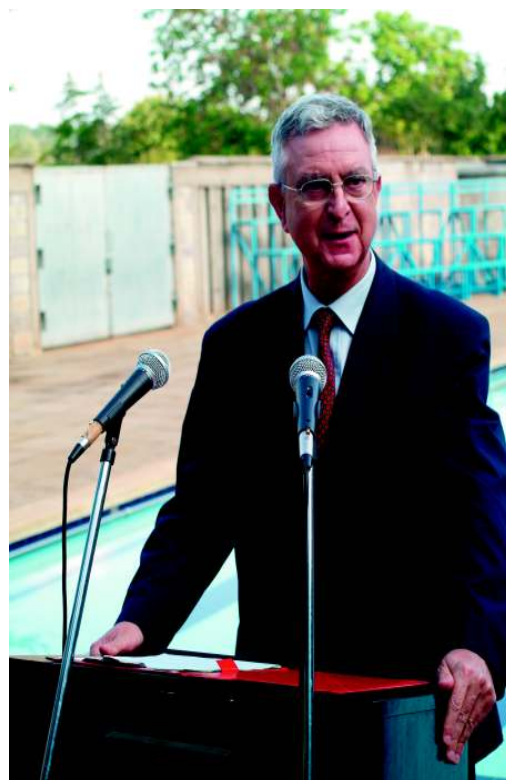




FIRST ASSEMBLY



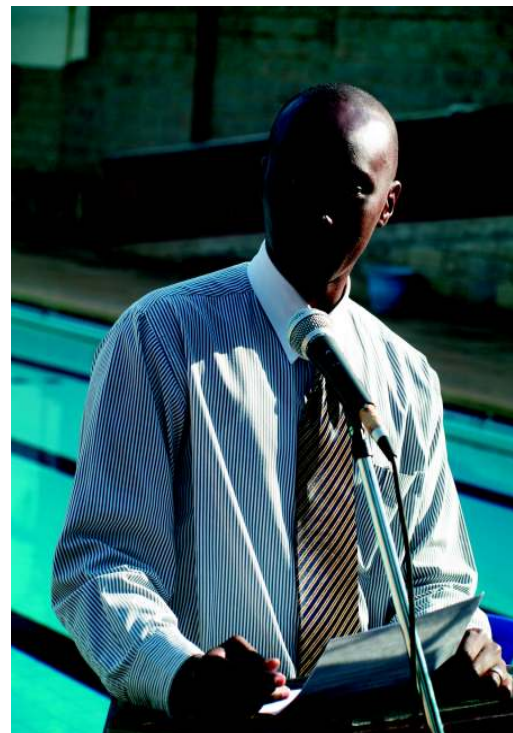
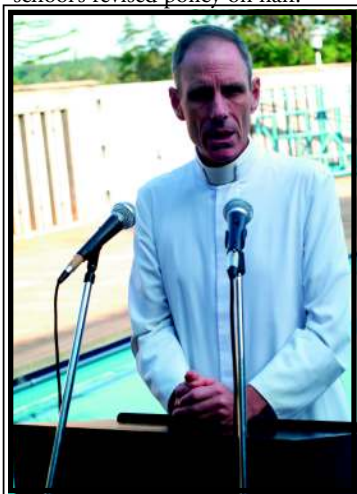
Wednesday the sixth of January marked the beginning of yet another school year and the second '1st assembly' (no pun intended) for the secondary section. Similar to last year's assembly, this year's was opened by the anthem sang by a hastily assembled choir followed by Father Joe's short speech and prayer. The de-facto emcee, Mr. Muthiora, then warmed the podium up for Mr. Gortazar.

Aside from the usual 'welcome-backs', the principal also made a number of important announcements. The 1st of which was about the changes in administrative posts with Mr. Muthiora assuming the role of deputy principal and Mr. Stephen Odhiambo as the new head of the sport's department.

The departure of two teachers, Mr. Karanja (who left for Strathmore University) and Mr. George Owino (who joined the I.B teaching staff at St. Mary's)

was also made public. A new teacher, Mr. Muhia, was introduced as the new Biology teacher for Forms 2, 3 and 4. A couple of new assistant teachers were also introduced, namely Edward Nyasya, Ian Otieno, Alloysious Maina and Bliss Kiio.

