

OUR VOICES

The Official Newsletter of Kucetekela Foundation



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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

As the editor, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the KF 2020 Term 2 Newsletter. This has been a hard year for us all here, but are glad to share with you some key insights on the work and accomplishments of our students and alumni. This newsletter captures events since the outbreak of COVID-19 and the school closures until they reopened.

The articles in this edition range from talking about online lessons, capacity building, college prep, and alumni engagement in KF activities. These activities prove how dynamic and innovative we all are as KF scholars. We strive to make our families, communities and the world better.

Stay entertained and enjoy!

Rosemary Mbao

TERM HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1 Student Attending Education USA
- ALA Virtual Classes
- Pestalozzi Talent Show
- 3 Alumni Received Full Tertiary Scholarships Abroad
- Post-secondary sendoffs to three international locations
- Completed tertiary placement for all gap year students



Resumption of schools after closure

By Racheal Phiri, Grade 8 Chalo student

After months of speculations on a new disease that had broken out in China and most of Europe, the worst happened in Zambia. We recorded our first case of the Coronavirus. Having heard experts and the ravaging impact of the disease in most parts of the world, the government closed all schools, most businesses and churches after one case was recorded in Zambia in March. Chalo Trust School, and all other private institutions followed suit and the KF office was closed too for safety reasons.

After staying home for nearly three months and taking difficult online classes, the government announced that schools could open for exam grades only. However, the rest of the students would stay home and continue learning online from state television channels or school provided lessons. Schools resumed this September for all the other grades though I must say it is different. We are expected to mask up and observe social distancing, harboring many activities. Despite the need to stay close to friends and family, I believe this is key to avoiding a break out of the pandemic in school. We have so far had no positive cases and continue to enjoy physical classes.

Popular opinion among the less educated local community members is that the virus is for the rich. This made me fear for my life most of the times while at home because most people were not wearing masks. However, I ensured that I wore face covering all the time when in public. Because I am back in school, I feel safer here because everyone knows the extent to which this disease can weaken you and kill you.

After struggling with my social life at home and adjusting to being at school once again, I have learned to be open minded and adapt to new changes faster. This year may have been challenging, but surely it has built my emotional and psychological capacity to be open minded.



E-learning

By Emmanuel Mutambo, Grade 10 PEC IB

Exposure to new technologies and provision of education services has made learning more efficient, this includes virtual learning although it has its own challenges. Online learning introduced me to various educational platforms such as Zoom, Google class and many more. It was fun and interesting learning virtually. With the provision of smartphones and data bundles by KF, I had an opportunity to take part in online classes and YouTube tutorials.

I learned at my own pace and time, hence giving me enough time to understand concepts taught. It was fascinating and pretty amazing to stay in

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touch with both my classmates and teachers despite the distance barrier in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic which demanded for social distance and an end to mass gatherings. Furthermore, I spent enough time with family and friends and got to discover some of my hidden hobbies such as having meaningful conversations, teaching and learning. This helped me to grow and develop my self-esteem.

However, e- learning posed various challenges too. For example, home chores were in constant conflict with the online routine. Initially, it was hard to divide my time for school work and chores but I eventually developed strategies to balance the two. Above all, network crisis topped the list of my difficulties in line with online learning. It became difficult to follow the lessons because of poor network connection.

All in all, the benefits outweigh the challenges.. It was a great experience that I have ever had in my life. I am looking forward to knowing more about technology operations and have developed an interest in IT.



My Experience with Education USA

By Daniel Lumbu, Grade 12, Pestalozzi

Education USA (EDUSA) is a program with its offices at the American embassy that offers

information to learners to pursue their postsecondary school in the US. It helps students to apply and get scholarships and university places at accredited US higher learning institutions. I applied to this program under KF and was accepted early this year.

My experience with EDUSA so far is quite interesting. We get to have virtual boot camps where we learn how to successfully apply for scholarships in the USA. One thing I learnt is that the process of applying to USA colleges is very different from Zambia. Applying to the USA requires more than results but requires one to be a holistic student – what KF strives to make its students.

Further, EDUSA paid for my SAT exams which I wrote on the 3rd of October and my financial aid form sent to New York University. I must mention, KF played a pivotal role in my SAT as they prepared me for the exams during the SAT Boot Camp and Alumni Academic team visits to prep grades 12s on Saturday.

The experience has been quite fun yet different from KF's. EDUSA is strictly aiming to help me get a scholarship to the USA. It's like I have a short stay with them hence the preparations are intense. On the other hand, KF is like being part of a family that will always be there for you.

All in all, being part of EDUSA has been a great experience and it is my wish to see other KF scholars to get into the program. I am certain that EDUSA will help them continue their leadership journey that has begun in KF. It also presents a once off networking opportunity for higher education in the US.

