faltering man  
Often the struggler has given up  
When he might have captured the victor's cup  
How close he was to the golden crown  
Success is a failure inside out  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt  
And you never can tell how close you are  
It may be near when it seems afar  
So stick to your fight when you  
are hardest hit  
It's when things go wrong  
That you must not quit.

*Patience Gatugi*  
*Lulu Girls High School*



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### A Cry For Our Nation

Kifaranga huitwa jogoo wakati yai limetagwa  
Niko on my lyrics kama brother Tawa,  
Mgoma yangu haina cover,  
Sijui mtanijudge aje,  
Mwalimu husema, don't judge a book by its cover,  
Niko so in love with my nation,  
Ka maji na dropper,  
Mi si scout commander, wala scout rover,  
Corruption in our nation,  
Imekua ka ngoma ya leg over,  
God heal this nation,  
For this and upcoming seasons,  
Crime kwa society, imekuwa kama crime vacation,  
Kati ya mimi na wewe kwani who is mighty,  
Police and the commander in chief wamekuwa ka  
polio vaccination,  
This life is hard kufind Mr. Politician kufight this  
disease of corruption.

*Olive Bishop*  
*Lulu Boys High School*

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### Mchongoano

Wewe ni mkonde hadi ukicheka unaumia.  
Auntie yako ni dancer hadi mtoto akilia yuwacheza.  
Nasikia wewe ni mshamba eti ulibisha hodi kwa lift.

Eti wewe ni blackie hadi mtu akikucall phone yasema  
samahani mteja uliyempigia haonekani kwa sasa  
Eti nyanyako ni mzee naskia alikuwa deskmate wa  
Jesus kwa class ya capentry.  
Hamisi ni mshamba aliona gari la safaricom akatoroka  
kwa kuwa alikuwa na deni ya okoa jahazi.

*John Mutheke*  
*Manuel Alexander School*

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### Decisions

I will keep it short and with precision.  
This life is led by decisions.  
The past is something one can never choose.  
Our births, parents, bringing we cannot choose.  
Nor do we choose the time our death.  
However, decision for the future you can maketh.  
Since one boarded this ship called education.  
To escape sea storms and icebergs has been decision.  
Hard work in your studies is your own choice.  
Respect, patience, kindness and positive attitude is a  
choice.  
As a captain, you choose how at the harbour you  
landeth.  
Either crash to bring all hopes to death.  
Or skilfully land to bring about celebration.  
All through one thing, YOUR DECISION.

*Mwero Alfred*  
*Lulu Boys High School*

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### Masomo Sitachezea

Ya mgambo ikilia, jua wazi kuna jambo  
Nami nimekaribia, sineni kwa mafumbo  
Wazi nitakuambia, yanayotaka matumbo  
Masomo kuyachezea, maisha wahatarisha  
Kurauka walalama, eti usingizi mtamu  
Hamshwapo na mama, kubaduka ni vigumu  
Mdomo unaachama, ewe mwana ngulusumu  
Masomo kuyacheze, maisha wahatarisha

Kisebeo ni karamu, kwa pupa unabugia  
Wataka ule vitamu, bila mayai walia  
Wakosa hata nidhamu, kwa zako mbaya tabia  
Masomo kuyachezea, maisha wahatarisha

Darasani zumbukuku, hutaki kushika buku  
Waandika kama kuku, mkiani kila siku  
Domodomo ja kasuku, ni wangapi utapiku  
Masomo kuyachezea, maisha wahatarisha

Wapenda kulaza damu, eti bongo zitachoka  
Kazi zote huwa ngumu, za wenzako kupachika  
Ni ujanja usodumu, mwalimu atakushika  
Msomo kuyachezea, maisha wahatarisha

Mwenzangu nakuambia, badili zako fikira

# Creativity

Uzembe kutupilia, masomo kuyachakura  
Bidii kikumbatia, ufanisi tasombera  
Masomo kuyachezea, maisha wahatarisha.