Mr. Muthiora announced he introduction of a Kiswahili Day every Tuesday and made a number of comments on the marked improvement in conduct last year relative to the previous years. He however did not fail to disappoint the congregation by re-iterating the school's revised policy on hair.



ONE ON ONE WITH TUTU

We recently got a chance to catch up with one of the new Form 2 students, Tutu Maina of Form 2 &. This is what was said. ...or at least what we managed to write down.

Where were you before Strath?

Light Academy.

How do you like Strath so far and what about it do you like most?

It's a far better school than I thought. I especially like the friendships and the feel of the school.

Is there anything in particular that you've found very different from your previous school?

The sports facilities are of a wider variety, the classrooms are bigger and the teachers are more...understandable.

Now to motor cross, how and when did you start?

My father exposed me to several motor-sports championships and I eventually started when I was 5 and a half years old.

Did your parents have any objections? If they did, how did you change their minds?

My mother had no objections till I started breaking bones and tearing ligaments. She had resigned her objections until last year when my hand was nearly amputated. Though she says she won't let me continue, I'll sneak back into action. I can't help it, it's my passion!

Best of luck in your new school.

Thanks.



SCHOOL CHOIR AUDITONS

By Mr. Andrew Ritho

Date: Monday 11th January.

Location: Strathmore School Common Room.

Time: 1000 hrs. What unfolds before us is the beginning of another great expectation...

Mr. Omeno's Friday Mass choir has just finished their practice for Mass later that day. He and his charges take their leave. Three other gentlemen glide to the back end of the Common Room and hover somewhat around the grand piano. Perhaps among the three of them, one certainly stands out – in more ways than one! He is on larger-than-life billboards after all! And as you would probably guess smack on, if he's around, there's music around.

The Strathmore 2010 School Choir auditions are just about to get underway. After quite a success with the 2009 Form 2 Concert, Andrew Tumbo has taken on the charge of taking a full-blown, fully-fledged 'big' choir (following Ministry nomenclature) to similar heights. But those heights begin right down here in the Common Room.

Soon, aspirant after aspirant take their place on the non-extant choir sign on centre-stage and belt, squeak, coo, croak or otherwise sing any melodic tune they believe would woo the judges – still anchored around the piano – into giving them a pass into the 2nd round of auditions. A number had a debacle similar to that of Debar! (pun fully intended!) in last year's TPF. Remember when he was put on probation after screeching out Nameless' [song title]? Those were the kind of memories that came flooding through when some characters strode to the choir sign and opened their buccal cavities... Not a pretty sight. Certainly not a pretty sound.

By 4 P.M., with a break for lunch, more than 65 perspiring aspirants had either inspired the three judges or else simply been confirmed as expired singing commodities.

Among the 65 who made it to the 2nd round, we could highlight Christopher Gichuki and Joseph Wainaina (both from F3&). Perhaps their unassailable experience from last year blazed their trail right to the top of the list for this year's most impressive vocals. That besides, Jose sung in French! Oui, oui! Et je kid you not! The only other audition piece performed in a language other than English or Swahili was from Morris Simwa (F2&). His was a Luo piece set in his rich bass: eich yawa! Levi Wangome (F3&) had more than just a foothold in the best male vocals list... it would seem these guys are certainly maturing a singing voice. John Kyalo who after careening to a more-than-just-humorous "Happy Birthday" did sober up to another best-male-vocals pick for the day. And last but not least, Anthony Ochuodho (F4&) also made the audition's list of best male vocals this year with a song that he composed himself for a pretty pretty he met at the Junction.

But perhaps these were expected as the judges had taken keen note of the promising vocal seeds in these young men last year. But not so with David Munga (F2A). Much less with the unassuming Christopher Omondi. Operatic voices are rare. So was he in singing circles last year. But this "diamond in the rock" definitely made his statement and his claim to a place high up on the best male vocals list. Andrew Tumbo was more than gratified. I suppose so

would Andrea Boccelli, Luciano Pavaroti and Placido Domingo. (Ok; since you've probably never heard of them, I'll tell you: they're all just a bunch of some dudes of international fame who sung or sing opera like...ok, they sing it well!).

