

# Kucetekela Foundation Newsletter: Term 3, 2024

Welcome to the Kucetekela Foundation Term 3 2024 Newsletter!  
This edition highlights the remarkable achievements, experiences, and reflections of our high school students and alumni. Join us as we celebrate their growth, leadership, and community engagement through their own words.

 **by Kucetekela Foundation**

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# Leadership in Action: Culture and Events

By Gladys Mwangala, Grade 11



In the third term of the academic year 2024, I enthusiastically seized the chance to apply for a prestigious position at my school, understanding that it could greatly enrich my leadership development. As prefects, we play a crucial role within the school community, serving as role models and facilitators to ensure the effective operation of various school activities. The prospect of engaging with theatre thrilled me and instilled a deep sense of purpose as I saw the opportunity to influence areas I genuinely care about.

I chose to apply for the role of Culture and Events Assistant. The selection process was demanding and competitive. I had to demonstrate my leadership capabilities and make a convincing argument how I would approach this role. While tackling the challenging application process, I worked hard to make my

submission distinctive. I crafted an all-encompassing presentation with innovative concepts and strategies to develop greater cultural awareness in our school and to motivate my peers and faculty. My hard work was rewarded and I was chosen for the position!

I worked alongside other student leaders and committed faculty as the Culture and Events Assistant. We coordinated various school events including cultural fairs, themed celebrations, and awareness campaigns focused on diversity and inclusivity. Our main aim was to create an environment that promotes participation from all students and ensures each student feels valued, included, and engaged.

As the Culture and Event Assistant at school, I had the honour of helping organise our secondary school graduation ceremony. This was a rewarding experience because it was significant to the school. I was mainly involved in arranging the cultural performances that added a unique touch to the ceremony. I worked closely with students to ensure they were ready for their performances, from selecting the right music to assisting them with the logistics of their acts. I was very proud that the performances were very well received by all. I also played a role in the ushering, showing parents where to sit when they arrived to avoid confusion.

This position has enhanced my leadership abilities and given me a platform to motivate my peers. I have witnessed how impactful cultural initiatives can be to revitalise our school atmosphere, making it more engaging and beneficial for all students. I am dedicated to fostering a positive school culture by nurturing a sense of community and belonging.



# Achieving Dreams: ALA Admission

**By Mukanda Monde, KF Gap Year Student**

One of the most fulfilling experiences of my life so far has been my successful acceptance into the African Leadership Academy (ALA). Although this journey was challenging, it taught me the importance of hard work, patience, and determination, proving what can be accomplished with effort and perseverance.

My application process was not a solo effort. It was supported by Kucetekela Foundation (KF), which played a crucial role in guiding my education and leadership development. Their mentorship greatly helped me in preparing for my interview and presenting myself effectively.

I reached the interview stage during my first application but felt disappointed not to progress further. Rather than allow this to discourage me, I viewed it as a chance to learn and improve.

When applications reopened, I prepared diligently with help from KF alumni who had previously been accepted into ALA. Throughout the process, KF supported me, especially Madam Edna, the Program Manager.

At the beginning of January, I received the fantastic news: I was accepted into ALA with 98% financial aid! My dedication had finally borne fruit.

Reflecting on my experiences, I recognize the importance of never giving up. My first application imparted the invaluable lesson of resilience, while my second attempt



highlighted the power of preparation, mentorship, and self-confidence. This journey has strengthened my commitment to learning and personal growth. I am excited to embark on my journey at ALA in September 2025!