Nasra Bakari  
Manuel Alexander School

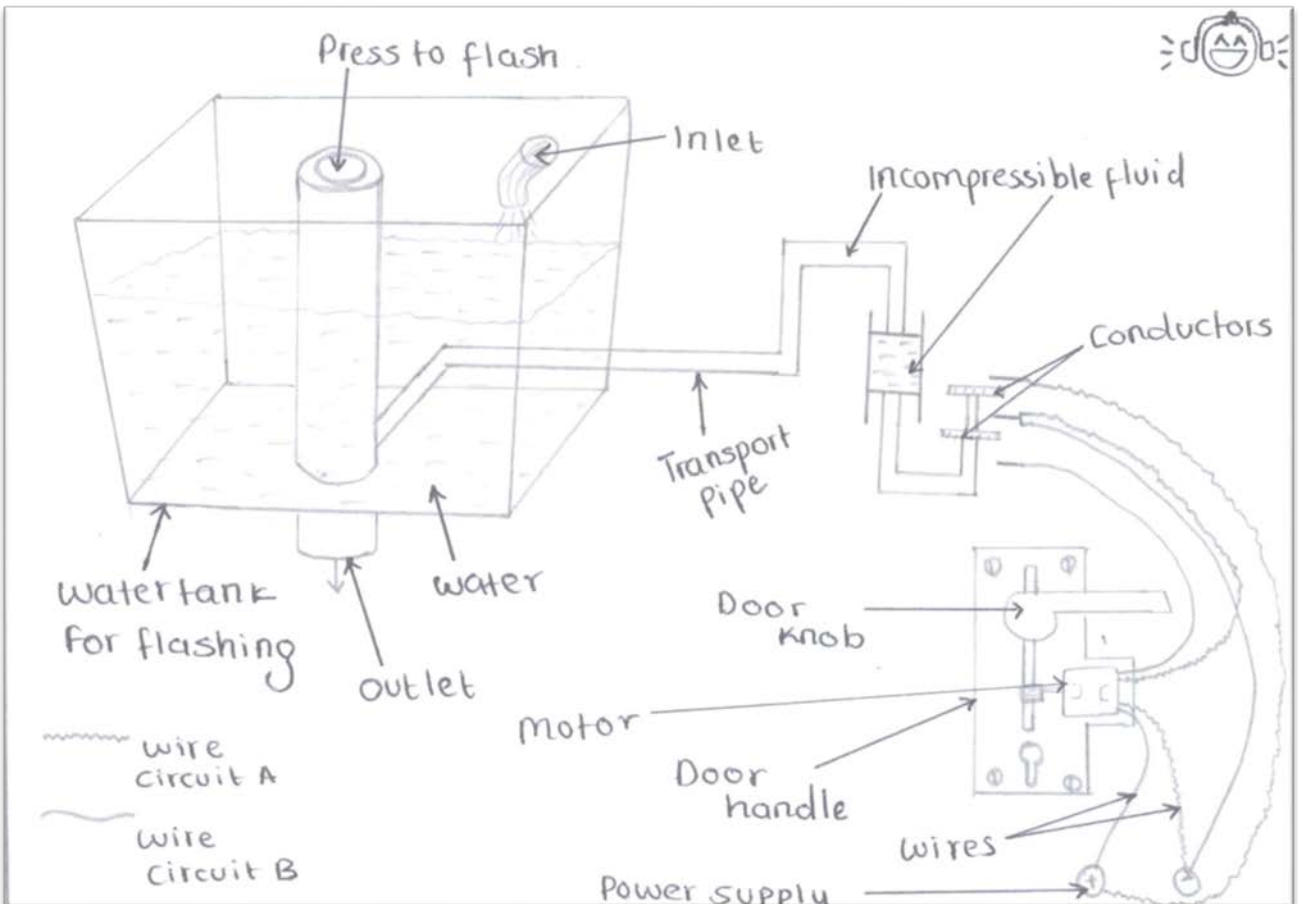
## Who is Crazier?

- A Turkana man who removed his shoes to enter a matatu.
- A Kikuyu man who carried a spanner to open a bank account.
- A Giriama man who went with a ruler to know how long he had slept.
- A Duruma man who watched news and waved to the presenter.
- A Digo man who polished his shoes to take a passport photo.
- A Taita man who switched off the TV just to read a text message.
- A Kamba man who kept his radio in a fridge to listen to cool music.

John Mutheke  
Manuel Alexander School

## An Automatic Flashing System

The diagram below is a dimensional picture of an automatic flashing system developed by a form 3



student in Lulu Boys High School. This machine works under the principal of transmission of fluids.

When one opens the door and gets into the toilet, the door will open only from the outside but once it is shut, one cannot open the door unless he/she flashes the toilet. This type of a toilet system will help curb the problem of forgetting to flush the toilet after use, mostly by the kids.

Joe Mwanake  
Lulu Boys High School



## Assurance

Dear Readers,

We have no doubt that Joe has carefully planned this ~~scary~~ brilliant machine and that he took every potential risk into consideration but rest assured that this device - for the time being - will not be installed into any bathroom of a Mekaela Academies school, even if a thorough flushing of the toilets were guaranteed.

Or flushing, for that matter.

