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## THE RAINS

Daraja is located on the equatorial Rift Valley in Nanyuki, Kenya. As far as rain is concerned, Nanyuki has been receiving little rain this year compared to Nyeri, which is on the windward side of Mt. Kenya; Nanyuki is on the leeward side. In a discussion I had with one of the Daraja teachers, he quoted that the rains were less in the years 2008-2009, ranging between 1200-1300mm.

In 2010 the rains increased, which were impressive to the Daraja family. We got used to the water in many ways. The rain was collected and stored and used in cleaning, watering the farms, and gardening. Apart from utilizing buckets and our collection tanks, the swells also helped a lot, particularly due to the abundance of trees surrounding them.

Despite having received a lot of rain this term, it doesn't mean that by the

year's end 2011 will be the year with the most recorded rain; 2010 ends up taking the first position (within the past 4 years) with the most amount of rain received. So let's keep in mind that trees act as water catchment areas, and so we should continue planting trees.

Mercy Cheronu



## The Marin Academy visits daraja

The Daraja members hear the Marin Academy students and other volunteers saying, "This is the best experience in my life". Daraja Academy has been receiving many volunteers since the start of Term Two 2011; the Marin Academy students, and other volunteers who happened to be in Daraja before, were the most awaited visitors.

Many of the Daraja Girls thought it would be like a hundred months to come when they first received letters that said visitors would arrive in a

few months time, and on Thursday, 16 June 2011, the Daraja Girls were all happy and excited to meet the Marin Academy group, Mr. Mark and his sweetheart wife Johanna, and Mr. Steve and his son Jono. The Girls were so eager that they waited for the visitors to arrive till late in the night, when they finally did arrive.

The place was filled with screams, shouts and all sorts of sounds to express their happiness and

## The marin academy visits cont...

excitement. There were hugs everywhere and the volunteers got a warm welcome from Daraja Academy members.

A stitch in time saves nine; the volunteers came in time as the Daraja Girls were on their midterm break. This meant that they'd get a lot of time to spend together as there was no hurry to go to class or do homework.

The Marin Academy students introduced many projects. These included: journaling, music, dance, empowerment, computers and photography. Some of these activities are new to most of the Daraja Girls, thus it was a great opportunity to make good use of their time. Everyone was ready to listen, learn, and participate in the projects. Everybody got to enjoy themselves, share ideas and have a nice time together.

The schools have similarities and differences:

### Similarities

1. The teacher to student relationship is good in both schools.
2. They are unlike others schools in their area (especially here in Kenya).
3. The students are all in school so as to achieve their goals.

### Differences

1. Each day, the D.A. Girls have 8 to 9 lessons that take 45 minutes each. Whereas each day, the M.A. students have 3

to 4 lessons each lasting 80 minutes.

2. M.A. students are both boys and girls, whereas the D.A. school is only for girls.
3. M.A. students go home after the day in school, while D.A. Girls stay in school until holiday.
4. D.A. students wear uniforms to equalize everybody, while M.A. students do not wear uniforms.

They joined classes for the week with their shadows; each Marin Academy student was assigned one D.A. girls to guide him or her for the day.

It was noted that some of the changes in the classrooms were:

- ❖ There was more participation in the classes than before.
- ❖ Students were ready to answer any questions asked by the teacher and the M.A. students.

Shamsia Mohammed Abdulah



## Meet with the giants

The football tournament held at Nanyuki High School on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 brought a great challenge to the Daraja team, who had put in much effort in order to secure a win. The result being that Muramati beat Daraja 2-0. That Daraja being beaten 2-0 wasn't expected, is putting it lightly; everyone was expecting Daraja to be the champions of this match.

It was just like a miracle when Muramati scored the first goal within the first three minutes. This was when the Daraja goalkeeper ran after the ball; she slipped and missed. Since the Daraja team still had a vision of winning they didn't lose hope, and within minutes things changed: Daraja was on the move. Daraja was close to retaliation when Gitwa, one of the Daraja football stars who wanted to give Daraja their first goal, slipped and fell after another football star Lisayo passed her the ball. The ball was left to the Muramati goalkeeper. There was a second goal in the second half of the match causing Muramati to celebrate the victory, having beaten Daraja 2-0. At this fateful hour, Muramati became champions, having beaten Daraja for the first time since the year 2009.

The Daraja team was once again took the field, this time against St. Jude High School. The match was well played, and it seemed that Daraja was going to be the champions of this particular match. Despite Daraja being so strong this time around, the St. Jude defense proved solid as they prevented the ball from getting near

their goal.

Tina, Daraja's Sports Prefect stated, "There should be coordination from the footballers, especially the strikers of the team, and every match should be treated with the seriousness it deserves, so that we can be the champions next time".

Caroline Nyangi Masakwi



# Creative writing

## A Yearning and Unsatisfactory Life

Make your life both a yearning and a satisfaction. After an achievement yearn for more to keep the improvement spirit alive.

Do not evade failures. Face them to be stronger.

Be the master in the mirror and control your mental and physical influences.

Be available to yourself, empower and encourage yourself, motivated by the desire to achieve more.

Always find better ways to live your

own life. Remember that, “the past holds much but not compared to the future, pay attention to the future and let the past motivate you.”

It’s your life, enjoy it to the maximum!

Faith Nyambura Mwangi

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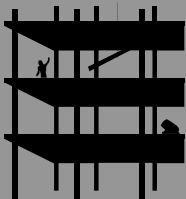
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## Daraja special events: 2011 Term 2 recap

### **Football:**

The Daraja football team won their first tournament event on June 17, 2011, overcoming teams from Il Polei Secondary and Dol Dol’s St. Francis. They have been practicing so hard. This is not their first time to win, since they were trained by different great people that is: Mr. Martin from Denmark, Mr. Andy (the volunteer coordinator from the U.S.A.), and the new Daraja coach Mrs. Dorcas. The team played hard at the district competition held at Nanyuki High School. Unfortunately they did not proceed, but we look forward to witnessing a great team continue to grow strong.

### **Volleyball:**

The Daraja volleyball team also participated in the tournament held at Il Polei. Although this was their first time, they did a great job. They are now getting ready as a team by putting their best foot forward. Oddly enough, the Daraja guards are helping them improve their skills each day.

### **Bay to Breakers**

All the girls finished the 28 laps! They made it so easily since they have been practicing a lot. They did this concurrently with other people abroad in the U.S.A. The U.S. participants were able to raise a to of money for Daraja student education, each U.S.-student pair raising 62,000 shillings per student for a total commission of \$56,000/Ksh 4,750,000. This was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event.

### **Softball:**

Softball has been recently introduced to Daraja via Nancy Hanssen of the University of San Diego. The Daraja girls cheered and began playing on the first day they were introduced to it. They are going to engage in more practice, since they have interest.

### **Table Tennis:**

The newly formed table tennis team, coached by math and chemistry teacher Joseph, made it to all the way to the regional competition which took place at Nanyuki High School. This team, solely comprised of Form 1’s will be even tougher competition next year.

### **Music & Poetry Festival:**

Several Daraja girls from all Forms competed in the areas of public speaking (in both English and Swahili), shairi, and poetry. All performed wonderfully and several proceeded to compete at the provincial level. The competition took place in Eldoret.

The Daraja Academy has helped the students to explore their many talents. Not only will the Daraja Academy be famous, but also popular.

Emily Lokworon Chepyatich