# Community Engagement: Agricultural Skills

**By Paul Phiri, Grade 11**

## Sharing Knowledge

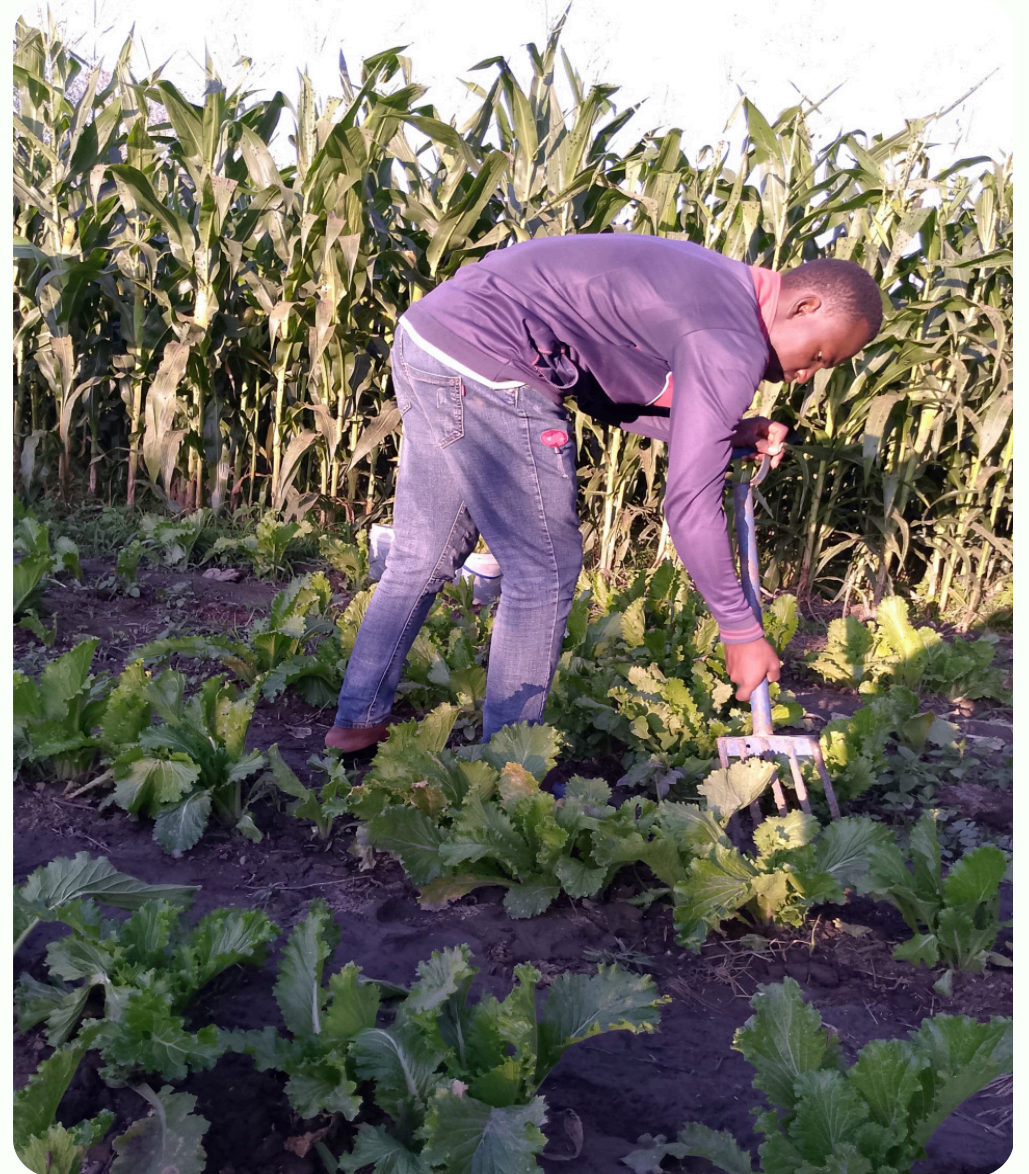
During the third term break, I had the chance to use my agricultural skills by helping people in my community with their gardens. It was a very fulfilling experience because many people wanted to grow their food, especially since it was rainy season, but didn't know the best way to do it. I took the time to share my knowledge about essential gardening practices, such as choosing the right crops for our local climate, preparing the soil, and controlling pests naturally.

## Transformation

Throughout this process, I witnessed a remarkable transformation in the confidence of the people I was assisting. Initially, many were uncertain about their gardening abilities. However, as we collaborated to overcome challenges like pest invasions and poor soil conditions, they began to feel more empowered. Their newfound confidence was a testament to the real difference my efforts had made in their lives.