Stefan Wentzel  
Mekaela Academies Founder





## What Our Alumni Have To Say

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### A Proud Pioneer Alumni

I joined Manuel Alexander in Standard 6, in the year 1999. For a girl who had grown up in another school, I was scared of making new friends, fitting in and catching up with the rest of the class.

I had joined the pioneer class of the school. It didn't take long for me to blend in, make friends, join the school choir, actively get involved with poems and drama activities and embrace my new family.



As a filmmaker and content producer, I appreciate the way I got a strong foundation in the arts. I recited poems, I sung in the school choir, I led the folk songs; I was let to explore my strengths not just in the academics but also in co-curriculum activities. My line of work involves working with talent and actors, scouting for talent, creating content and entertainment for both local and international productions.

I'm flying the MAS flag high and proudly so. Always striving to excel!

One of my biggest achievements in my career has been working as the Casting Director for The Academy Awards (Oscars) nominated 'Best Short Film' for a

short film called "Watu Wote - All of Us". This is among other achievements that I have made progressively in my career so far. Indeed, there are hurdles that I always have to overcome as in every career, there are challenges.

My advice to my fellow MAS family, those interested in the arts, go for it and find your passion. It's a bug that never stops biting.

*Lorella Jowi*  
*Graduate of Manuel Alexander School*  
*Class of 2001*

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### Second Generation

A few days before Christmas one of our editors ran into another MAS alumni who had graduated together with Lorella in 2001. Seif is now a father of his own. He and his wife are planning to send their kid to Mekaela Academies. Here comes our second generation.

*Before...*



*...and after*



*Manuel Alexander School Graduates Class of 2001*

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## What Our Students Have to Say

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### The New MAS Pre-Unit School

Due to the growing society and the new reforms in our education system, our school is on the move to ensure that it gives the best to its young pupils and the society at large.



*View of the new MAS Pre-School*

As the adage states, new brooms sweep clean, our school has established a well-equipped and modern early child education unit. It is certain that this is the place that many would wish their children to school in for it contains all the pre-school facilities as required by the new curriculum of Kenya. Furthermore, the environment is conducive for learning and proper development of young minds.

The unit consists of a day care unit, PP1 and PP2 classes. The day care is concerned more with development of language and socialization skills. It creates a home away from home environment as they wait to join school. The PP1 and PP2 classes usher the young minds into a world of discovery as they prepare to join the primary school level. The classes have modern and enough facilities coupled with competent teachers that enable the pupils to engage in practical lessons, interact with the rest and also become creative at an early stage in education.

All these and more would not have been possible if it were not for our supportive sponsors Dr. Christoph Schwab, Carl Seibel, Joachim Schuster and their friends. These gentlemen, together with our able directors, got involved in seeing this project through.

This is just but the beginning of our endless services. All are welcome!

*Joyson Omara and Mwasiwa Twalib  
Manuel Alexander School*

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### Healthy Use of Social Media

The social media has taken the world by storm and pupils have also not been left behind. It is common notice to find them glued on their phones from morning to evening just chatting or catching up with friends on the various channels of social media. Apart from socialization, young people must know that there

are other ways in which the social media can be beneficial to them. These are:

#### Sharing knowledge

It provides an easy and effective way in which students can share knowledge. Online data is available to all unless the restrictions are put against them from the ones who share. Students can access the data, learn, modify and share. Hence, the flow of knowledge becomes smooth.

#### Updating oneself

What better way can students know about what is happening around the world if not for social networking technologies? They will be able to know new things as and when it happens. This helps them update their own knowledge base.

#### Learning from various sources

The social networking technologies are built in such a manner that students will be able to choose the group, activity or the person they would want to follow for daily updates. However, care should be taken when it comes to a person or activity that one should follow because some items posted on their accounts may not be pupil/student like. If students were to follow an education site or an educator or an institution they may want to go for higher studies or technology they want to keep tab on; all these and more can be done via social networking technologies.

#### Being prepared

Social networking technology is all about showcasing the trends that run around the world. Students can get an idea of what might be expected out of them in the future by observing the changes that are being updated, shared, discussed or spoken about on the social networking sites.

*Angelina Sakayo*

*Manuel Alexander School*

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### Helping Less Fortunate Persons in Our Society

Our school always lends a hand to the less advantaged groups in the society annually. This happens during our cultural celebrations that we hold in second term of every year.

We distribute items to people who are in need in the society. As a learner, I have come to understand that Mekaela Likunda is not just a school but a centre that moulds responsible and philanthropic citizens who after schooling can reach out to give to the community.

