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Edition 109

DRAMA FESTIVAL

By Daryl Langat,3&

They say creativity is dead. That, in today's highly automated world, there is no need for creative talent. Undoubtedly, whoever said these words hadn't set foot in Strathmore School.

To take a risk, in a world full of caution is brave. Two students took that risk. They asked uncomfortable questions. Ridiculed society by asking it why it did what it did.

Yuri Troniak(G9) asked the question "Why not Kenyan Female athletes?" in his documentary, *The Iron Ladies*. He was taken by the heavy focus put on male athletes from other countries, and strived to change that in his documentary. He interviewed female Kenyan athletes, telling their stories; putting them in the spotlight. He faced time management issues but simply shrugged it off, saying he simply dealt with it. Ultimately, his hard work and determination led his work to feature first in the Regionals for this year's Drama and Film Festivals. Adrian Murage(F4), on the other hand, asked "Why vape?" in a podcast in which he interviewed Dr. Njoki Fernandes on the matter. His inspiration came from the prevalence of vaping and drug use in general among young people today. His work ranked 2nd nationally and earned the following accolades:

- Best sound effects
- Best scripted podcast
- Best podcast in English
- 2nd best visual effects
- 2nd best male presenter

When asked what advice the two would give to aspiring film makers, they both said, Take risks! To start for the sake of starting. This comes out clearly when you consider the following rather uncomfortable questions: What is a world without art? What is art without risk? All the video projects presented at the Drama and Film Festival are available in the school's YouTube channel. Once again, congratulations to our creatives on the stellar performance and huge appreciation to Mr. Omolo for allowing the students to share their art!

In This Edition:

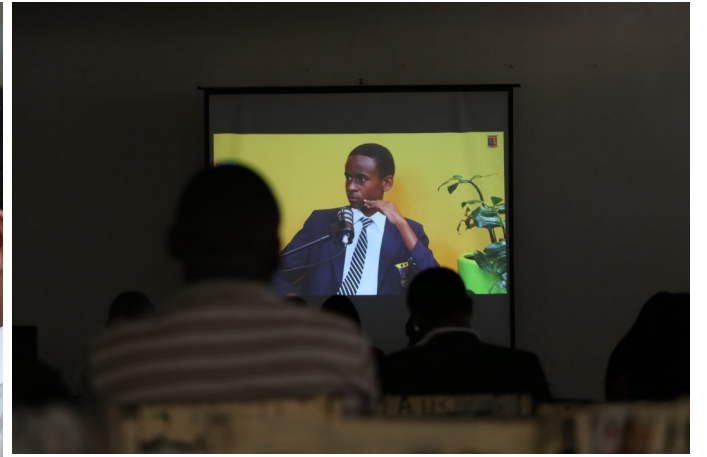
- [Drama Festivals](#)
- [Chess](#)
- [Pilgrimage](#)
- [An Ode to years past](#)
- [Swimming](#)



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NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

By Keith Gichoya,3A

"Check", "Checkmate" and the constant complaint of an illegal move are just but the normal things one will hear at any chess game or tournament. Right from the regional rounds, our own chess players said these same words as a whopping 55 of them (32 from the junior categories, 23 from the senior categories) managed to qualify for the Nationals at Mang'u. Well, that was the easy part. How would they fair against on average, 940 (yes, nine hundred and forty) other students per category? Would they still retain the much-adored crown of being the "Kings among the men". Well my, they did just so!

Under the immense pressure, we clearly saw the diamonds who shone brightly above the rest. As a start, Eli Osidiana was able to reach a podium position (tied third) and placed 5th in the entire Under 13 Category with an impressive 8 points out of a maximum of 9 rounds. In the Under 17 Category, Sean Mugo and Ihabi Osundwa managed to come out of the tournament with 7.5 points out of 9 which saw them emerge 15th and 18th respectively due to the tight tie-breaks that separated them.

