



RSIS KENYA PROJECT 2014



Mission Statement Malunga Primary School

"Provide a holistic co-educational child-centred and child friendly learning environment for improved academic, social and economic development."

STAFF	SCHOOL/COMPANY
Kate Anderson: Project Leader	St Philip's College, Australia
Dave Green: Deputy Project Leader	Regents School, Bangkok
Charles Kamonde	Starehe Centre for Boys
Kelly Kioko	Moving Mountains, Kenya
Joseph	Moving Mountains, Kenya
Francis Kioni: Project Manager	Moving Mountains, Kenya
Bosire Ishmael Miyoge	Team Medic
Rosie Gathirimu	Moving Mountains, Kenya
Ruth Muthoni: Chef	Moving Mountains, Kenya
Beatrice Muthoni: Chef	Moving Mountains, Kenya
OT	Driver/Pilot MM, Kenya
Richard, Alex, Ibrahim	MM working assistants

STUDENT	SCHOOL
Robert Muni	Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya
Juma James	Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya
Jesse Baseal	Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya
Linus Murage	Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya
Solomon Ndicha	Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya
Joseph Lemunyete	Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya
Quinto Khaemba	Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya
Thomas Okiwi	Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya
Julius Musiama	Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya
Utsav Kejriwal	Mayo College, India
Vidur Bhatia	Mayo College, India
Aarsh Mittal	Mayo College, India
Vedant Jain	Dhirubhai Ambani International School, India
Aayush Shah	Dhirubhai Ambani International School, India
Sophia Alvoeiro	Markham College, Peru
Lily Coles	St Clement's School, Canada
Nicole Areias	St Clement's School, Canada



STUDENT QUOTES...

Each day 2 students chose a quote from a prepared list, that spoke to them and they presented their thoughts at the evening meeting. The quotes covered a variety of topics ranging from leadership to friendship to teamwork to success. The following is a list of who chose what and why:

James Juma: *"Leaders must be close enough to relate to others, but far enough ahead to motivate them."* (John C Maxwell). A leader is a person who is able to influence a group of people to do something in order to achieve a common goal. For leadership to be successful the leader should be close to his/her subjects and they should work as a single unit. United we stand, divided we fall.

Robert Muni: *"Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems, is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership"*

Sophia Alvoeiro: *"Trust is the glue of life. It is the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It is the foundational principle that holds all relationships."* (Stephen Covey).

Thomas Okiwiza: *"I like to listen, I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen."* (Ernest Hemmingway).

Quinto Khaemba: *"I think a good friend to me is all about trust and loyalty. You don't ever want to second-guess whether you can tell your friend something."* (Lauren Conrad). What Lauren is trying to say is that as a friend, if you are true and loyal to me, then I shouldn't have any problem disclosing anything about me to you. That is to say, I can share almost everything with a friend because I trust them not to go around yapping to anyone else.

Lily Coles: *"Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realise this. For the world was built to develop character and we must learn that the setbacks and grievances which we endure help us in marching onwards."* (Henry Ford).

Aayush Shah: *"I am determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may find myself. For what I have learned is that the greater part of our misery or unhappiness is determined not by our circumstance but by our disposition."* (Martha Washington).

Jesse Baseal: *"Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens."* (Khalil Gibran). Life brings along so many challenges and situations and so many things of all kind can occur to us, but that is not how your living is determined; it is now the attitude and your actions toward them that will build your character and destiny. Always deal with situations and happenings in the best way possible for a better future.

Vedant Jaia: *"Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better."* (Bill Bradley)

Joseph Lemunyete: *"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."* (Dwight D. Eisenhower).

Linus Murage: *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."* (John Quincy Adams). Spiderman's uncle told him "with great power comes great responsibility". If people are looking at you as a leader then you need to become the model person that you think they should become because you have the power to inspire others to be their best self.

Soloman Ndiche: *"Ability is what you are capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."* (Lou Holtz).

Julius Musiama: *"Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better."* (Bill Bradley)

Nicole Areias: *“A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit”.* (Arnold H Glasgow)

Utsav Kejmrwal: *“There is no end to education, it is not that you read a book, pass an examination and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die is a process of learning”.* (Jiddu Krishnamurti)

Learning starts at the moment you are born. You are taught how to talk, how to walk, you are taught some manners. When you are sent to school you are made to read books but that isn't end of learning. You learn how to play sports, how to play music instruments etc. which doesn't comes from books but it comes by experience. Taking an example of this Round Square trip- we learnt many things which we couldn't learn by reading books and passing examinations in school. After finishing school we are brought to an open world where we have to deal with different kinds of people. We have to learn how to speak to them, how to deal with them which again comes from experience and not books. At last when we are about to die we get to learn that "life is precious". So life is a process of learning from the moment you are born to the moment you die and there is no end to learning.