In 2018, a group of pupils, teachers and administrator went to Kwale Women's Prison and the Cerebral Palsy Unit in Kwale to give hope and support in terms of words of encouragement, food and clothing. We also

## What Our Students Have to Say

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participated in a clean-up exercise of Ukunda town and the beach.

Before we visited the Cerebral Palsy unit, I had not known that there are people who need our help and this made me to have the idea of establishing a centre that will be taking care of orphans in future. I feel a desire to extend my hand to others with whatever the little that God will have blessed me with.



*Mekaela students during beach clean-up day*

It is out of this giving heart that I think I have never heard my parents complain of lack of money to pay my school fees for the bible states that God blesses the hand that giveth.

*Natalie Wambui  
Likunda Primary School*

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### **Jewel of the Sahara**

Computer studies is one subject that I have come to like while here in Mekaela Academies. To some people, computer studies might just be a study but to us it is important.



*MAS students during computer class*

Before I came to Mekaela Academies, I didn't even know what the internet is. I just knew it as something that makes my browser work. Every time I would use the computer my mother would keep her eyes stuck on me, she did not trust me using it. She thought I would spoil it. Now, there are certain things I can do

on a computer that most pupils do not have knowledge about.

Computer studies have had a very positive impact on the community. Being able to efficiently use a computer and create a document at a youthful age is a big achievement. Cyber cafés are mushrooming in different towns meaning that communities outside really benefit from computer studies.

When more and more people learn computer, we will have a cyber-crime free society because people will come up with different kinds of technology that may detect an instance of the crime even before it happens.

With all these benefits we can truly understand the importance of computer studies and all the positive impacts it has had and will have in our society. So, let's treat the study as a jewel of the Sahara.

Using a computer is one of the best experiences you'll ever have.

*Derrick Gikonyo  
Likunda Primary School*

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### **Educational Trips**

Educational trips mean more than just simply leaving the school compound. These trips have a positive impact on pupils. First and foremost, pupils are able to interact among each other. This interaction builds stronger bonds between them and their friends.

In the event where they meet other schools, they make new friends. In addition, barriers between pupils and teachers are broken so that they are able to interact freely, but of course with limits.



*LPS Students on a trip to Nairobi*

Secondly, pupils are able to discover and learn about many things that are not available in school/classroom situation. For example, exotic wildlife and rare plants, in this way the visual aspect of learning is also catered

## What Our Students Have to Say

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for. Educational trips expose pupils to new environments where they enjoy and learn at the same time, making learning more interesting as opposed to the confinement in the classrooms.

In Mekaela Academies, pupils have exceptional privilege to go for international trips. Among the places/countries so far visited are Uganda, Tanzania, Egypt, Dubai, Germany, Thailand and South Africa. These trips have exposed learners to different races, ethnicities and cultures. From this exposure they get to understand deeper the contents taught in subjects like social studies not forgetting exposure to a wide range of technology, science, history and even people.

I would urge my fellow pupils and students who have the ability to grab the opportunity to expose themselves to these countries when a chance comes. To our teachers, thank you and may you please organize more of the trips as they have proved beneficial to us.

*Hassan Mvurya*  
*Likunda Primary School*

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### What About Providing Sufficient Electricity?

It is crystal clear that Mekaela Academies is concerned with its learners' good performance.

Of late the school has suffered numerous power outages which interrupt our studies at night. To counter this problem solar panels have been established in Likunda Primary School. First and foremost, what are these solar panels? Well they are equipment that harness light energy to make electricity. It is used as an alternative to electricity.

Every pupil in our prestigious complex is determined to reap a "bambam" harvest in his or her studies and therefore there have to be no obstacles especially in studies. That is why the solar panels are of great importance to us.

Solar panels help in providing security. Most of the environment in Mekaela Academies has bulbs and sometimes a power failure might occur. This may turn into a catastrophe as this may be a golden chance for robbers to perform their act. Fortunately, Mekaela Academies has a backup plan.

In addition, solar power has reduced running costs in the school. This is because it pumps the water we use thereby cutting down expenditure on buying of water. This is a good sign that Mekaela Academies has proper methods so that we pass with flying colours. Thank you, Mekaela!!!

*Muhsin Mwangi*  
*Likunda Primary School*

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### Games and Sports

Mekaela is a school that is not only keen about good academic performance but also in co-curricular activities. Our school does this to appreciate the abilities and interest of the disadvantaged pupils in class work.

Our school has elaborate and standard facilities to enhance and allow learners to ignite and exercise their talents. To involve all the learners, our games teacher ensures that all games sessions are attended by all the pupils except those with substantiated health problems, who are not left behind but incorporated in healthy exercises in the field.