Art Extravaganza

By Anthony Kunda, Grade 10 Pestalozzi IB student

Weeks after taking part in the Enko Africa Day Art Competition in which 14 Enko Education schools across the globe took part, another opportunity came my way, the Art Extravaganza. The Art Extravaganza was a national competition that gave me an opportunity to showcase my creativity and artistic side.

The Art Extravaganza exhibition gave me an opportunity to bounce back from not winning the Africa Day Art Competition. I believe I had acquired new knowledge and realized that the message of an art piece mattered more than the beauty of an art piece. I was ready for the next challenge and tried my luck in the three themed competition. Hence, from the three given themes COVID19, racism and appreciation, I chose racism. This was because of widespread coverage on racial injustice in the United States following George Floyd's death. I was drawn to the subject matter because I saw the trauma this had caused on people here and there on media.

The artwork was an abstract portrait of a lady with two types of skin: black and white. She is portrayed to have patches of white skin and black skin on her face. The message was that there is no difference between black people and white people because we are all human and that something beautiful comes out from having a race blind society. I believe this tested my imagination and artistic vision to draft something that spoke volumes to people. I titled the piece 'White on Black.'

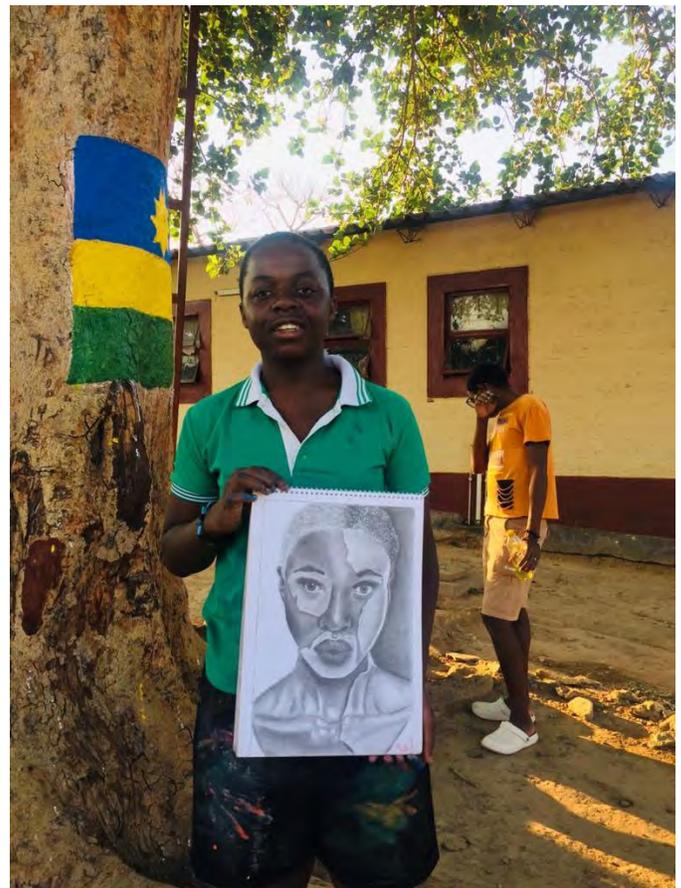
I submitted a photo of the artwork online and waited a week. To my surprise, I had won the competition! I was excited and proud of myself. At the same time, I learned that failure breeds success. I am grateful to KF for helping purchase my art requirements as I would have not been successful without them.

I look forward to winning more competitions in the future. I feel better prepared to win and take

home the lessons I will learn to my KF family here at Pestalozzi and Chalo Trust School.

"I believe I had acquired new knowledge and realized that the message of an art piece mattered more than the beauty of an art piece!"

Anthony Kunda, Grade 10 IB Student at Pestalozzi



Anthony holding his award winning 'White on Black' portrait



Pestalozzi Got Talent

By Bupe Musonda, Grade 9, Pestalozzi

The Pestalozzi got talent event took place on the 27th of July 2020 in the school hall at Pestalozzi International School. This was one of those few moments where students exhibit their talents. .

The event was divided into four main categories which included: dancing, singing, drama and poetry. The preparations for the talent show started with auditions in which I participated in. Knowing my passion in music I decided to sing. Fortunately, I was one of the selected few that qualified to the final stage. This got me to challenge myself more in preparation for the final day of performance. Due to anxiety, sometimes I felt like giving up, but Esther Mulaisho, a KF grade 12 student, always encouraged me not to lose hope. In those instances I was able to gather my courage. It was with such a support system that I worked hard and practiced more.

It was the day of the finals! Students had gathered in the hall and the contestants at the backstage doing final touches on their demonstrations to be shown to the judges and audience. After a brief introduction, the Masters of Ceremony called the first participant on stage. There was great cheer!