That done, the fortunate 65 now move to the 2nd stage of auditions that the judges hope to whittle down to a motley 40 or so song birds.

Adelante sin miedo!

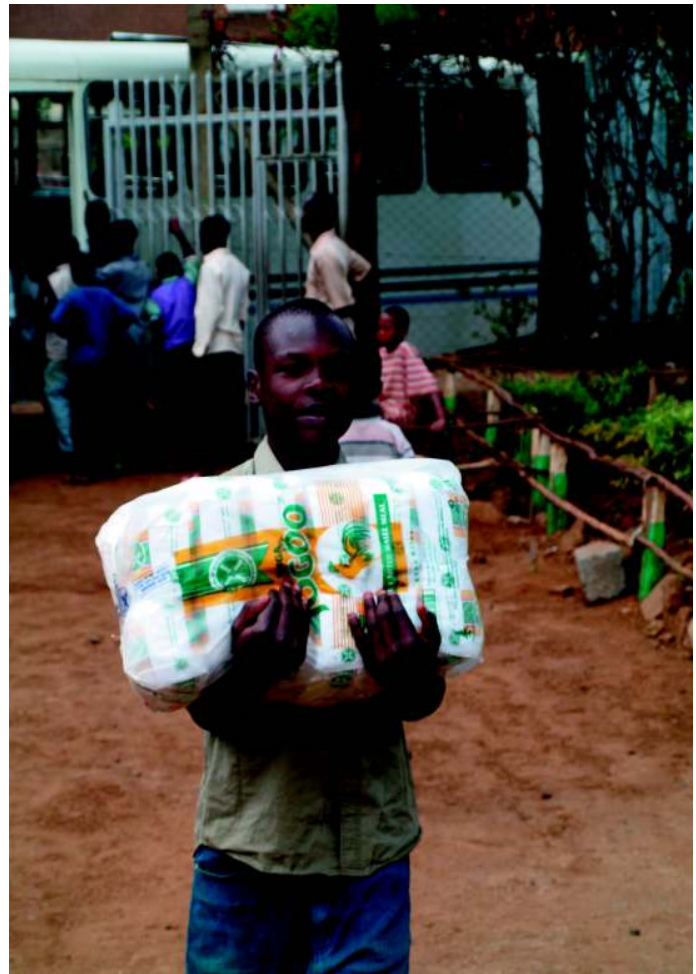
2009 CHRISTMAS WAGON

By Tito Tibi

I'd like to assume that we all enjoyed our Christmas and all that came with it; the joy carried by the presence of family and friends, the trips and all the edible rarities. However, it's noteworthy that through the school's 'Christmas Wagon' we all managed to put a smile or two on the faces of a number of our less fortunate brothers and sisters

On Wednesday November 31st all the items donated were distributed to 6 centres in total and needy families across Nairobi. A team of 2 students, Thomas Amuti and myself together with the Christmas wagon director Mr S. Kinyua loaded the items into the bus which by the way was not easy. Then with our bus driver Mr Patrick, we set out to each of these stations in an effort to bring good tidings to all.

Though we had neither a grand entrance nor an imitation of Santa's 'Ho! Ho! Ho!', the children at Lea Toto (Nyumbani children's home) in Kangemi lit up with smiles on their faces when they saw the bus coming into their compound. After unloading the clothes and foodstuffs, we proceeded to Thogoto home for the aged, where we were cordially welcomed. Children's Garden House and School in Kawangware was our next stop after which we went to Missionaries of Peace Otiende home for the disabled. Kwetu House of Peace-Madaraka came next and the boys there helped us unload after which we got to interact shortly with them. Our final destination was Missionaries of charity Home for the Disabled-Huruma where we emptied the bus and ultimately came back to school ending our day.



THE SEASON CONTINUES

The basketball season is here with us once again. Since early December last year the Team A and B players have been attending the practice sessions, learning a few handy tips and tricks which they are expected to apply during game situation. New faces are visible in both teams, and up to this point it is safe to say that things are really looking up. The season Kicked off about 2 weeks ago and since then impressive results have been registered, including team A'S 47-32 win against Brook house. Let's hope that the Pirates will bring home the League Cup (tournament cups not to be forgotten) and make us as proud as the soccer team made us last year.