This year, Mekaela Likunda football team managed to be the victors in the Kwale County Private Schools competitions and qualified to proceed to the regionals where they were position two. I am personally impressed that sporting activities in our school provides a second chance to the learners in the school because we cannot all excel in studies since we are differently endowed.

I know this provision given by our school is not in all private schools and I would like to encourage our parents to support us when we take part in these extra-curricular activities.

*Faith Anzazi*  
*Likunda Primary School*

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### Out of the Box

It is amazing to be part and parcel of the out of the box club. It's a small family that explores and nurtures small talents to be big aspirations in people's lives. To be in out of the box means to be ready to sacrifice much and gain a lot in return.



## What Our Students Have to Say

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Our lovely school offered us the biggest opportunity that not any other school would. During April holiday this year, we were lucky to travel to Germany for an exchange program with GSM Bremen School.

We were able to experience a lot like different weather, different cultures and even living styles. During our meetings we always had a chance of learning new skills. As a group, we learnt filming, acting, poetry, drawing and even instrument playing. Parents back at home, our urge to you is to convince and allow your children to participate in clubs. Our advice to our fellow students is to be ready to sacrifice their time for important things like this, after all choices have consequences and you are what you believe you are.

Thank you Mekaela academics, may you keep on blessing more lives.

*Out of the Box Team  
Lulu Girls High School*

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### Success Is A Rainbow

Success is mostly pegged with studies but it can also be associated with many other things. It is unbelievable how Lulu Girls High School earned its success in the music festivals competition this year. It all seemed to be a joke to us when it began at Mvinden Secondary School. Even in a race, the first step seems to be hopeless so none of us believed we could make it through. By the grace of God, we pushed through.

This is what may have awakened our morale because that is when we began to get serious. The next level that was held at Diani Babla Secondary School was not a babysitting corner as we thought of even the mentioning of the competing schools sent a shiver through us. "Blasto" was the name of the famous adjudicator who was feared by everyone in the competitions. The performance on the stage was on sleek as everyone watched the moves we made. All this was by the grace of God for even when the results were announced, God was with us because we were proceeding to the regional competitions.

Success goes hand in hand with hard work. We worked tirelessly to better our dance for the next level in Taita University. How happy we were! At this level, it would be a joke to say it was a convoy of buses for the schools were uncountable and each was eyeing a ticket to go to the national level competition.

As we went on stage, we put on our best courage suit and sang with all our might. Our hearts could not rest since it was only one step to the nationals. As the results were announced, Gods light shone on us as we emerged the second.

As we proceeded to the nationals, the pride of our hard work was greatest as we went on stage in Nyeri. Despite all the challenges, we were able to become position 3. We were all happy and learnt that unity can take us anywhere we want to go. Thanks to our managing directors, teachers, parents and Mekaela fraternity for supporting us through this journey.

*Selina Muranje and Mwanaisha Maclay  
Lulu Girls High School*

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### Home Sweet Home

Allow me to call this a community made up of five clans: Lulu Boys High School, Lulu Girls High School, Manuel Alexander School, Likunda School and Ratinga School all within a common ancestry; the Mekaela family.



*Lulu Girls High School students conducting experiments*

Coming all the way from Mt. Kenya, I thought it was a start of a new journey in a new vehicle. They say curiosity killed the cat but I have never seen them say it killed a man and that's how I came to be a member of this family because I always wanted to know the feeling of living in such a home.

It's two terms since I joined Mekaela Academies and there is development everywhere. A new laboratory, a new administration block and a library with a difference. That has happened in Lulu Girls and I know other clans are moving in the same rate. Within six



*One of the two new Lulu Girls High School laboratories*

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## What Our Students Have to Say

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months, I feel like I came here two years ago because the precious projects have become successful.



*Tobias Ernst, a HelpAlliance representative at the official opening of the LGS laboratories which were donated by the German charity*

We now have a physics laboratory where experiments are now carried out efficiently because the new facility has created enough space and a conducive environment. Brains also get to be at work as the library has all the learning materials to feed them. Also, not forgetting the new administration block which hosts the principal's office. Visitors coming to our school can now meet our school principal in the comfort of her spacious and private office unlike the previous one.

As students we would like to appreciate the efforts of the directors of the school for availing these facilities to us and we promise that we will make good use of them so as to achieve the best of our ability.

*Muthui Milcah  
Lulu Girls High School*

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### My Aspiration

An aspiration is a strong desire to have and to do something. My aspiration in life is to be a physiotherapist. A physiotherapist is a person whose job is to give patients physiotherapy.

I would like to be a physiotherapist because at the age of 14, I attended my first physiotherapy appointment. I was (and still am) a competitive runner and sustained a serious injury which left me limping.

