

THE BRAINHOUSE ACADEMY

A wonderful School for Wonderful Students

Located in Mathare North Area One, next to Kolping Hostel/St. Stephen Catholic Church

CONCENTRATE AND SHINE!

THE IMPORTANCE OF FEEDING PROGRAMME TO THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS AND THE CHILDREN

Feeding programme has since reduced truancy among the children caused by hunger. Before initiating feeding programme by ACEF, there used to be frequent absenteeism by students and pupils. Presence of feeding programme has eliminated dropout among the students. Most of the dropouts could not concentrate in school on empty stomach. They had to walk out of school in order to concentrate in looking for what they could eat. Feeding programme has also improved teaching and learning concentration of our teachers and students/pupils respectively. They are now performing better. Since the introduction of the feeding programme by ACEF, more students and pupils have been seeking for admission in our school. Feeding programme has also reduced staff's expenditure since they get free lunch, thereby improving their welfare. It has improved health status of both students/pupils and staff since they can now take three meals a day unlike before. Feeding programme has made our school admirable by parents, teachers and students/pupils.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENSTRUAL CARE AND RUBY CUP PROGRAMME TO THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS AND THE CHILDREN

Before the introduction of the above programme by ACEF, Girls had problems during their menstrual period. Poverty used to force some of them to use dirty rags, instead of the recommended sanitary towels. This is because they could not afford to buy sanitary towels. Thanks to menstrual cups brought and introduced by ACEF under the leadership of Liz and Rochelle. There are many benefits our school, teachers and girls have derived from the menstrual cups.

These benefits include: -

- i) The presence of cups has kept our girls in school thereby reducing absenteeism which used to be caused by lack of sanitary towels.
- ii) Hygiene in our girls has been enhanced during their menstrual period as the cups are more hygienic than the towels or the rags some of them were using.
- iii) Bacterial infections due to unhygienic conditions of the sanitary towels or rags have been reduced.
- iv) Menstrual Cups have eliminated cost of purchasing sanitary towels thereby improving living standards as the money saved can be used by the parents to buy food.
- v) Teachers can now teach full classes as the girls who used to miss classes can now attend their classes without fail. This is because the girls now use menstrual cups.

vi) Since teachers nowadays teach full classes, our school academic performance has tremendously improved.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TOILETS TO THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS AND THE CHILDREN

Toilets is one of the major requirements for a school registration in Kenya. Construction of the new toilets by ACEF has improved compliance with the government/ministry of education regulation on toilets. The new toilets have enhanced hygiene within our school thereby minimizing infectious diseases like typhoid, cholera etc. Biogas produced by the toilets has reduced the cost of fuel. New toilets have reduced congestion by students/pupils and teachers during breaks. Toilet facility has also attracted new admissions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DORMITORIES TO THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS AND THE CHILDREN

Dormitories are very important for the security of the children. They offer shelter for our orphans who had never known peaceful home. The renovation and maintenance that ACEF has done since we came to know each other over ten years ago have really improved the living condition of our orphans. Their academic performance has improved since they can sleep well unlike before. Their health has also improved tremendously. They don't fall sick frequently. The dormitories have also attracted more admissions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS AND THE CHILDREN

Vocational training has been timely as it aligns the school with the current needs of the new syllabus i.e. Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). It is a very important programme as it equips the student/pupils with additional skills that they can use to generate income should they drop out of school. Vocational Training gives students/pupils who are not academically gifted a chance to be at par with the rest hence becoming economically empowered. May God bless those (ACEF members) who thought and came up with this programme. May it grow and become a big programme!

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING TO THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS AND THE CHILDREN

The value of leadership training we get during ACEF'S visit has overwhelming positive results. It has improved decision making by our teachers. Our teachers now value team work and they can manage it well. Leadership training has improved our school management. Our teachers can now see things professionally. It has really enhanced efficiency in management. Parents who visit the school make comments that the school looks more organized and they can see team work unlike before. Our teachers want this programme to continue since they have seen its significance.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARY TO THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS AND THE CHILDREN

We started our school with a very small library which had very few books. Then came ACEF with books from UK and stocked the library. Later, ACEF bought us books under Kenyan curriculum. Very quickly our library became big. With the presence of books in our library, literacy skills have improved through intense reading. The library has enhanced research by our learners as they can go to the library and do research on assignments given by their teachers. It has improved academic performance by our learners which has in turn improved academic performance of our school. This is because there is a wide range of resources for research. Stocking the library with the required books by ACEF has tremendously reduced for us the cost of investment e.g. stocking story books etc.

MEANING OF BRAINHOUSE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ACEF OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS AND THE DIFFERENCE IT HAS MADE TO THE LONG TERM OUTCOMES OF OUR STUDENTS

The relationship between Brainhouse and ACEF over the last ten years has brought about development of the school from almost a no school to a school that can be seen and admired by prospecting parents and any other person. The relationship has moved our school from one level to another. This has been realised by the provision of Text books, Laboratory facilities, water tank, Solar energy, mattresses, treatment of Margaret and Emma, Feeding programme, Library books, Leadership Training, Menstrual care programme, Vocational training and Construction of new and modern toilets all by ACEF.

These provisions: -

- 1) Have improved standards of living in the community by enhancing quality education, e.g. through library services.
- 2) Have resulted in attraction of high number of children in the community attending our school. This has reduced illiteracy levels in the community.
- 3) Have improved decision making at the management level e.g. leadership training.
- 4) Have improved health standards within the community by provision of alternative sanitary towel which is much hygienic and less costly e.g. Ruby Cup.
- 5) Have a great impact on the lives of orphans and vulnerable children. The school is now able to support more orphans and vulnerable children. This is so because the stress of sustaining this group has been made easier by the introduction and funding of feeding programme by ACEF.

In conclusion, the above support programmes by ACEF have brought Brainhouse closer to the realisation of her mission and vision. These support programmes are pushing the school towards the realisation of her dreams. CONGRATULATIONS to ACEF, Liz and her team at ACEF, as well as our volunteers.

EXPERIENCE A LEARNING DIGNITY!

GREAT CONCENTRATION! GREAT KNOWLEDGE! GREAT BRAINS!