Vidur Bhatia: *“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”* (John F Kennedy). To me a good leader is not only someone who helps people reach their final destination but also someone who learns something from both his failures and his successes. The process of learning never stops in one's life. Also for a leader to be relevant he must keep himself up to date with the happenings of his subjects. There will be times when a leader may fall but it is expected from him to take the losses and stumbles with a determined smile and those times will teach him more that the times he is victorious. As a matter of fact an accomplished leader is not determined by his stature and manhood but how he responds to the pressure and handles failures.

Dave Greene: *“A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim is fulfilled and they will say, we did it ourselves.”* (Lao Tzu).

Kate Anderson: *“We learn about honesty and integrity - that the truth matters...that you don't take shortcuts or play by your own set of rules...and that success doesn't count unless you earn it fair and square.”* (Michelle Obama).

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

TIME	ACTIVITY
Wake up	7am
Breakfast	7.30am
Depart for Malunga School	8.15am
Work	8.45-10.30
Morning Tea	10.30-11am
Lunch	1-2pm
Return to Ulumba for tea	3.30pm
Free time: showering, washing, playing with the orphanage children, journaling	4-6pm
Dinner	6pm
Evening Meeting	7.30-8.30pm
Free time	8.30-9.30
Quiet time	9.30-9.45
Lights out and silence in tents	10pm

DAY	ACTIVITY	CHEF GROUP	LEADERS
Wed 10th Dec	Project Evening activity	Nicole, Quinto, Thomas, Kate	
Thurs 11th Dec	Project Evening debrief from student leaders campfire	Lily, Vidur, Jesse	Nicole, Quinto, Thomas
Fri 12th Dec Kenyan Independence Day	AM : Project PM: Sports Evening school talks	Sophia, Aarsh, Julius, Charles	Lily, Vidur, Jesse
Sat 13th Dec	Project	Vedant, James, Linus	Sophia, James, Linus
Sun 14th Dec	AM: Church PM: home visits Evening: Jewellery making with Ulumba	Volunteer: Lily, Nicole, Sophia	
Mon 15th Dec	Project Evening: Half way chat	Aayush, Joseph, Solomon	Vedant, James, Linus
Tues 16th Dec	AM: Project PM: Market visits	Volunteer	Aayush, Joseph, Solomon
Wed 17th Dec	Project	Robert Utsav, Dave	Robert ,Utsav, Dave
Thurs 18th Dec	Project	1 Linus 2 Jesse 3 Vedant	1 Lily 2 Sophia 3 Nicole
Fri 19th Dec	Project	1 Aayush 2 James 3 Utsav	1 Robert 2 Joseph 3 Thomas
Sat 20th Dec	Project PM: Siaya market visit	1 Julius 2 Quinto	1 Aarsh 2 Vidur 3 Soloman
Sun 21st Dec	AM: church PM: Grandmother Obama visit Evening Cultural Night		
Mon 22nd Dec	AM: Closing Ceremony PM: Christmas Party	1 Sophie 2 Nicole 3 Lily	
Tues 23rd Dec	Depart Ulumba		



Above: Ulamba Orphanage, our dining room and kitchen

Church speech: Nicole, Vidur and James

“Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It is such a pleasure to be here with you this morning. My friends and I are fortunate enough to be here on a Round Square project and to embrace your culture. We all come from different countries and belong to different cultures, yet we have united together to help improve the standard of living and education for the students of this region. So far we have done quite a lot including building classrooms, plastering and painting walls, and we have really enjoyed the experience. Although our stay has been brief, your community has offered us many valuable lessons. Many of us have experienced great fortune in our lives and have learned to appreciate that on this trip. We have learned to open our eyes and shift our perspective so that we find common ground with individuals who hold fewer privileges than ourselves. We have also learned the value of hard work. Many of us have strived to reach their full capacity so that we may take full advantage of the time we have here and provide the children of Siaya with the best learning experience we are capable of producing. Another valuable lesson you all have granted us is that of community. We have been given the opportunity to experience the inclusivity that embraces you all and that has been so generously extended to our team with your warm welcomes. We will go home with a stronger understanding of what it means to support one another regardless of the circumstances we may face. As we stand here today, amongst perhaps the strongest display of community, we would like to thank you all once more for enriching this experience for every single one of us and we are honoured to dedicate our prayers to you today.”

