

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

Student Profile

Name: **Bwalya Kasanda**

Gender: Female
Date of birth: 16th April, 1995
Place of birth: Kapiri, Zambia

Mother's name: Josephine Kasanda
Profession: Unemployed

Primary School: Northmead Basic

Secondary School: **Chalo Trust School**

2012 Level: **Grade 12**



Family Background:

Bwalya comes from a female-headed household. Her parents are divorced and she stays with a mother. The mother took over the cement selling business to take care of Bwalya and her three siblings—Kasanda, Chilufwe, and Sampa. However, the business failed in 2009, and she is now unemployed. After a number of evictions, she moved into a home with her brother who sells building sand and his family. Despite of this hard environment, Bwalya is a loyal member of her family and when not at school, she is always at home helping her mother with household chores.

Bwalya's mother expressed that KF has made an enormous difference in her life and that of her family's. She is able to send her other three children without the added cost of Bwalya's education. Bwalya's mother also said that she has seen enormous improvements in Bwalya's self-confidence and behavior since she started attending Leopards Hill—she sweeps the house, cooks, and travels to collect water for the family (which alone takes a half an hour to an hour for Bwalya). Bwalya's siblings also excel in school, following Bwalya's example. Bwalya says she helps them with their reading during her time at home. Her aunt told us that Bwalya has "grown up," has "a lot of respect," and is a leader amongst her siblings, helping them with their studies and improving their English.

Bwalya's Education:

Primary - Northmead Basic School

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Bwalya was such a dedicated student in primary school that she went for extra lessons on every Monday afternoon for an hour and a half. Throughout primary school, she borrowed and shared books from her friends because she could only afford an English textbook. Because of her dedication and hard work, Bwalya was always above average in class. In the grade seven examinations, Bwalya earned herself the highest scores of all ten students on the KF scholarship.

At Leopards Hill Secondary School

Grade 8

In grade 8, Bwalya got off to an exceptional start to her secondary school career.

Grade 8 Achievements:

- 1st position in English, French, math, and environmental science
- First position in high jump

Grade 9

Bwalya continued to work hard in her courses and excel academically. She earned first position in almost all of her subjects. Bwalya began to grow into a stand out student and leader in her class!

Grade 9 Achievements:

- First position and best overall student in Grade 9
- Best Junior Academic Award for the Junior Sector of Leopards Hill Secondary School
- Most well-behaved girl in Junior School
- 1st position in English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Environmental Science, Civics, and Office Practice

Grade 10

Bwalya has continued to excel throughout grade 10. During term one she finished with first position, and during term two in second! She regained the top spot during term three, earning 3 As and 1 A+. She is a leader at her school, both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities, and enjoys helping her classmates with school work whenever she can. Bwalya was also selected as a prefect at her school for next year, an enormous honor at LHS. At the prize-giving ceremony at the end of the year, Bwalya literally stole the show, earning 9 awards and impressing the guest of honor, the United States Ambassador to Zambia Mark Storella. Bwalya won prizes for best in English, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, commerce, and additional mathematics, as well as best overall in grade 10 and most disciplined student in the senior section.

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Grade 11

Grade 11 has been yet another outstanding year for Bwalya. She captured the number 1 position in class in both Term 1 and Term 2. In Term 2 she came away with a spectacular 2 A+'s and 5 A's. This is highly impressive given the level she is at and speaks volumes about her hard work. She is particularly pleased with her Chemistry results (an A+) which she was not expecting, and is also happy that she has "managed to maintain a stable improvement in subjects like English and History." She also had the chance to travel to South Africa with all the Grade 11's this past August, a trip she described as "marvelous."

Bwalya's Extracurricular Activities and Interests:

Bwalya loves singing in the school church choir. She is also involved in running and netball and competed in recent cross country competition. She is also on the school's football and basketball teams. Bwalya is in JETS, Debate, and Scripture Union. She enjoys getting "exposure to different things that impact my life positively." In JETS, they worked on projects in teams, preparing experiments like making soap and making magnets. She also participated in quiz competitions including the ISAZ quiz competition in which Leopard's Hill competed against a number of local secondary schools. In Scripture Union, her favorite part is being able to learn more about god and sing gospel songs. She and some of her fellow KF students are developing a community service project called Helping Hand. She recently discovered that she loves to write, especially stories and poetry.

Bwalya's Role Model:

Bwalya looks up to her mother because of her resilience—she never gives up. "When she wants something she is determined to go get it."

Career Interests:

Bwalya has recently taken up an interest in journalism and is hoping to continue developing her writing and public speaking skills.

What others think of her:

Those who know her say that Bwalya is confident, mature, and determined. She is eloquent, and most who know her are impressed by her conduct and manner of speech. She is a very pleasant girl and is always smiling.

Bwalya's Thoughts:

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“First and foremost, I would like to thank KF for granting me this scholarship. I am gaining a lot of benefits by being a KF member. I have changed a lot since going to Leopards Hill School—the way I look at myself, I did not think I could do well before. Now, being at school has made me work harder and believe in myself.”