All the participants were excellent, by the time I was called on stage, the atmosphere was electric. I sang “Girl on Fire” by Alicia Keys, my music icon. The whole audience stood and gave me an ovation after I finished singing! I felt emotional, it was beautiful.

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“Due to anxiety, sometimes I felt like giving up, but Esther Mulaisho, a KF grade 12 student, always encouraged me not to lose hope. In those instances I was able to gather my courage,”

Bupe.

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After all the participants performed, the judges had to figure out who came out best in the different categories that were set up. After about 20-30 minutes, Emmanuel Chanda, the vice head boy and KF grade 12 student, who was one of the judges, started calling out names of all those who had won to the stage to collect their prizes. I was nervous! He called out a lot of names until I finally heard mine! I had won the “Best Singer” prize, I was very happy and proud of myself and broke down in delight.

Altogether, this experience taught me that talent and hard work go hand in hand. You cannot take away the work from talent because the two are interlinked. As a KF scholar, it gives me great joy and pride to know that I am using my talent to represent KF in school. Two years since I became part of KF I have seen myself transform into a confident person who is willing to use her talents and interests.

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UNI Africa

By Kelvin Ziwa, Grade 11, Pestalozzi

This year has surely been a positive yet uncertain year for me. In February, I was accepted to participate in the Yale Young African Scholars Program (YYAS) that was due to take place in summer in Rwanda. YYAS is a leadership summer school program for young African leaders in grade 10-12 to help develop solutions for Africa.

During YYAS, we attended a number of virtual courses based on a variety of topics. In one lecture we were asked to list the issues that African countries commonly faced and I realised that we had a lot in common. After the lectures we were paired with a YYAS alumni to be mentored on what our role was as YYAS scholars after the program ended. He mentioned that we were each expected to start a project back home that would benefit my community and Zambia. Seeing my passion is to sensitize and educate people on issues faced within the continent and show Africa's untold beauty. Hence, I applied to join Uni Africa, a program founded by a YYAS alumni aimed at disseminating information on matters faced by African countries among youths and suggesting the best possible solutions to them. I became the Zambian ambassador for the program together with Blessings Chileshe.

Uni Africa requires its ambassadors to stay engaged with them as they send periodic topics of issues to address from Egypt, the administration. The topics covered include things such as drug and substance abuse, women and youth empowerment, and environmental health or climate change. So far, we have been given one topic, women empowerment. We worked hand in hand with Blessings to develop a powerpoint presentation that we presented via Zoom to the ambassadors across Africa. After which we sent the recorded presentation to the admin offices.



Kelvin Ziwa

Uni Africa has been a revelation that has shown me the potential I possess and how to use it. For example, I am now outspoken and can freely express my views on a particular topic without being timid. Additionally, this has helped me grow my network across Africa and honed my technological skills and use of research tools.

“Uni Africa has been a revelation that has shown me the potential I possess and how to use it,”

Kelvin Ziwa

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University Applications

By Esther Mulaisho, Grade 12 Pestalozzi

The university application process has been a very different experience for me. I learnt a lot from it as I was exposed to different platforms that offer help in finding a good university and tertiary institution and one that is suitable.

The first session was about essay writing skills led by Rabbecca and Martin – KF Alumni graduates from the class of 2017. One of the skills I learnt is to always have a thesis in my introduction. In the beginning, I didn't know the main message that the introduction is supposed to have but through them I was able to know the importance of having a thesis. This has really helped me even in my preparation for my final national examination. "Always be specific when writing an essay" was always emphasized. I can proudly say that it has shaped me into a better writer and am able to make edits on my own essays.

Consequently, we were advised to practice more on time management as well as being focused on what you are doing in order to make the best out of your application. Which turned out to be challenging in the beginning but I caught up as more work was introduced to us. We were also taught interview etiquette in readiness for scholarship interviews. This in turn has greatly boosted my morale and has helped me turn my negativity into positivity through the different

tactics taught. In addition, some of the questions that were being asked in the applications have baked me into an open-minded person and not only think of problems that I go through as an individual but the world at large.

The different platforms included Khan Academy, Common Application and College Board. This got me to realize that there is much more that the outside world can offer than what we already know, it's just a matter of being exposed and having someone beside you to offer help. Additionally, the exposure to these platforms helped me become more familiar with the correct use of technology and got to discover that there is more that you can get from the internet apart from using it for social media as well as searching for answers only.

Finally I would like to appreciate the Academic and Mentorship team for the excellent work done. I feel confident with each application and hope to receive many acceptances to universities going forward!



Rabbecca, KF Alumni '17, helping Chalo Grade 12s create Common App accounts

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Chalo students attending the Stanford virtual admissions conference

The Stanford Virtual Conference

By William Changa, Grade 11, Chalo

The Stanford online admissions session was a stunning event. I had an opportunity of participating in it to learn more about admissions

Stanford is a liberal arts university and is academically intensive. I was inspired by the fact that Stanford gives grants to international students and not loans. This helps the university bring diverse minds together and helps resolve global challenges such as racism and injustice. I feel that Stanford has helped a lot of students from the global community. Despite the fact that the university mainly centers on academics, it still has its sports strings and ties. Stanford prides itself for producing excellent members of society and great leaders.