Group 1: A visit to Alan's house by Sophia

On December 14th we visited the home of Madame Felista, the grandmother of the children of the orphanage. We walked for approximately 20 minutes before reaching the 1.5 acre property. After brief introductions we began talking about an average rural Kenyan household and discussing the hardships she had to endure.

Felista's main hardships stem from financial concerns. Her primary source of income is selling the ropes she makes. This itself, is a complicated process, it requires plants to be dried, cut, woven and finally sold. She makes 20 shillings (approximately \$0.2 USD) per rope and sells approximately 10 ropes a day, which adds up to 200 shillings a day. This is hardly enough to sustain her lifestyle considering that she houses 3 children. Her expenses include 300 shillings a day, paying half of a child's high school fees (he gets sponsored for the other half) which adds up to 60000 shillings per year and paying for 2 girls primary school fees, 500 shillings per month.

Another way Felista supports herself is by farming local products that include maize and beans. Unfortunately these can't be sold and instead are used at home on a regular basis. She also has 3 goats which apparently are her only animals.

She has no family support herself and the only family member helped her out by building her a home after her husband passed away. The previous home leaked from the roof and they had to sell plots to raise the money for repairs. Alan was elected to go to the orphanage and now his grandmother is his only relative. It was an eye opening experience. We hardly think in our daily lives about the problems that other people face on a daily basis. We got to understand the way people live, which makes us appreciate the lives we live. It's not on a daily basis that we get to have this reality check into what the world is actually like, which is so different from the privileged lives many of us have.

This not only was appreciated in this home visit but throughout the trip and by being after only 14 days an adventure and at the same time being able to help out those who have less and bring a little joy during this Christmas time.

Group 2: A visit to Lucas' house, by Lily and Aarsh

On December 14th we visited to home of Lucas. We walked for about half an hour and when we arrived we were greeted by his aunt. We went inside the house and were given an introduction to Lucas' family by one of the teachers with our group. We followed this by introducing ourselves.

It was a very beneficial visit and eye-opening because we gained an insight into how differently people live around the world. We enjoyed speaking to Lucas' aunt (who he refers to as his grandmother) and it was clear how close they were to each other. Lucas' life was quite different before he came to Ulumba. Our entire group was very thankful for this experience and glad to have visited Lucas' home.



Group 3: A visit to Evaline's Home, by Julius

December 14th is the day we visited Evaline's Home. Evaline is a bright and pure girl whose potential in education could have gone unrealised had the Moving Mountains not come into her life. She is from form four - the top most high school class.

Both Evaline's parents passed on. She was very young then. The only relative she was left with was her brother who had to drop out of school to allow Evaline to go to school. They have a very small Shamba - about half an acre where her brother has grown maize cassavas and he also keeps some domestic animals.

Eva's brother could not sustain her upkeep and education as he was still quite young. That is when the Moving Mountains got in and assisted. Thank God Evaline, like many girls in Kenya has once more been given an opportunity to get an education and live a normal life.

Evaline's brother did not go back to school. He now lives a hard life where he has to struggle. According to him he has to look for manual work amongst rich people in his area in order to get a meal. He does all the work in his farm alone. Believe it or not he believes his sister will be a better person in the society and help him grow.

Our visit was very important to him. The Christmas surprise gift we gave him really made him happy. We took him a good package of almost a 1000 shillings worth of supplies and he thanked us very much, he ran short of words to thank the Round Square. Thank you so much for organising the visit. Long live RSIS.

Leader's Report

On Dec 7th nervous students from several different countries and schools gathered at Indaba Camp in Nairobi, Kenya for what was to be a daunting yet exciting experience....who really knew what was ahead?

On the 8th we were lucky enough to visit the David Sheldrick Elephant Centre as well as the Langata Giraffe Sanctuary. Both of these facilities cater for animals that have suffered as a result of human interaction, often poaching or development on traditional grazing lands. For those in the group who had never been to the African continent it was a special experience to be up close and personal with such incredible gentle giants. The afternoon was completed with a visit to another local Round Square School, Brookhouse School, where we had a tour of the school from the Round Square captains and prefects. It was informative to visit another school and share our combined stories of Round Square.



On December 9th we headed out west on our long journey to Siaya County and Ulumba Orphanage that would be our home for the next couple of weeks. The elevated position in the truck gave the team great views descending into the Rift Valley and the tea plantations where we stopped for lunch. We finally arrived at Ulumba in the evening just in time to put up the tents before we collapsed into them.

December 10th was the first work day for the team at Malunga Primary School. Kioni, the manager on the site alongside the Headmaster showed the team around the school and outlined the tasks that were to be done over the course of the project. The team was raring to go and spent the morning mixing cement, painting classrooms and levelling the ground around the new classroom that was being constructed. An Opening Campfire welcomed us to the Ulumba community and in the true Kenyan spirit there was much dancing and singing by all.