I attended Aga Khan Clinic in Nairobi where I saw the diverse population the physiotherapist was helping, all the neat exercise equipment he utilized and how he interacted with people. I respected the intimate knowledge of human anatomy and physiology this doctor applied to help people feel better. I thought to myself, "This is awesome, with determination and hard work, my dream will come true." That inspired me a lot.

For one to become a physio-therapist one must learn Biology and Physics in high school and that is my plan.

*Kimberley Jahenda  
Mekaela Ratinga School*

### Ratinga Success Story

Success is achieving what you have been working for. Ratinga is an example of a big success. From a one streamed building, it has mushroomed to numerous buildings i.e. pre-school, lower classes to class eight.

Before, we didn't have a staffroom, office or even the dining hall, this however has changed. A field has also been established from a rocky land just to give the pupils a place to play as we all know work without play makes Jack a dull boy.

Mekaela Ratinga is a school that caters for students from all walks of life, and specifically pupils from humble families. This is because these pupils may qualify for scholarships to enable them to obtain quality education if their performance is good. This has led to the rise of population in Ratinga.

As it is part of Mekaela tradition to nurture talents, Mekaela Ratinga has done that by taking part in swimming galas, games and other co-curricular activities.

Educational trips also take place in Ratinga School and each class has its area of visit each year. This enables pupils to physically see what they learn in class and relate with topics covered especially in social studies and science.



*The Ratinga Primary School inner court on a rainy day*

Mekaela Ratinga has hired qualified and competent teachers. The teachers are not only understanding but also friendly creating chances for pupils to perform very well, making Ratinga be rated among the best performing schools in Kwale County.

Mekaela Ratinga is the best place to be. Special gratitude goes to our Director, the management team, Irmel Hinssen and Doris Jacobs who have offered great support in the development projects in the school.

*Lewis Macharia  
Ratinga Junior School*



*The Coat of Arms of the  
City of Ratingen, name  
patron of Ratinga.*

## Corruption

We cannot deny the fact that corruption has taken root in our society. It is an evil we must do everything possible to fight. Corruption manifests itself in different ways and may mean different things to different people. Giving or receiving bribes and land grabbing are acts of corruption. So is misuse of power by people to gain some advantage for themselves or for their relatives and friends.

Embezzlement or stealing money belonging to your employer or money you have been given responsibility to be in charge of is an example of misuse of authority. Some people who practice tribalism, nepotism or favouritism when recruiting others to jobs or during selection for admission to institutions of learning are involved in corruption. That is extremely wrong because such people get employment without merit. There are also those who forge certificates or signatures for selfish gains. Others put public property to private use or receive payments for goods that are partially or never supplied at all.

Pupils have not been spared of this evil either. Some often jump queues during meals, give bribes to members of the Students' Council to be exempted from cleaning, cheat in examinations and steal or use school property irresponsibly.

Corruption may appear to benefit a few individuals but it is greatly injurious to the majority of people and so the society should come up with ways of solving the menace.

Corruption can be fought by certain preventive and corrective measures. These include using lawful punishment, for example taking to court those who engage in corruption. Preventive measures may include improving the way organizations work, reviewing work salaries and educating the youth on morals such as integrity and honesty.

All of us, the Government, organisations like schools and individuals of all ages and social status should make it their responsibility to fight corruption. We should strive to fight corruption for if we don't fight it, it will spoil all the good things we have achieved.

A small leak makes a great ship sink, so let's refuse to take part in any form of corruption and we will prevail against this evil.

*Faith Mwendu*  
*Manuel Alexander School*

## Inflation: The Looming Terror

It is now common knowledge that a thousand shillings is losing value in Kenya. Today one goes into a supermarket with a thousand shillings and comes out with very few items. In the early days after independence, the same amount could buy a whole load of items which could be carried by up to three people.

The inflation today is so high that the cost of household products has shot up the roof leaving only the rich and middle class to afford them while the poor have to go without them. Some families cannot even afford the basic items like maize flour, cooking oil, bread, milk, sugar and medicine.

Our leaders have turned their backs on us and have gone ahead to implement more bills that have burdened us more. For instance, the new Petroleum Act which has made the current prices of goods rise to unprecedented levels. This act we are told was put in place so as to pay the country's foreign debt which stands at a staggering four trillion shillings. This means that Kenyans should brace themselves for a long period of inflation.

The key to stopping this looming apocalypse is to start making use of our resources. Our country is endowed with minerals of great value like titanium, uranium, oil, natural gas, coal etc. The Government should nationalize the extraction of these minerals to bring most of the benefit back to our country.