## Personal Growth

This experience was not only beneficial for the individuals I assisted, but it also served as a profound learning opportunity for me. It allowed me to apply the theoretical knowledge I had gained in school to real-life situations, thereby deepening my understanding of agriculture. I also honed my problem-solving skills by learning to navigate unexpected challenges.



## Future Impact

Assisting my community in this manner was an incredibly fulfilling experience. Knowing that I played a small role in enhancing people's lives was deeply satisfying. This experience has ignited a passion within me to continue my agricultural education and find more ways to utilize my skills to assist others in the future. I am eager to delve deeper into this field, armed with the lessons and knowledge I have gained from this experience.



# Exploring New Horizons: Circus Zambia

**By Charlington Malupenga, Grade 11**

During the third term, I had the fantastic chance to visit Circus Zambia, an experience I will never forget. The trip was full of fun, learning, and cultural richness, leaving me excited and thoughtful. The energy around us was contagious as we arrived, and the whole place was buzzing with excitement. The bright costumes worn by the performers and the colourful tents created a lively atmosphere, and the music made everything festive.

The performances were terrific. I was genuinely impressed by the acrobats, dancers, and jugglers. Every act was carefully planned, showing not only talent but also the hours of hard work they put into their performances. I was in awe as I watched the acrobats flip and soar with grace and precision.

The dancers moved so smoothly and energetically that it felt like they were telling a story. The jugglers amazed everyone with their skill and coordination, turning a simple act into something magical. It became clear that this was more than just entertainment—a celebration of their culture and creativity.



Beyond the fun, this trip taught me an important lesson about success. The performers at Circus Zambia weren't just doing their craft for fun—they had turned their passion into careers. Many started training at a young age, putting their hearts into their art.

This experience changed the way I think about success. I learned that a career doesn't need to be a traditional job like a doctor or teacher. People can build successful lives using their unique talents in different creative fields. The performers at Circus Zambia showed me that if you are committed, patient, and believe in yourself, you can turn your passion into a thriving career.

Ultimately, my visit to Circus Zambia was more than just a fun day; it was an eye-opening learning experience that significantly contributed to my personal growth. It gave me a deeper appreciation for the performing arts and a new perspective on success.