Above: Day 1 on the work site

Friday December 12th was Kenyan Independence Day so the team worked a half day on site and in the afternoon invited the children from the orphanage to join them for an action packed afternoon of games on the nearby field. Balloons were burst and piggybacks were given as the teams fought to be crowned champions after a series of challenges. This was finished off with an epic game of football with even some of the local cattle getting involved.

On our first Sunday in Siaya the project team attended the local church to witness the coming together of the entire community for singing, readings and celebrations. Our students spoke to the congregation about the project at Malunga Primary School and then another sang a beautiful rendition of a Christmas Carol to finish the service. In the afternoon the students were warmly welcomed into the homes of local families to experience how they lived for an insightful and thought provoking visit. After learning about the family's situations and struggles to support the children, students presented gifts of food and household items they had bought earlier in the day. The groceries were gratefully received and will go to support them and their families.

The days started to take shape in a regular fashion, breakfast then drive to the work site. The student leaders for the day spoke with Kioni and then briefed the group on the tasks needing to be accomplished. Morning tea was always a welcome break from the heat and often a chance to change work crews for the second session of the day. Lunch was delivered to the site each day by the local taxi service, a "Matatu". The meals were hot and nutritious and there was always plenty to go around. The afternoon work session was always the most challenging as the sun was at its hottest and everyone usually wanted to nap! At 3.30 each day we finished work and returned to Ulumba for refreshing cold showers, the regular clothes washing or football for anyone with energy and playing with the children at the orphanage.



Above: endless wheel barrows, filled with cement and ballast for the walls and floor of the classroom

Each evening we had an activity after dinner. One of the most meaningful talks was from Mama Rose (the "Muma" of the orphans) and Ishmail (our medic) about HIV and AIDS. We heard first-hand of the struggles many local people in this part of Kenya face as they lose a partner, parent or even child. The economic and social ramifications from such a disease were evident to all.

Below: Additional water was collected from the river, 10min walk from the school.



Another evening session included learning how to make jewelry with the children from the orphanage. The beads are sold and the funds have been contributing to the construction and maintenance of a chicken coop. This leads to an increase in food from eggs and the meat from the birds as well, resulting in more funds available for education and health care. All students embraced their new skills and many purchased the pieces that they had made. No project group would be complete without a round of "party games" and wordles, charades and celebratory

head proved to be real winners. There was a competitive air in the room as the stakes were high, sweets for the winners!

On Sunday 21st Dec everyone enjoyed a welcome sleep-in, until the 8am breakfast that is! After an enormous storm the evening before, everything was cool and damp, a welcome relief from the beating sun. Several of the Starehe boys headed to church with Charles whilst the rest of the group enjoyed another beading session with the Ulumba girls. The afternoon included a visit to the home of Sarah Obama (Barack Obama's paternal grandmother). This was quite a thrill for everyone and she was peppered with questions throughout our visit.

All too soon we found ourselves at the end of the project, cleaning up the work site, finishing final paint touches and cleaning windows. It was with pride, yet heavy hearts that we sat down for the Closing Ceremony. Arsh, Vedant and Robert all spoke at the Closing Ceremony and shared insights into what they each gained from the experience of a project in Kenya.



Above: after all the heavy cement work, it was a welcome relief to start painting...inside, outside, window frames, blackboards and floors!

Closing Ceremony Speech delivered by Robert, Aarsh and Vedant

"Good morning ladies, gentlemen, parents and students of Malunga Primary School. It is with great pleasure and humility that we join you in this wonderful handover ceremony.

These past two weeks have seen different nationalities come together with one common goal that inspired their hearts - to help the students of this great school realise better and more comfortable classrooms. They have seen us mix concrete, hack floors, plaster walls, paint the school and create a new look throughout. We have sanded and varnished classroom desks to make sure the only thing these students will be doing is concentrating on their learning. Personally, I am a beneficiary of good will, hailing from Starehe Boys' Centre. What I did with the

kindness of my sponsor is take full advantage of every opportunity that comes my way. I now pose a challenge to you students - we are waiting for you if you pass your exams. You can do it!" (Robert Mungai Muni)

"Good morning ladies and gentlemen, I will talk about the daily schedule which we followed during the 10 day project. Every day we arrived at the site by 9am and there were student leaders in charge every day. They coordinated with Kioni (our site manager). Firstly we cleared the area around the classroom, painted the wooden support structures and did mixing and plastering of cement. After this we started laying the bricks for the pavement outside the classroom and we also painted walls, windows and doors of other classrooms. We also sanded 50 new desks and added the MM and RSIS logos. After all that work we cleaned up the school to make it more presentable. I want to thank all the people involved and hope that the students of Malunga Primary School can reach greater heights in their lives. All the best for your future studies and challenges." (Aarsh Mittal)