The online session also helped me to think about my future ambitions and just the kind of impact I would want to have on society. I was also fascinated by the prospect of knowing that law and economics are two important majors that the university offers. This was amongst the best virtual conferences I have had this year so far.

All in all, I would just like to say that I have had great opportunities because of the KF scholarship. The admission officer also

emphasized the importance of learning and applying that knowledge in real-life situations. As a result, the university offers an intensive internship program and trips depending on students preferred field of study.

The breathtaking fact about Stanford that I got is that the university brings diverse minds in one place. This helps enrich the over 172 countries represented nearly every year.

In conclusion, I am inspired by the fact that even prestigious universities share my dream of making a better world for everyone to live in.



Leah listens to a Stanford admissions counsellor via Zoom



Sharing is caring: Pauline and Lusungu closely follow the Stanford virtual session

YYGS Virtual Conference

By Oswald Mutale, Grade 11. Chalo

Seasons come and go but memories and impact last forever. There has never been an exciting yet life-changing experience as the Yale Young Global Scholars virtual conference (YYGS connect). The program was much fun and more animated than I ever imagined any virtual program would be. Thanks to the KF staff and the YYGS team for making it such a successful and productive program for me.

My favorite part of the program was family time. I had a great experience meeting people and making friends from all the parts of the world. It was amazing knowing and sharing about our different countries' cultures, traditions and political affairs in my family at YYGS. I also had a pleasant moment while sharing the most important objects of our lives.



The other interesting part of the program was the STEM lectures. With mind-blowing topics such as *transhumanism* and *social robotics*, my lectures felt like work experience for Mechatronics. This helped me realize how much the career I want to take up has advanced and positively affected the people around the world. These lectures also helped me learn some of the factors that need to be put in place when creating technological materials for human assistance.



From L-R: Kelvin(l) , Leah(c) and Blessings(sitting) pose for a photo after YYAS/GS sessions

Additionally, the lecture “*We are all Guilty Here*” opened my mind further. It involved discussions on how technological devices such as fingerprint scanners have been used to solve crime. It went as far as to involve the critical analysis and evaluation of the reliability of witnesses in court. I had such fruitful time developing my analytical skills on real-life situations as I was introduced to podcast series for evaluation.

Simulation is another impactful program that helped me realize I’m part of the solution in bettering the world. In my group, we came up with a project to help the poor attain medical care in New York during COVID-19. Each of the four groups created helped map different solutions. This helped me realize that as individuals we can only make a small difference yet all together make a big difference to the world we live in today.

With all the impact the program had upon my life; the making of new friends and gaining career assurance, I can do more than just describe YYGS as a memorable life-changing experience. I hope to share my knowledge with other KF students starting this academic year.



Exam Preparations

By Patrick Simuyemba, Grade 9, Pestalozzi

Examinations are not only a measure of knowledge mastery, but helps to assess the possibility of application of the knowledge acquired to resolve real life situations. However, people have varying perceptions about examinations as others consider them to be stressful and unnecessary especially those who come from typical traditional backgrounds with financial constraints. I strongly believe that in order for one to excel in anything, preparations play a vital role and academic examination is not an exception.

As a grade 9 student aspiring to be a grade 10 in the next academic year, preparing for the examination is one activity that has been top on my list of priorities. Knowing that time management is one element that most students struggle with, I decided to strategize by beginning the preparations as early as the first term of grade eight. I made an effort to understand the basic topics in most of my subjects especially the ones I had challenges

with for instance, algebra and integers in mathematics. I take time to ask as many questions as possible on concepts I am not clear on in class. I also make use of the available resources such as computers and textbooks effectively. I also participate in class discussions and group presentations as often as possible. This helped me improve my public speaking skills and also establish a relationship with my classmates and teachers.

Additionally, I created a study timetable that is structured in such a way that more study time is allocated to subjects that I am having difficulties in. I also incorporated group work and peer tutoring so as to improve my understanding and team work spirit.

Furthermore, the grade ten students have been assisting me through my examination preparation process by guiding me. The support from KF has helped me boost my self-esteem and confidence to tackle any challenge that may come my way that includes my examinations.

All in all, I have waited long enough to conclude my grade 9 journey. I am ready and anxiously waiting to write my grade 9 national examinations and hopefully produce remarkable results!