# Gap Year Experience: Internship at Bookworld

**By Sherise Zulu, KF Gap Year Student**

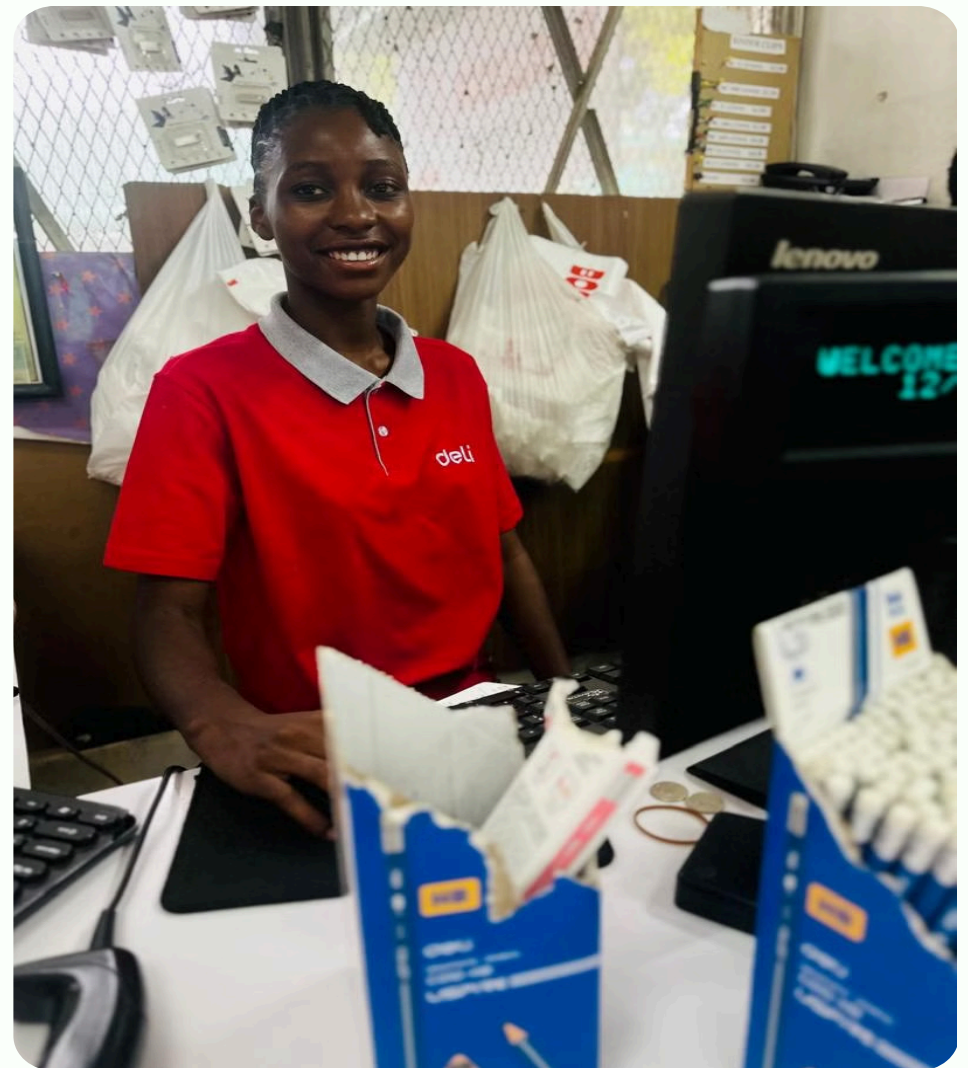
**My gap year has been a transformative period of deep reflection and preparation for the next stage of my life. As students of Kucetekela Foundation (KF), we focus on becoming eligible for university while gaining practical experience through internships. One of the most valuable aspects of this journey has been my internship at Bookworld, one of the largest bookstore chains in Zambia.**

During my internship at Bookworld, my primary responsibilities included being proactive and open to learning how the bookstore operates. I had to understand the daily processes that keep the business running smoothly and adapt to a structured work setting.

I assisted customers by helping them locate books and other stationery products while providing clear information about their functions and benefits. I also had the chance to familiarise myself with the store's point-of-sale system, where I practised as an intern cashier.

One of the most significant lessons from my internship at Bookworld is the paramount importance of clear and concise communication. This was evident in my daily interactions with customers, where I learned that effective communication is the cornerstone of customer satisfaction.

I have developed patience and understanding when dealing with customers. Customers have unique needs and expectations, and their reactions can vary based on their circumstances. Some customers are polite and appreciative, while others may be frustrated or in a hurry. Learning to handle different situations calmly and professionally has been essential to my growth.



Beyond customer service skills, this internship has helped me build resilience and dedication to my commitments. Before this experience, my primary focus was academics, and I had never been required to dedicate myself to a structured work routine.

Overall, my internship at Bookworld has been instrumental in shaping my understanding of the professional world and the skills needed to thrive in my academic and career journey. It has shown me the importance of determination - pushing forward even when challenges arise. This experience has strengthened my ability to adapt, communicate effectively, and remain committed to my goals.



# International Education Week at the American Embassy

**By Emmanuel Mutambo, KF Alumnus (Class of 2022)**

As Kucetekela Foundation alumni, we were filled with immense pride and gratitude when we received an invitation from EducationUSA to participate in the noteworthy celebration of International Education Week with the theme 'Explore.'

As Kucetekela Foundation representatives, we were charged with discussing the typical requirements for Zambians aspiring to gain admission and securing scholarships at U.S. universities.

The variety of presentations was evaluated based on content quality, creativity, and overall presentation skills. We were proud to receive a fourth-place recognition, accompanied by a certificate.

This annual event highlights and appreciates the indispensable role that international education plays in enhancing cross-cultural understanding and developing global citizens. The experience gave us unique insights into how embassies promote international education, such as the role of embassy staff in guiding students through the application process and facilitating connections between students and worldwide educational opportunities.