However, the most impressive of them all was none other than Kyle Kuka who in the Under 15 Category, was tied first nearly flawless with 8.5 out of 9 points, but was placed second, barely missing out on the pole position by a tiebreak difference of just 4 points! However, that does not diminish the fact that he was unbeaten the entire tournament in his category, able to emerge second out of the 983 students who took part in his category.

All in all, the chess team not only met but also exceeded our expectations once again. Out of the 55 who qualified for Nationals, 21 of them (13 from the junior categories and 8 from the senior categories) were able to achieve at least 6 out of 9 points and once again, have the opportunity of representing not just our school but the entire nation of Kenya in the upcoming Africa Schools Individual Chess Championship 2025 which will be held in Mombasa later on this month. As much as they will also view it as a deserved rest, they will also carry on the daunting task of lifting high the name of Strathmore and the Republic of Kenya as they go face to face with their foes from other countries in Africa. We wish all them nothing short of the very best as they try to make a name for themselves and for the school.





JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

By Ryan Mugambi, 3&

When the news of our pilgrimage to Resurrection Garden was communicated, we were ecstatic. Most of us were pleased with the fact that there would be little academic learning that day as the pilgrimage would take the better part of the day. I was especially happy since I would finally have the opportunity to visit this place that I had heard on the grapevine. At last, I would get the answers to many questions that had raced through my mind for some time now. But as to how this pilgrimage would impact all of us, teachers and students alike, the full revelation of this truth would only become clear at the end.

Generally, a pilgrimage is a journey made by people to a holy place for religious reasons. Our pilgrimage took place during the month of May, one of the two months dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The other is the month of October. During these two months, Marian pilgrimages are made all over the world mainly characterised by the recitation of the Rosary. The purpose of this is to devote oneself to the Virgin Mary and ask for her prayers and intercession as we fight the spiritual battle of life.

However, the pilgrimage we made was even more special as it was during the Jubilee year of Hope. A Jubilee year is a special year set aside every 25 years, by the Universal Church to encourage the faithful to embark on pilgrimages to repent their sins and forgive the sins of others and to renew a focus on the spiritual life. This Jubilee year was proclaimed by His Holiness Pope Francis and centred on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope".

After alighting from the bus, we divided ourselves into groups and embarked on the 3km stretch to Resurrection Garden while reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. With each Hail Mary, we inched even closer to our destination.

As I walked, I could feel a certain something in the air. Something strange yet familiar. Something that was so near yet so far. Was it the chilly air? Was it the pleasant sound of a bird chirping? Was it the breakfast I had had a few hours ago? No, none of those sensations fit the bill. Perhaps it was just nothing, mistaken to be something. Whatever it was, one thing was for certain: this something was here to stay.

After twenty or so minutes, we arrived at the Resurrection Garden. Before proceeding deeper into the premises, we all gathered at the Holy Door of the garden; beneath the sign that read "Come in to pray" An invite to all seeking the presence of God, all seeking consolation, all seeking repentance and all seeking a spiritual resurrection.

Following a brief prayer by Fr. Francis, we went through the Holy Door. Although this seemed minor in a physical sense, as is the case when going through any door, this action was the beginning of a new chapter in our lives.

We then proceeded to the main chapel in which we prayed the Rosary. The chapel was large and its ceiling merged at the centre to form a cone-like shape. Its walls were characterised by beautiful mosaic windows and large statues that were placed all around the chapel. These statues were of the holy men and women of God. At the front of the chapel was an altar draped in white and golden robes.

Afterwards, a silent tour of the garden took place. Indeed, this haven of peace nestled in the serene environment of Karen was a sight to behold. There were spiritual quotes and Bible verses that took us on a journey of the most significant events of salvation history as we walked along the garden paths. It felt like we were there all those years ago. It was as if we had been witnesses of all the great events from the creation of the world to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. At that moment, I realised that we had always been witnesses of these events, witnesses through our faith. Apart from that, we also visited two other chapels. One was the memorial chapel, a resting place of the late Cardinal Maurice Michael Otunga, a man whose good deeds had touched the lives of many. The other was the chapel of the Empty tomb. In it, we gazed at the pictures of the Shroud of Turin mounted on the walls of the chapel. At its centre was a recreation of the actual tomb of Jesus. We felt like the apostles Peter and John as we stepped inside the recreated tomb.