“I created a study timetable that is structured in such a way that more study time is allocated to subjects that I am having difficulties in,”

Patrick

ALA vs ECZ

By Emmanuel Chanda, Grade 12, Pestalozzi

Amidst the distressing times of the coronavirus, I appreciatively received admission to the African Leadership Academy (ALA) to pursue my academic, leadership and entrepreneurial journey for an exciting two years. However, 2020 is the year I have had my eyes on since joining junior secondary school; it is the year I am supposed to finish my high school. With national examinations coming ahead and an apparent virtual term, this year has been special for me because I was being pushed to transcend my mental and academic capacity.

After receiving admission, I was scheduled to start my journey at the academy in September of this year, 2020. Because of this, I would be among the few students who seize the opportunity to pursue A-levels or the IB programs before finishing high school. However, with the risk posed by the corona virus, I could not travel to South Africa due to travel restrictions. This development caused a lot of anxieties because I was not certain where my future was headed.

Therefore, with life needing to continue regardless, ALA decided to launch a virtual term on Canvas. This meant I had to start my A-levels whilst still in school. I am happy about one thing though; I am going to write my national exams which I wouldn't have if I had travelled.

The real turning point is having to manage both the ALA virtual term, which has Omang and Entrepreneurial Leadership courses, and my national exam preparations. The requirements of these activities in terms of time, energy, effort, discipline and self-management have been impactful on a personal level. It has really been a learning experience. I have had to learn how to manage myself whilst working on these decisive tasks. Still continuing to learn from my failures,

I have had to try what will enable me get the best from these experiences while living the experience.

I have had to employ the most efficient skills and techniques I have learnt overtime from YYAS and YYGS to the most recent intensive learning experience, the Boot camp. Dividing my time and prioritizing has been cardinal. One challenge, however, has been keeping up the momentum because it has been exhausting and energy demanding. Above all, staying focused has been the key.

Fortunately, part of orientation included short courses on Self-management and Wellness and Study tips because ALA understands the massive engagements and workload in the courses. These resources were very helpful in guiding my journey in the virtual term. Also, ALA understands the role a community plays in our lives from identity to a place we meet and cross with different people. Therefore, each student belongs to an Advisory Family and to it is assigned a coach or Advisor.

“The real turning point is having to manage both the ALA virtual term and my national exam preparations,”

Emmanuel

Generally, as dreadful as this virus has been, it has illuminated lights of hope and change in our lives. On a personal level, one of the most valuable skills I have learnt is the trait of being an *autodidact*, which simply means self-learning. With this skill or ability, which is the true purpose of education –teaching us how we can employ our various abilities and skills to learn by ourselves– I have been empowered to take ownership of my own learning and thus grow my mind and academic horizon at my own will and capacity.

SAT Boot Camp Reflection

Timothy Chibinda, Grade 12, Chalo

From August the 30th to September the 5th, I was at the Kucetekela Foundation office together with four other grade 12s and five KF alumni. We were there for the first-ever KF SAT boot camp. The facilitators of this camp were KF alumni, Martin and Rebecca. However, to make the whole event become a reality, Mrs. Florence Nkowane played a major role in making sure that everything that was required by the event facilitators and the students was in place.

This experience for me was something new, I had thought that it was going to be all about SAT preparations, but to my surprise, it went beyond that. As we even went as far as university applications.

The first day was all about settling in and the boot camp staff. Shockingly, I didn't know that Harriet, class of 2019, and Edna, class of 2012, were both great cooks.

Though they say that "settling in is always the hardest," for me it was a different case. I easily adjusted to the new environment basically because it all felt like a huge family reunion. However, it is true to say that "fun does not last forever.". The second day without mention we were given a full SAT practice test, at first I felt intimidated as the test booklet was thick as an encyclopedia.

The following days were fully dedicated to understanding the different sections of the SAT and that which is required from us. My favorite part of this was during a math section when Martin showed us the relationship that exists between the sum of the quadratic factors and the midpoint (turning point) of a curve and the tricks to use when attempting to answer questions related to this in any SAT Math section. Before having this class, I had always failed to understand this concept despite all the efforts my secondary school teachers put in. After the camp, given the opportunity to teach someone else this concept, I would do it with pleasure.



Grade 12 students taking a full SAT Practice test

Furthermore, I had a fun time learning about punctuation marks. It had never crossed my mind that an initial idea in a piece of writing could be easily distorted by poor punctuation marks. I tried my best to ensure that I understood the general rules of punctuations and grammar for they are an essential aspect of the SATs.

Besides, we also had the opportunity to interact with other influential members of our society both locally and internationally. This was done through Zoom meetings and actual meetings at the office. For example, we had Cararise Lubamba, KF alumni class of 2018 currently pursuing her IB diploma in Japan through the UWC program via Zoom, she talked about the importance of developing the culture of reading books and also the art of networking. She shared how this has helped her to remain focused on her studies and career ambitions. Reading different types of books gives one a wide range of understanding of why different cultures and societies behave the same or in a different normal.

