



## ***Nelly & Cynthia are heading to University***



### **Summer Greetings Sponsors and Donors!**

I've been holding off on sending this newsletter as we waited for our oldest girls to have their student visa interviews. You may remember that we were trying to bring them to AZ to study. Unfortunately, their visa's were denied; we can re-apply but the processing time pushes us into the next semester.

However, an exciting turn of events has happened! We just received word that both have been granted admission to two of the top universities in Kenya; in the degree program they requested. In addition, due to their high test scores, the Kenya government is paying a portion of their tuition.

Nelly will be attending the University of Nairobi in the Bachelor of Science (Biology) program. She hopes to become a pharmacist; a career that should be sustainable and a position much needed in the Amboseli region.

Cynthia will be attending the Maasai Mara University in the Bachelor of Hotels and Hospitality Management program. Her dream is to begin a Maasai Cultural Center similar to the **Twala's Women Center** outside of Nairobi.

Both of these young ladies have excelled in their studies and along with Milton (our oldest boy - currently attending Strathmore University) have become role models for the younger students in our program. **Rose, Charity, Isaac and Katoo** will all be taking their final exams next year and moving on to post-secondary education.

We have many years ahead of us (presently we have 24 students; our youngest child being just 5 years old) and we are truly doing our best to ensure that all of those in the program have the best opportunities possible to succeed in their country.

Without **YOU**: our wonderful sponsors and donors



From left: Cynthia & Nelly in their uniforms

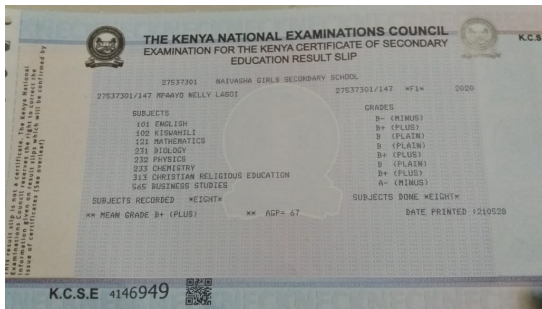
none of this would be happening. **THANK YOU** for your continued support in transforming the lives of our kids!

**Shari Young**

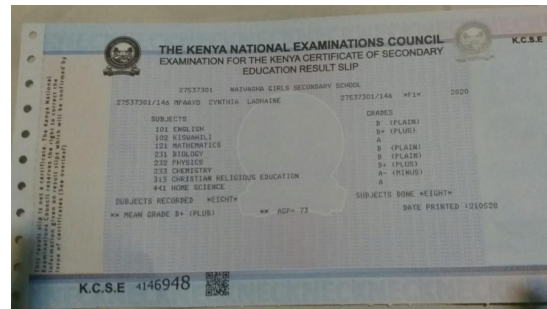
Amboseli Children's Fund

949.350.3516

young.shari2005@gmail.com



Nelly's Final Exam - Score of B+  
752,600 candidates this year, with almost half of those being female. A definite record!

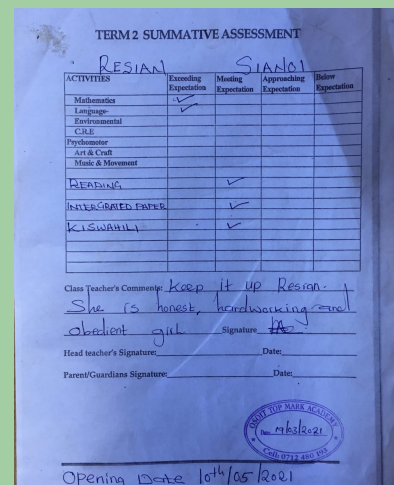


Cynthia's Final Exam - Score of B+ (1 pt away from an A) Almost 70% of students score D or below on this exam which takes TWO months to complete.

## Our Students Shine!!

It's such a thrill when we receive our school reports and get to see the progress each of the students are making. It's been a bit of a challenge getting them this year, as the schools are not sending reports home with the kids as usual. We have to submit a request to each of the various academies; our students are in 11 different schools so this has been quite a challenge for Leonard and Anne! In addition, to make up for all the time lost last year during the pandemic, students are only being allowed 10 day breaks (vs. the 1 month break they normally receive after 3 months of boarding school).

