

Vanessa Grant Girls' School

Report 5: July 2011

There are now 112 girls in the school. Learning to organize the increased numbers has been a healthy challenge for the school and will continue to be for the next few years. Systems that work for 100 do not necessarily work for 150 and so on.



Laying a path outside the second dormitory block.

The Staff and IT.

The school now has a new IT Teacher, Mr Wycliffe Ojoi and the renewed enthusiasm amongst the girls for IT is palpable. We are hoping that it will possible for him to join the staff full-time in due course.

The IT Strategy for the school is being mapped out with the help of Lawrence Maina, a Computer Studies student at Nairobi University. He is working with the staff and Wycliffe to help with staff training, ensure the smooth running of the network, establish a wireless network in the administration block and encourage all staff to understand the potential of IT for education. Mary Weal has kindly donated two projectors, so there are now four in the school.

Development

Work on three more classrooms is progressing and these are now at roof stage.



Three more classrooms forming the third side of the quadrangle.

More pathways have been laid according to the natural flow that has been observed.



New paths laid in the quad.

The water tank is complete with lining and a new roof. The rain from both dormitory blocks is now directed here. This will provide a vital reservoir for the future. The platform will be extended and one more tank added and then water will be pumped there from underground, from where it can gravitate to all parts of the school.



The underground tank with its roof.

The second dormitory block is all but complete with the final coats of paint being done at the moment.

Website: this is in the process of being upgraded with the generous help of Andy Jones. It should be easier to edit and attach newsletters so that it is more current and much easier to update.

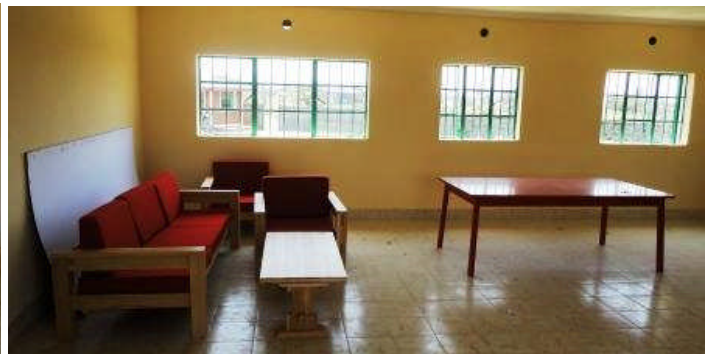


The entrance to the second dormitory block in June.



The slab of the third dormitory block is in the foreground.

The Administration Block is nearly complete and looking smart. This will provide a reception area with an office for the bursar and a large study and meeting area that opens out to the quadrangle.



The Reception area with newly delivered furniture. The Principal's Study and meeting room.

The playing fields have been planted and we have at last had a little rain to boost the growth of the grass that was planted in April. Agriculture is part of the curriculum and so an area for rabbits and chickens is required. Work has started on these.



Alex surveys the grass...



Work on the rabbit hutches and chicken house.

The school is very grateful to Redshank for the use of their tractor and mower to carry out the first cut on the games field.

The school has bought a copy printer to produce the exams and teaching materials. The use is also leased to other schools for producing exam papers, so that it also generates an income.

Despite the green in these pictures, this has been an exceptionally dry year. The school eventually planted maize in June, and all are praying that July is wet enough to enable a worthwhile crop. Food prices have increased enormously and the school's greatest challenge is to remain within the agreed operating budget.

There is a major strategic review under way that is aiming to understand the level to which the school is achieving its original vision and involves everyone from the trustees, governors, staff, pupils and parents. This will be concluded in November at a meeting of all trustees and governors.

J E O July 2011



Looking into the quadrangle...



and again with the administration block in the distance.