In preparation for this presentation, I focused on the critical topic of financial aid documents, emphasising their importance in enhancing an international student's prospects of gaining acceptance. Understanding these requirements is particularly important for Zambian students, as financial aid can often decide what makes studying in the U.S. a viable option.



The participation of various secondary schools enriched the event, each bringing their unique flair and perspective to the presentations. Topics covered by high school students ranged from compelling reasons for studying in the USA, such as the quality of education and the diverse cultural experience, to spotlighting renowned figures in the U.S. education system, showcasing their significant contributions to academic life and societal advancement.

Reflecting on the entire experience, I realised an extraordinary opportunity that reinforced the significance of my gap year. It served as a powerful reminder of the impact we can have on high school students by educating them about the pathways available for studying in the USA.



# Sports Excellence: ISAZ Tournaments

**By Ivy Kalifungwa, Grade 11**

During the third term, I had the opportunity to participate in the Independent Schools Association of Zambia (ISAZ) sports tournaments. It was an exciting experience, and I learned a lot from basketball and volleyball. Through these competitions, I realised that success in sports requires hard work, dedication, and teamwork.

Participating in the volleyball tournament at the American International School of Lusaka (AISL) was a great experience because it allowed me to compete with other skilled players from different schools. This exposure helped me learn new techniques and strategies that I can use to become a better player. Competing at such a level also motivated me to train harder and push myself to reach my full potential.

One of the tournaments I took part in was the ISAZ basketball competition. It was a thrilling and competitive experience that taught me the importance of regular practice and teamwork.

I also participated in a volleyball tournament at the American International School of Lusaka (AISL). This exposure helped me learn new techniques and strategies.

My goal is to continually enhance my volleyball skills so I can one day join a prominent team that competes at the national level. I am resolute in my commitment to train harder, learn from experienced players, and participate in more competitions to gain the necessary experience. I believe that with dedication, discipline, and the right mindset, I can turn this dream into reality.



## Benefits of Sports

Volleyball has helped me stay fit and healthy. Training and playing regularly keep me active and strong. Playing sports allows me to meet and interact with students from other schools, which improves my social skills and helps me build friendships.

Participating in the ISAZ basketball and AISL volleyball tournaments was an excellent experience. It taught me the value of hard work, teamwork, and determination. I am grateful for the opportunity to compete and grow as an athlete.



# Celebrating Culture: Independence Day

By Nelly Makondo, Grade 10



The most significant event in the third term was the Independence Day celebration. Independence Day is essential to the school and the students because it reminds us of our freedom. It is a time to honour and pay tribute to the brave freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to help us gain independence and build our nation. It is a special day when we reflect on our country's history, celebrate our culture, and remember the struggles that led to our freedom.

For me, the Independence Day celebration was a significant experience. It was a time when we were all given the privilege to showcase our different cultures, traditions, and talents. This celebration not only allowed us to express ourselves in various ways but also underscored the importance of our cultural heritage. It was a powerful reminder of the value of our diverse traditions and the need to preserve and celebrate them.

I participated in poetry, and my friends and I recited a poem called *Mother Zambia*. Our poem talked about how Zambia has grown and developed since independence in 1964. It expressed appreciation for our country's progress and honoured the efforts of our leaders and citizens who have worked hard to build a strong and peaceful nation. Performing this poem was a proud moment because it allowed us to share our love for Zambia through words.

The Independence Day celebration was a testament to the unity and collective spirit of the students. Many of us participated in different performances, making the celebration even more special. Some performed traditional dances, others sang songs, and some acted in plays that showed Zambia's journey to independence. Seeing how everyone came together to celebrate this important day was beautiful.





# Kucetekela Foundation

## 18

### Years

Of transforming lives  
through educational  
opportunities

## 118

### Students

Whose lives have been  
changed through your  
generous support

If you were inspired by our students and would like to contribute  
towards their education, please use our donation link:

<https://kucetekelafoundation.org/donate>