We also had an interesting conversation on career-making decisions with Mr. Zulu, a businessman who works for the Standard Chartered bank. This conversation helped me understand myself as an individual and the impact that I have on my community and the world at large and that this could only be achieved by making the right career choice that suits my interests and skills.

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In conclusion, this whole experience has been all about self-discovery, as I have gotten to know myself much and the potential that is within me.

And I would like to show my appreciation to all those who were involved in the preparation of this event.



Grade 12 students and alumni posing for a photo with Mr. Zulu after having a career development session during the SAT boot camp



University Hours (L). Emmanuel Chanda takes notes during SAT Math class (R)



Gap Year and Alumni Features



Gazing Through: The 2020 KF Recruitment Mirror

By Martin Thulani Milanzi, Class of 2017, PEC

Up until now I still wondered what KF had seen in me in 2012. I was an average boy, nothing seemed special about me. Just a boy! A little boy in grade seven. For most parts of my early years under the KF scholarship, I struggled to get a hold of my academics and social life. I was in disbelief. I mean who wouldn't be? You move from having a bleak educational future to one that was vividly structured with endless possibilities. It was until this year that I finally saw what KF saw in me while doing the 2020 Recruitment for next year's grade eights.

This year's recruitment was run by KF alumni mostly in school, on breaks due to the pandemic. Vincent, Christian, Metrina, Ethen, Kellyson and I were at the core of the exercise to conduct school group interviews and later assess the forms. We interviewed 25 schools and a total of 200 applicants for the 10 slot KF scholarship. It took a lot to manage the application load and moving around Lusaka between schools. During this time, we met 200 applicants each with a hunger and thirst for an opportunity to go to high school on a full ride scholarship. However, not everyone can make the list as only 50 would go to the next step – the exam.

We began the process after conducting an orientation with KF staff on what we would be doing during the recruitment and how to

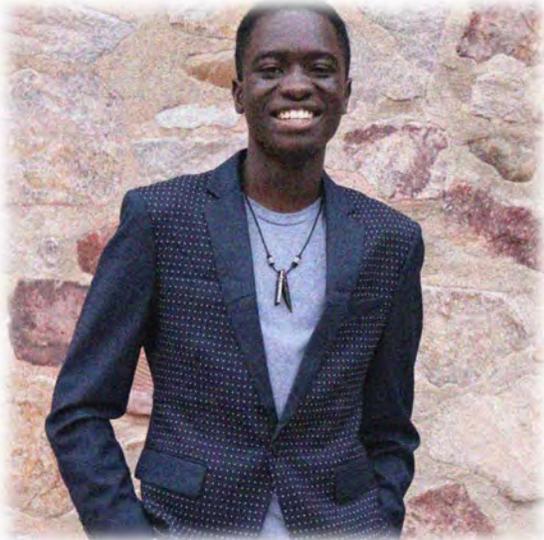
complete the assessment rubric. Later, we held our first school interview at Chunga Primary School and reality kicked in. There I was seeing myself in all of the children. Eyes and ears fixed on the KF staff ready to fire away at the first instance a question is thrown at us.

Often times, we forget our steps and maybe overlook the things that have built us to who we are. Being a part of this year's recruitment has offered me a mirror through which I gazed and saw little me staring back. Hearing the pupils marvel at some of my achievements under KF helped me see that I have come far enough that younger me never thought possible. It has been refreshing. Seeing the children smile and beam back with joy was mind blowing. I finally saw what KF saw in me in 2012 – a leader.

Altogether, I am optimistic each alumni that took part in the recruitment saw a new light in their lives. We completed the process on a high. I was the lucky one to have seen it to its very end as we picked the new grade eights for KF!



KF Alumni conducting recruitment interviews at Kalingalinga Primary School



My UWC Journey Thus Far

By Terry Chishimba, Pestalozzi Class of 2019

The one thought that a Kucetekela Foundation (KF) student has as they are about to finish their secondary school is always what is the next step they need to take in order to improve their lives?

After secondary school, my next step to a higher education is the United World College (UWC) Robert Bosch College in Freiburg, Germany. Getting to UWC was a challenge due to the on-going pandemic but hopefully I was able to make it to Germany with the help of KF and The UWC National committee.

My UWC Robert Bosch College experience has been fascinating and exciting so far. Robert Bosch College provides an environment with students from different cultures and experiences which makes it very interesting getting to know other students.

Due to safety restrictions of the corona virus we have only been allowed to visit the city one day. I have so far visited the city once and it was a great experience. The city is not that modern it doesn't have skyscrapers or shiny buildings, but it has a vintage look that was fantastic to see as well as architectural structures that I was happy to see such as the Freiburg Cathedral. I have also

been able to see part of the forest by Hiking or Canoeing.

I intend to make the best of my stay at Robert Bosch although most activities are restricted and that lessens the activities that the school can organize. So far I have been able to get the best out of it and I hope I can get the best opportunities and experience from UWC RBC.