They must return to school with a pre-determined amount of masks and hand sanitizers or risk incurring a fine. Unfortunately, the cost of these items is exorbitant - but we have no other choice than to provide them. Our hope is that they actually do help in keeping the kids safe and healthy.



TERM 2 SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Pamela Jack

ACTIVITIES	Exceeding Expectation	Meeting Expectation	Approaching Expectation	Below Expectation
Mathematics				
Language / Reading				
Environment				
C.R.E				
Performances				
Art & Craft				
Music & Movement				
Physical Education				

Class Teacher's Comments: *Good girl you have done a great work you are very hardworking but do more concerning mathematics but*

Head teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 19/07/2021

Parents/Guardians Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 19/07/2021

TERM 2 SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Joseph Sanoo

ACTIVITIES	Exceeding Expectation	Meeting Expectation	Approaching Expectation	Below Expectation
Mathematics				
Language / Reading				
Environment				
C.R.E				
Performances				
Art & Craft				
Music & Movement				
Physical Education				

Class Teacher's Comments: *Good work very hardworking but not do more chess Subject to avoid A-E and D/E do more in Mathematics*

Head teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 19/07/2021

Parents/Guardians Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 19/07/2021

TERM 2 SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Caleb Joshua

ACTIVITIES	Exceeding Expectation	Meeting Expectation	Approaching Expectation	Below Expectation
Mathematics				
Language				
Environment				
C.R.E				
Performances				
Art & Craft				
Music & Movement				

Class Teacher's Comments: *Very Good*

Head teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 19/07/2021

Parents/Guardians Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 19/07/2021

Opening day 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021



Female wildlife ranger Purity Amleset, 24, left, speaks to a Maasai woman near the Amboseli National Park, in Kenya. On the sweeping plains at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro a group of female wildlife rangers known as "Team Lioness" is making history, defying patriarchal norms by guarding wildlife and patrolling against poachers.

## Team Lioness: Maasai women defy gender norms and find they have an advantage as anti-poaching rangers

As reported on JULY 5, 2021 / 8:43 AM / CBS NEWS

Risa, Kenya — Kenya's Amboseli National Park is home to an abundance of wildlife. It's one of the best places in Africa to see herds of elephants up close. The area is also home to the Maasai people, one of the few African tribes to have retained its customs.

The Maasai have a strict patriarchal society — men hold the power to make decisions and they run the community. But a group of young Maasai women are turning their culture's long-held gender stereotypes upside down.

CBS News correspondent Debora Patta visited a Maasai village recently and was there as the day broke, watching as the men of the village tended to the cattle. The women's job is to milk them. Everyone in Maasai society knows their place.

But the routine has been disrupted: Team Lioness has arrived. The women anti-poaching



## The Life of a Maasai Woman

Typically, Maasai girls are circumcised between the ages of 11 to 13 and soon afterwards married to a man chosen by her father in exchange for cattle and cash.

A Maasai woman will never be allowed to divorce, except in the most egregious cases of physical abuse, and will never be allowed to marry again, even if the husband her father chooses is an old man who dies when she is still in her teens. Instead, she becomes the property of one of her husband's brothers. She will be one of multiple wives, and will have many children, regardless of her health or ability to provide for them.

She will rise early every day to milk cows, and spend her days walking miles to water holes to launder clothes and get water, and to gather heavy loads of firewood to carry back home. If she is lucky, she will have a donkey to share her burden. She will live a life of few physical comforts, dependent on a husband and a family she did not choose. Her life expectancy is 45 years.

If you educate a woman: She will know her rights and have the confidence and independence to

rangers didn't come to the village on official business that morning. They came bearing gifts. One of their colleagues, Ruth Sikeita, had just had a baby, and the Lionesses already had big plans for little newborn Beatrice.

"One day, she will be a ranger," the women agreed with a laugh.

As Purity Lakara, 24, cuddled baby Beatrice, she knew that if she hadn't become a ranger, motherhood was all her future would have held.

"Women are only allowed to stay at home, looking after their kids and giving birth," Lakara lamented of her own culture's norms, before quickly dismissing them outright: "We are not meant to stay just at home. No. We are educated to come and change the world. So that's what we are doing right now."

Together with her seven teammates, she was selected to join Kenya's first all-female anti-poaching squad, set up by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). But as IFAW's East Africa Director James Isiche explained to CBS News, the project was a tough pitch to the local elders.

