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EAST AFRICA ASSOCIATION OF WALDORF/STEINER SCHOOL

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Editor: Mary Mwaniki and Judith Brown



Kasmir—East African Association

I am Kasmir Msigwa, a class teacher at Hekima Waldorf school in Dar Salaam Tanzania. I carry out various tasks in the school. I am the chairperson of the EAAWSS and also a member of the Hague circle in the International Forum for Steiner Waldorf school.



I am James Olang Ochieng, a class teacher at Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi. I am also the pedagogical administrator at the school, a member of the Kenyan working together secretariat and secretary. I am also the deputy chair of EAAWSS.



I am Sarah Dickson working as a kindergarten teacher at Hekima Waldorf school. I am the Representative of Tanzanian Kindergarten in EAAWSS and represent EA kindergarten in the ISWECE council.



I am Janet Kimandi. An Educator teaching at the Rudolf Steiner School, Mbagathi/Kenya. Responsible for the Administration and Coordination of the East Africa Waldorf Teacher Training. World Social Initiative Forum (WSIF) Regional Forum Manager-EA . A natural leader committed to learning and self development in pursuit of making the world a better place!

I am Mary Mwaniki a kindergarten teacher at the Nairobi Waldorf school Lavington campus. I am also the pedagogical leader at Lavington kindergarten, and also coordinate the Kenya Waldorf Kindergartens. In EAAWSS I represent the Kenyan kindergartens.



I am Patrick Karanja, a class teacher at the Nairobi Waldorf school. I am a Kenyan working as the secretary to the EAAWSS. I also take up the role of Pedagogical Leader at the Nairobi Waldorf school.

I am Faith Wambua a teacher and School Coordinator at Waldorf Woodlands School.



I am Judith Brown a Waldorf teacher and have a keen interest in the farm. I am the School Leader at Rudolf Steiner school Mbagathi. I represent the Rudolf Steiner school in EAAWSS.

Mussa Ali Mohammed. Waldorf primary teacher and Biodynamic inspired farmer.



February 2022:
Mary, Patrick, Troels,
Sarah, Mussa, Janet, Judith
Kasmir, James



October 2022:
Faith, Sarah, Troels, Janet, Judith
James, Kasmir, Mussa

INITIATING THE EAST AFRICA ASSOCIATION

I am Troels Ussing - trained in business, founded a Waldorf School in Denmark and worked there for 20 years as a class teacher and in management. Founded Sanduko association for supporting Waldorf/Steiner education. Chairman of the Danish Anthroposophical Society for about 20 years. Lecturer and studies in spiritual research. I have been connected to the Steiner/Waldorf education in East Africa since the very beginning in 1989 of the first Steiner school - Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi.



EAST AFRICA ASSOCIATION OF WALDORF/STEINER SCHOOL

For some years initiatives from Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya came together in an informal basis for studies, conferences etc. Later on, the cooperation between the three countries got more frequent. Finally, the association of schools was founded in 2007. Victor Mwai became the first Chairman and the contact of the international Steiner/Waldorf school movement. Victor went on to serve in that position for 13 years.

Below is indicated some of the key tasks of the association:

- The many conferences and workshops we have organized for teacher enrichment and professional development (Anthroposophical and Pedagogical conferences).
- Enabled our colleagues to join other Waldorf educators in international conferences and symposiums.
- We joined the International Forum for Waldorf Education (Hague circle) and most recently also joined IASWECE (International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education).
- Strengthening of the Teacher Training Program in coordination with the Teacher Training committee and the schools.
- Leading the creation of the current curriculum that has just been approved.
- Structuring and establishment of the constitution that guides the work of the association.
- Promoting unified membership and collaboration of Waldorf schools and initiatives within East Africa.
- Promoting and protecting the integrity of Waldorf education in East Africa.
- Coordination and hosting of a successful celebration of 100 years of Waldorf Education and 30 years of Waldorf Education in East Africa.

Troels Ussing
Co-opted member



IN-HOUSE WALDORF TEACHER TRAINING COURSE

The teacher training embarked on a new phase with East African teacher trainers delivering the lectures and artistic workshops. This new phase has been supported through a BMZ project spearheaded by Nana Göbel of Friends of Waldorf Education. Since the break out of the Corona pandemic it has been difficult to run the course, however, in December 2021, the course resumed with this new development. The course was run whereby up to 70 teachers from kindergarten and primary schools around East Africa and outside East Africa attended. Nationalities from which trainees come include Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, Tanzania/Zanzibar, Uganda and Kenya. The modules have been remarkably successful due to a considerable good number of trainees who came from different nationalities and who made the participation and involvement in various learning sessions so lively and active. The trainees were very happy and enthusiastic about the particular learning sessions which ranged from child development, storytelling, poems, speech exercises and movement for lower grades, eurhythm, painting and craftwork. Everyone is anxiously looking forward to the next modules.



*East African teacher trainers July 2022 module
Ruth, Patrick and Triza from Nairobi Waldorf School
Kasmir from Hekima in Tanzania,
Esther from Nairobi Waldorf School
Vincent from Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi*

Participant Feedback

The teacher training program has been one of the best experiences I have ever had. I had not perceived being in a training with fun. The journey has been a long one but worthwhile with quite an enormous amount of knowledge, challenges and inspiration that we have tapped from our able, experienced and loving trainers and tutors. There has been a whole paradigm shift in the scope at which I view and perceive children and students and everyone else in the learning community. I am finishing the training a strong teacher, inspired and humbled to scale higher and carry the light of Waldorf Education to every part of the universe. ***Moses Ochelle—Nairobi Waldorf School***

LEADERSHIP COURSE

The first module of seven took place this October 2022 inspired by the need for the East African Waldorf School to gain leadership skills in a world searching for good leadership practises. This course is lead and run by Troels Ussing meeting this important need. There were 24 participants from leading roles in the Waldorf schools of East Africa. The course brought together not only leading teachers but leading management personnel in a well structured course. The focus was the child and how the schools can serve the child the best.



Participant Feedback

"The leadership training gave me further insight and understanding of our roles as administrators in the Waldorf Community - going beyond the written requirements. I have the freedom to design and set goals that are an expression of the child centred school that we are- responding to the needs of our children, in every area of their development".

Neema Kahiga – Financial Administrator Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi



Leaving the utopia created on the two days of training and going into the practical life again, the key element I took was on having effective meetings especially in the area of inclusive participation and decision making. This training has had a big impact on me personally in meetings whether professional or social in the awareness of listening, being ok with silence in meetings, not jumping to conclusions, and hearing others in spite of my sympathy and antipathy . It is a striving that is worth it and has an observable effect on human relationships.

Silvia Njagi – Mount Kenya Waldorf School



Leadership course participants