We also need to upgrade and boost our food security affordable prices to all people.

We can only hope for better times ahead, if not so, we are in for a lot of turbulent times in our beloved country Kenya.

*Stephen Mutua*  
*Lulu Boys High School*

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## East and West Have Outdone Home

They say East and West, home is the best but now East, West, North and South have turned to be better than home (Kenya) itself. The high cost of living due to increased taxes - at first I thought it was just fuel - has affected everything.

Kenya has become a family business. The government being the family and the citizens the employees. The slogan "Kazi kwa Vijana, pesa kwa Wazee" has





changed to "Kazi kwa wananchi, pesa kwa serikali." We don't need a driver to drive the truth home, do we? Of course we don't.

Kenyans are complaining now and then because of high taxation which is now a talk of the town. Consequently, standards of living in the citizens are deteriorating. Does the government feed on money or are the leaders' pockets torn? The infrastructure is still poor - roads have potholes leading to accidents now and then - thousands of graduates are still at home jobless, slums are developing in every corner of the country, there is teacher shortage in all the public schools, our public hospitals are understaffed and inadequately equipped.

Kenya is competing with itself. And if anyone knows what the prize is after the competition, please pass by and inform me because I am in a state of confusion. Even though they told me that change is the unchangeable law of progress, I don't think this one is leading to progress.

Teachers are teaching empty lockers because the class attendance is decreasing day by day. Why? You can't take a hungry child to school in the name of education. Death rates are increasing now and then since there is no money to take patients to hospitals and those who are lucky enough and get chances in hospitals end up being chased away indirectly to go and die at home since there is no money to cater for their bills. Vehicles are charging exorbitant fares. All these are happening in Kenya as our leaders watch.

As a history student, I thought democracy was a government of the people by the people for the

people as defined by Sir Lincoln. Now it has changed to be a government of itself by the people for itself.

I don't know whether I will be doing the right thing if I join Rufftone and say that if we don't take care, care will take us and vision 2030 may turn to be vision 3020 for the Kenyans.

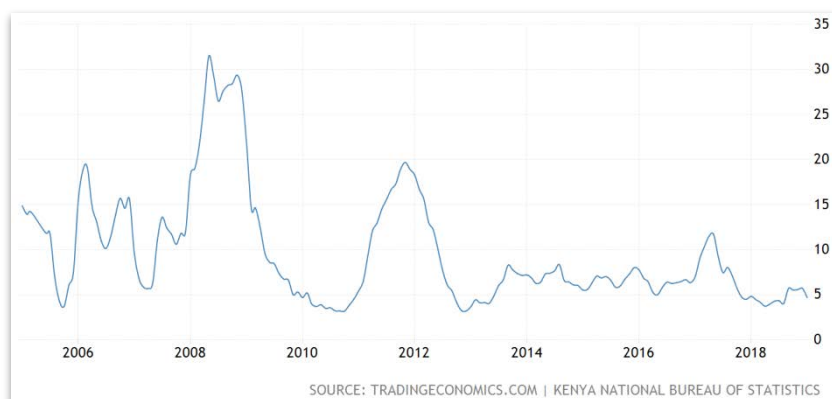
*Milcah Muthui*  
*Lulu Girls High School*

## Effects of the High Cost of Living in Kenya

This is the increase of prices of products, which definitely affects the public in so many ways. This rise in prices has been fuelled by increase in price of some goods like petrol, kerosene and diesel which are major sources of power.

How has this affected us? Let me tell you, the increase in these items has led to increase in school fees which many of our parents can't manage. This has contributed to other pupils being sent to public schools where they may not get quality education. The increase in petrol has also led to increase in cost of transportation. This has made transport hard for Kenyans. Another problem is lecturers' and teachers' strikes because their salaries cannot sustain them with the high prices of goods. When the teachers and lectures go on strike, the pupils start engaging in unnecessary activities which lead them to trouble.

One scary behaviour that some pupils develop to survive in this crisis is that they get involved in relationships with old folks so that they can be financially helped.



*The annual rate of inflation in Kenya from 2005 until 2019. The Central Bank of Kenya has an inflation target rate of 2.5% to 7.5% which would translate into a doubling of prices every 15 years on average.*

I think the government should do something to help in reducing the high cost of living because of the many problems that it has brought.