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end and such was the case for our visit to the Resurrection Garden, but not without a parting gift. Fr. Marino Gemma, a Consolata Missionary and one of the founding members of the Resurrection Garden graciously gave everyone a copy of his biography through our school chaplain. Afterwards, we all headed to the buses which would take us back to school so that we could take part in the final part of the pilgrimage, which was to attend Mass.

Now it was our turn to share what we had learned with others. It was our turn to be agents of evangelization. As it is written in Matthew 28:20, **"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**





AN ODE TO YEARS PAST

By Mathew Otieno, 3&

Over the years the Strathmore school talent show has enjoyed its fair share of hits and misses. More often than not however the talent show has presented its audience with mesmerizing and memorable moments from powerful ballads to playful skits to skillful instrumentalists and silky smooth dancing.

In this edition, we celebrate these performances by recounting some of the most memorable moments from years past. Performances that have pitched tents in our minds.

Owen Dima & band (2024)

No talent show can be complete without a band performance and needless to say this one did not disappoint. It wooed its way to the hearts of the judges and audience alike topping the charts for the best band performance of the 2024 talent show.

Anthony Fernandes & group (2023)

Placed 1st in the accompanied song category, this hit song mesmerized audiences leaving them yearning for more.

Adrian Kioko(2024)

This shairi stunned audiences upon its impeccable performance on stage. It shocked quite a number of people at how wonderful it was packaged by the eloquent speaker with its deep meaning and rhyme. It resonated well with the audience and will surely be remembered for years to come.

Ryan Kioko (2024)

The grandmasters last piece fell with him doing the impossible declaring checkmate on himself with deeply philosophical questions posed his monologue shifted into a rap song that is surely to be remembered despite not being ranked first in the rap category

Alain Murage (2017)

With his incredible touch and ball control, Alain Murage wiped the floor with his delightful show of skill and poise in ball juggling, a piece that earned him a place in the talent show hall of fame.

Davis Tatuli (2023)

Davis tatuli wooed the audience with his incredible rap performance and audience engagement in the 2023 talent show earning his place on the top step of the podium in his category

Mukiama Kimathi & group (2023)

Dance has often taken center stage at the talent show but few have captivated audiences as the 2023 performance did. It got the whole audience on its feet attempting to copy their slick moves. It still remains fresh in our minds

Darrel Njoroge & Emmanuel Mwathi (2023 & 2024)

These two had never missed any performance in almost all the talent shows; In fact in their four years of participating one of them always swept the top prize with the other coming second. 2023 was an exception though as the duo came together to present a duet which needless to say once again topped the charts.

Enock Maina (2023 & 2024)

In the last two editions of the talent show this talented vocalist has taken the top prize in the category of unaccompanied song with a treble of sweeps on the horizon. With his powerful and soulful voice, Enock captivated the audience leaving them entertained.

As we prepare for the upcoming Talent Show Edition, all we can say from the Print Media is: **BRING IT ON**

SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

By Michael Kariuki, 3A

Over the April Holiday, the following swimmers swam all the way to the Nationals:

- ◇ Solomon Muigai
- ◇ Curtis Kamotho
- ◇ Muriithi Mwangi
- ◇ Arthur Munyiri
- ◇ Ryan Mukoto
- ◇ Michael Kathambana
- ◇ Mathew Njogu
- ◇ Gabriel Sakwa

Special recognition goes to Curtis Kamotho who won a gold medal in 200m individual medley and 50m backstroke under 19 age group.

Kiungu King'ori also had his fair share of glory after participating in Triathlon race in South Africa. This is an endurance multi-sport race that combines three disciplines: swimming, cycling and running over various distances.

Triathletes train to achieve endurance and speed, a sport that requires persistent training. We can therefore agree that Kiugu got the strength and the agility.





AN ODE TO YEARS PAST