The number one thing I have at the back of my head is that, I am here representing KF and Zambia. I hope to be a vital member of the RBC community and learn skills that will help me impact other KF scholars and alumni when I return from Germany.



My Gap Year Experience

By Harriet Mwanza, Pestalozzi Class of 2019

My name is Harriet Mwanza and I am a recent graduate from Pestalozzi Education Centre, 2019. I am from Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe Primary School.

During the start of my gap year, I worked on various college applications to various institutions such as African Science Academy and other American colleges with the help of Kucetekela Foundation (KF).

I am a part of the Academic and Mentorship Committee, which is part of the KF Alumni Association (groups of Kucetekela Foundation

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scholars giving back to KF and their communities). I have participated by mentoring one of the pupils still in high school who faced difficulties in her academics and have continued to grow as a leader.

During this time, I have worked on community service projects such as teaching people on the threat posed by social and viral disease such as AIDS. This has given me an opportunity to network and expand my influence.



Harriet Mwanza, center, at a charity organization hosting Zambia's hip hop giant Slap Dee

Later on I continued with my college applications and finally got a full ride scholarship to African Leadership University (ALU) Rwanda campus with the guidance and help of Mrs. Nkowane and the Academic team. I was awarded the Dolika Banda STEMZ Scholarship to pursue a degree in computer science for the 2021 intake. KF has been with me during my application and now as I prepare for my next year, KF has given me the necessary resources to be equipped.

My gap year has been filled with a lot of growth and I am grateful to KF for being there for me through this growth process.



Faith Mulenga (f), Gift (l), Harriet (c) and Cecilia (r) filling in application forms for Chikakanta College



KF Executive Director poses for a selfie with gap year alumni after completing a recruitment visit.

My Ashoka Virtual Experience

By Emmanuel Banda, Chalo Class of 2019

The bittersweet truth about life is that we live in oblivion. Unaware of our tomorrow. This therefore calls for alertness and being prepared for anything that might arise. Back in March, I was so excited with the news of having a full scholarship to further my education at Ashoka University in India. Oblivious to the fact that COVID-19 was knocking, not only on people's homes, but on national doors too. Soon afterwards, my excitement turned to frustration, for there was word of online classes as countries started shutting down their doors.

The thought of online classes sent a chilly feeling down my spine, before I could fully perceive what was at stake, a confirmation had already ambushed my mail. To this day, I feel I had not prepared myself mentally for this and it has had a tremendous effect on my performance. Nonetheless, the skills I have acquired while having virtual classes will have many long-term advantages.

For Ashoka, the pressure doubles. The workload is so overwhelming that at some point I wished I could drop all my courses. As absurd as it sounds, it is what most students feel like doing. With only an Ordinary Level educational background- it felt like suicide attending these rigorous online classes where everyone seemed to belong, but me. Lucky enough, the support I got from my peers within Zambia and India especially my assigned mentor from the

university really helped me figure out better ways of navigating through these hardships.

I would not say everything is all rosy now, but the perfect word would be manageable. The support I got from KF with a boarding house helped me have a good study environment which I will forever be thankful for. Not to forget to mention that KF has facilitated the supply of data bundles and a laptop which has made the transition less stressing.

Like I had mentioned in the beginning, bittersweet is the right word for my experience.

Today I can do so well in an assignment and then fail triumphantly in another. The best part is that I get to have a communal feeling with everyone.

This year's unprecedented turn of events have really affected humanity badly. On the other hand, it has taught us important lessons about life; the art of preparedness and learning to appreciate the people and things that matter most. In my case KF, family and friends have been a blessing in my transition to being an

international student at home. It has not been an easy journey, though not at the end yet, but I can confidently say the future looks bright. Let us always remember the people who make it possible to explore the academic sphere and our lives in general.

I would like to end with a quote by the daily journal:

“Abundance grows from a seed of gratitude.”



LIFE UNDER QUARANTINE

By Ased Chipangano, Pestalozzi Class of 2018

The wave struck the entire globe by storm. I have read of viruses but in my life time this was the first time experiencing such firsthand.

I am a first year student at the People's Friendship University studying economics in Russia. The very first time I heard of the virus was the time the dean of my faculty wrote to everyone saying we would, for one week, be learning remotely. Reason being that a very serious virus that originated from China was spreading faster than the speed of light. My understanding of the virus was shallow at the time so I took to the internet and did 5 hours of research on the virus starting with the history, the prevention methods and symptoms. After the research I called my family back home in Zambia and shared with them my newly found knowledge concerning the virus and cautioning them to stay safe. Learning online was very strange and not easy to adapt to. Having grown learning in the traditional way of lectures, it was weird having to attend class virtually. However, I was up to the task as I have been groomed into a dynamic and open minded scholar by KF.