*Yunus Amin Mohammed*  
*Ratinga Primary School*



# Impressions



*Lulu Girls High School and Manuel Alexander School from a bird's view*



*Guess who?*



*Culture can be fun!*



*Likunda's young*



*Likunda's beautiful*



*Their first of hopefully many graduation days*



*Next year I will join Mekaela Weber School*



*The "new" yellow Mekaela Academies fleet*



*There is one proud mum*



*Say it with a smile*



*Again, guess who?*



*Nothing beats playing with Lego*



*There is a little hint*



*Look, Mummy, I made it!*

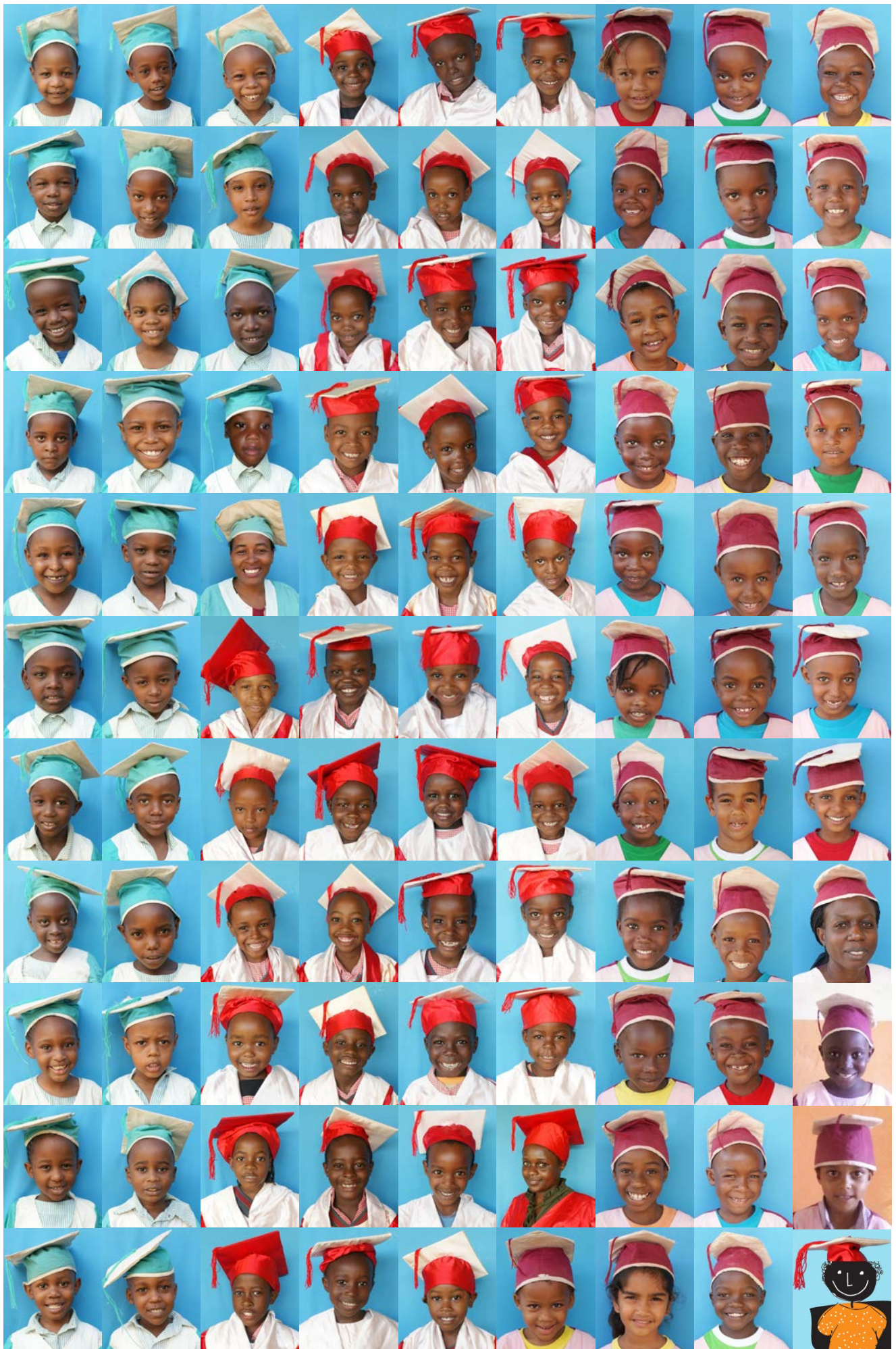


*Mekaela Weber's youngest*

Graduands of 2018 - Primary and Secondary



Graduands of 2018 - Pre-School





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- **MANUEL ALEXANDER SCHOOL**
- **LIKUNDA PRIMARY AND BOARDING SCHOOL**
- **RATINGA PRIMARY SCHOOL**
- **WEBER PRIMARY SCHOOL**
- **LULU GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**
- **LULU BOYS HIGH SCHOOL**