"What is emphasized greatly by both Round Square and Moving Mountains is the fact that we can be agents for positive change. By this, I mean that we not only strive to improve ourselves but hopefully we can help improve the lives of others'. Two weeks ago we met as awkward teenagers with varying work ethics. Now I can proudly say we are a team of hard-working Samaritans, ready to bring good to society. Working at the school has taught us to come together no matter where we come from and to work hard as a unit. In addition, we have opened our eyes to the world outside the comfort of our homes and schools in India, Kenya, Canada and Peru. This handing over ceremony means a lot more than a simple ribbon cutting. It symbolises an accomplishment for each one of us. We stepped out of our comfort zones but were still made to feel at home here and for that, asante sana.





Above: the group inside our newly completed classroom; very satisfied with the task!

Lastly, I would like to thank Round Square, Moving Mountains, Malunga Primary School and the various members of the community for giving us the opportunity to complete this task and have a comfortable stay here. To the students of the school, I leave you with a quote my grandfather once told me, *"Choose one thing that you love doing, become the best at it and you will always be happy."* (Vedant Jain)

The work was done; it was time to experience another aspect of Kenyan culture....

The cultural phase of the trip saw us spend a long day in the green truck, driving to the famous Maasai Mara National Park and setting up camp at the Mwangaza Camp. We celebrated Christmas with a dinner that included Ruth and Beatrice eating with us, rather than cooking for us and everyone made a special effort to get dressed up!

December 24th was a day filled with animals: first came the giraffe, then the gazelles and zebras, the lions were not to be out done and then there was the cheaters, who decided to catch their morning meal in front of the truck! Speaking of the green truck, a slight bogged episode found us eating lunch beside the truck, watching on as true "bush mechanics" managed to free the mighty green truck and we could continue on our way to the Kenyan-Tanzanian border, where hippo's and a Nile crocodile greeted us! That night there was much excitement around the dinner table as everyone relived their "sightings" and shared photos.

All too soon we were up in the dark, breaking camp for a morning visit to a traditional Maasai village, a "manyatta". This was an eye opening experience as the cattle, sheep and goats all share the same living space inside small dark houses, made from cow dung, straw and sticks!

After our visit we had the opportunity to barter for handicrafts with the village elders and everyone came away with several souvenirs. This was followed with another trip in the green truck to our final night's destination, Hell's Gate National Park. Our campsite was high above the plains and we woke to the sounds of baboons as they headed down the hills to feed and play. It was a little disconcerting to be lying in ones' tent listening to these animals running past, whilst screaming at each other!

We spent the morning on mountain bikes, riding to the gorge and then had a tour of the gorge before lunch. It was a perfect end to a rewarding trip and everyone took time to reflect on the beauty of the place and share memories with each other, before our final drive back into Nairobi and the place where it all began, Indaba Camp.

I will finish with a huge thank you to the Moving Mountains crew for: taking such good care with our group of students, for keeping everyone working hard on the work site, for proving tasty and nutritious meals every day and for showing us the beauty of Kenya. Thank you to Round Square for offering such a trip in the first place and to the students, who gave up their Christmas at home to go on an adventure into the great unknown!

Kate Anderson (Project Leader) and Dave Green (Deputy Leader)

Final words from Robert

Flip, flop, flip, flop

My newly shod feet leave a fresh trail on the dusty road,
6km down the road is school, Malunga Primary School.

For a first day of school I am so excited,
Not because all of a sudden my teacher has become fun
but the luxury that awaits me puts a smile on my face.
Cool cemented classroom floors,
away with vermin called jiggers.
Blue and cream, the new flowery coat
Wait, I think one Aayush almost sniffed all of our paint away!
Now we have Rudolf the Christmas reindeer in his place.

It's not a name, but the people who make it happen
Thanks to all the young and kind souls that are here.
To Lily for musically making all look forward to hard labour,
To Aayush and Verdant for being the goeey, sticky stuff that keeps us together
To Nicole for her peaceful and calm tact that bloomed our efficiency at work
To Utsav for playing the angry Indian tourist, who criticises the shape of the Rift Valley
To Joseph, Robert, Julius and crew, for being hands-on with the tough mortar
To Linus for his mysterious strength
To Vidur for being the calm charmer
To Aarsh for always capturing the moments
To Sophia for always winning poker and making Aayush do the dishes.

All I can say is Asante Sana and I know there is a malaika for every child.