On a sad note, during this this time, I lost my last surviving guardian, my grandfather Mr. Martin Chipangano. Who played a crucial role in raising me and getting me where I am. This was a very hard time for me emotionally. Unfortunately also during the same time, I contracted the virus and I had to be put in quarantine, which meant that I was not able to travel

back home and pay my last respects to my grandfather nor share the grief with my loved ones back home. Throughout this entire time I kept in close contact with Mr. Mukena and Mrs. Nkowane who supported me to navigate through this hard time. They provided advice and helped me emotionally and academically. I would not have navigated through this difficult phase in my life without them.

While the drama surrounding my life unfolded and I paid my last respect to my grandfather in spirit, Russia was recording high numbers of people who had contacted the virus. For most, the virus was something that they saw on the news but for me who contacted it and saw some of my close friends get it, I was living the reality. It was scary seeing the numbers escalate and be far from home. I became home sick during the same period of isolation. I wanted to be with my family and friends, but I knew I would be okay as I was asymptomatic.

It would be wrong for me to say that living in the era of the corona virus has only taught me negative things. During this time I learnt that KF will always be around in our lives even as alumni far or near home to support us emotionally, financially and academically. I would not have been here without the support and love from the staff and alumni who strengthened me.

"...I was up to the task as I have been groomed into a dynamic and open minded scholar by KF!"

Ased Chipangano





KF Alumni committee heads attending KFAEF September monthly meeting

KF Alumni Engagement Forum Executive Committee

By Gift Kasweka, Chalo Class of 2019

Hi there!

It is my honor to write about the Kucetekela Foundation Alumni Engagement Forum (KFAEF). My name is Gift Kasweka and I am the current Chairman of the KFAEF. I am positive you are safe during these unprecedented times.

The KF alumni and staff spent some time at the office discussing the birth of the association. Different groups were formed that suit an individual's skill sets to improve and discover new ways of sustaining KF and the alumni. The groups include: Events Committee, Technology Committee, Academic and Mentorship Committee, Publicity & Marketing Committee and the Entrepreneurship Committee. Each committee has its own alumni head who coordinates the group's activities and programs.

Later on, it was decided that all the groups should formulate an overall body of leadership despite the group leaders. This leadership is made up of 6 alumni headed by Gift as the chairman of the association, Sylvester Mumba as vice chairman, Simangele Magodi as secretary, Vincent Mwafulirwa and Rabeca Ndlovu as liaison. This is to ensure smooth

operations and creating a feedback mechanism for each committee's works.

There has been huge success in the association thus far. For example, the Academic committee hosted an SAT boot camp to prepare our class of 2020 for SATs. At the camp, they invited a number of professionals in Zambia, France and Brazil to speak to the students. They developed their capacity and honed their minds. The Academic Team has further obtained three full scholarships for three KF scholars this past three months for Harriet Mwanza to Rwanda, Cecilia Banda to Rwanda and Susan Kamono to Morocco.

On the other hand, the Entrepreneurship department managed to secure 5 hectares of land with the help of KF in Mumbwa. They hope to develop the land and use it for farming.

Despite having little knowledge on how to run a project, I have put in my best to get this running. Being chairman is hard, but offers a steep learning curve that requires adaptation. Overall it provides me with experiences that are useful now and in the future. I am learning to prepare meetings quick and being flexible. I know these skills will become handy when I want to run for public office or take active company leadership.

On behalf of the KFAEF, I am pleased to inform you that this is the start to greater things ahead. Look out for our updates and projects. We hope to lead the intellectual change in Zambia and beyond! The Chair



IT Team updating office PCs

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

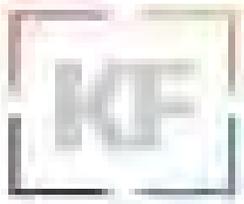
We are on the web! Visit us at kucetekelafoundation.org

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Our Team

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Simasiku Mukena
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Program Coordinator

Martin T. Milanzi
Program Coordinator

Barbara Kifokola
Alumni Intern

Edna Phiri
Alumni Intern

Kucetekela Foundation is an organization that sponsors talented, high-achieving students in secondary school. Not only do we provide these high-need students with opportunities for quality education, but we also support their holistic personal development, through mentorship, work experience, capacity building seminars, summer schools and community service programs. All of our secondary school graduates are currently enrolled in or have completed tertiary programs. We pride ourselves in providing high-quality services for our students, and always strive to inspire them as much as they inspire us!

NEW ISSUE COMING NEXT TERM! Stay tuned....



Patrick Simuyemba (r) leads his team through the Challenge Valley held to teach our students team work, leadership & communication skills

If you were encouraged by our students and would like to contribute towards their education, please visit our website or contact **Dr. Florence Nkowane** at **+260971594959** or kucetekelafoundationzambia@gmail.com to make a donation.