"This community, the Maasai community, is a very patriarchal community where the men have all the say," he told Patta. "In fact, we faced quite an uphill task convincing the men to allow us to recruit Team Lioness."

Now the trail-blazing women serve as the first line of defense against poaching. Their work is physically grueling. Patrolling the Maasai community land that surrounds the Amboseli National Park, they often walk 12 miles in a day.

But being female gives them an advantage; Maasai women might be invisible to their men, but they hear everything that's going on in their community — including who is illegally killing animals for bushmeat.

And many tipsters feel far more comfortable talking to Team Lioness than they would to their male counterparts.

And while men in their community used to mock them, Lakara said things have changed over the last couple years, and nobody is laughing now. "The respect that they used to give to men, they are now giving us that respect," she told Patta. "Even when there's meetings in the community, if I want to talk, they give me that chance because they respect me. I am a Ranger, yeah!"

Team Lioness has been so successful that there

stand up for them. She will choose whom to marry and when to marry. She will have fewer children, and they will be healthier and better educated than the previous generation. She will not circumcise her daughters. She will have economic security.

She will spend 90 percent of her income on her family, compared to 35 percent that an educated man would spend. She will help support her parents. She will not forget where she came from.



## The Life of a Maasai Man

The Maasai lifestyle centers on the herding of cattle and Maasai boys are expected to be herders from a young age, starting with looking after the family's lambs and young calves from around the age of five.

Maasai families are often reluctant to send their boys to school not only due to lack the funds but also because they need them during the day to take the cattle on a journey of several miles to find pasture and water, returning late in the evening.

There is also understandable fear amongst the elders of the community that educating children will cause them to turn their back on their culture and birthright, luring them into the modern world.

While it is vital that this culture be sustained, the Maasai have come to understand that resisting education will only result in their traditions being steamrolled by the advances of the modern world.

In Kenya, Maasai communities are being driven from their lands by government agencies trying to attract tourists. Education empowers the people to campaign for their rights regarding their land, schools, churches and medical facilities.

Yes, educating girls is equally, if not more important than the education of boys. But in a

are plans to recruit more women from the Maasai community, and to roll out similar anti-poaching squads elsewhere.

patriarchal society such as the Maasai, these young boys will grow up to be the voice of their culture and be in a position to bring about much needed change.

***Amboseli Children's Fund is committed to transforming the lives of Maasai children living in extreme need in the remote area of Amboseli, Kenya.***

***Government assistance does not exist for these people. Without your generous support, they have little hope of breaking free of this cycle of poverty. Education has been proven to be the most single, most effective means of change and your sponsorship gives these children the ability and confidence to set a new course for their future.***

***Our sponsored children receive a balanced diet, clean drinking water, toiletries, uniforms, books and tuition. These children are eager to learn and together we do make a difference!***

***THANK YOU for your generous support of Amboseli Children's Fund and our mission to give back to those less fortunate.***

## **Sponsors needed for these children today:**



**Luyiana Sanaru -  
10 years**

This shy young man strives to make his family proud as he is their only child to attend school. He continually makes good marks and his teachers tell us he is an apt and attentive pupil. He is also fond of football league (soccer)! His parents struggle to make a living and are so thankful for our support.



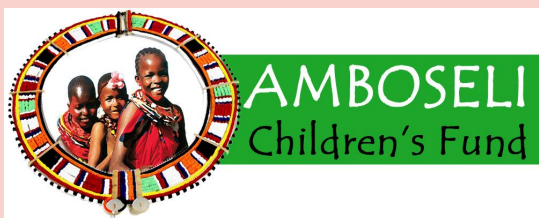
**Mirriam Neeso -  
8 years old**

This adorable girl has consistently been one of the best students in her class but due to her parents lack of funds was not going to be returning this year. She is a very friendly, outgoing child and well liked by the other kids. She enjoys reading and drawing. She is so happy to be in our program and would love to have her own sponsor!



**Penninah Lembayiai -  
9 years old**

Teachers tell us she's very clever and works hard to perform well. English is her favorite subject but she also likes singing and practicing various styles of dancing. She enjoys listening to many different types of music. The oldest of 3 siblings she hopes to set an example for them and make her future sponsor proud.



**For more information on these kids and our program please feel free to call or email:**

**Shari Young**  
**949.350.3516**  
**young.shari2005@gmail.com**

**Visit our website**