



Spirit of The Banda

Friday 16th May 2025

A WORD FROM THE HEADMASTER

The torrential rain and thunderous Drum Concert early this week were perhaps just fitting precursors for the setting of the Year 7s' fantastic around the grounds performance of 'Macbeth'. It was great to see the whole year group fully ensconced in some Shakespeare.

Year 8 embarked on their final Common Entrance journey this week as they sat their French speaking and listening exams. We wish them all well in the next few weeks of hard work before they embark on a fun and varied Leavers' Programme once the hurly-burly's done.

And finally.... good luck to our boys' first team rugby players in their tournament at Hillcrest tomorrow.

James Moss-Gibbons



PTA Chair, Brad Elliott handing over a cheque to Des Bowden from Oceans Alive

See Week 5 events overleaf

Follow us on:

Stop asking
"How was your day?"

Who is in your
friend group?



The Banda School

Word OF THE Week

Radiant

Shining brightly with joy or
light.

CHALLENGE: ADD THIS WORD TO YOUR WRITING THIS WEEK!

Last week, Alan de Boer and Daisy Ritchie from Living Machines came to The Banda to install two bulk composters and to do training and workshops with our ground staff, kitchen staff and some of our students on how to make the compost. We were shown how to use a ratio of 6:3:1 which means 6 parts brown (leaves and cardboard), 3 parts green (leaves, grass, food waste) and 1 part manure, with a sprinkling of water (enough so that if the mixture was squeezed about 2 drops would come out). The Student Council, the Planet Warriors and some Year 5 students helped to make the compost mixture and load it into the composters. They were taught about the importance of temperature monitoring, turning and how microorganisms help to make the compost. We were amazed to see that the temperature on the monitoring thermometer had gone from 24°C on Monday to 60°C on Wednesday! Alan and Daisy will check in with us regularly and the compost will be monitored; when it reaches certain temperatures it will be turned. After 6 weeks we should have our first batch of non smelling, nutrient rich compost!





CROSS COUNTRY @ ST ANDREW'S, TURI

What a great season it has been with over 70 children showing great commitment to training and eventually 34 of them taking part at St Andrew's, Turi Cross Country Meet. The team departed last Friday. We arrived safely at Turi with enough time to settle in at the campsite and even walk the course before braving the cold and rainy night. On Saturday, the first race kicked off at 9.30am! It was great representation by the Banda children across the age groups as they gave their best throughout the races. Eventually at the end of the event, we had five medalists and very impressive team performances such as: U9 Girls - 2nd Overall with Wangu Kihungi in 8th place. U9 Boys - 2nd Overall with Jack Jenner getting a Bronze medal and Zachary Wheeler in 5th place. U11 Girls - 1st Overall with Liseno Waigwa getting a Gold medal, Mwihiaki Gitau getting a Bronze medal and Vivian Oser in 10th place. U11 Boys - 3rd Overall with Rhys Cullen getting a Bronze and Jon Boytorun in 10th place. U13 Girls - 4th Overall with Talia Sadron getting a Bronze medal. U13 Boys – 3rd Overall with Tristan Darker finishing 6th place. The Banda finished second overall out of nine Schools. Well done to all who took part.

~Team Cross Country







GREEN DAY DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated to our chosen charity on our Green Day last week. We have managed to raise Ks 48,000 for Local Ocean Trust based in Watamu and they are extremely grateful. This money will go towards helping them with all that they do linked to ocean conservation, and they have even named a turtle, 'Banda'! Thank you all!



ENTRIES CLOSE ON 23RD MAY 2025



The Hillcrest Interschools Horse Show will be taking place on the 8th June 2025. Should your child be interested in competing, please email Claire Viljoen on c.viljoen@bandaschool.com indicating your **child's name, pony name and the class.**

Click for the Hillcrest Interschools Horse Show Schedule 2025

GOLF REPORT

Jaylen in Year 3 played at the US Kids tournament at Royal Nairobi Golf Club on Sunday 10th May. He shot his personal best of 48 over 9 holes improving on his 54 in Thika last weekend. He will be playing the Junior Simba League tournament in Muthaiga next Sunday followed by the US Kids NCBA tournament the following weekend.

Parents, if any of your children are playing in sponsored competitions over the weekends please let Mr Walsh know on p.walsh@bandaschool.com so that he can keep his records up to date.



DRUM CONCERT REPORT

The 12th edition of The Drum Concert was held on Monday, 12th of May, 2025. The afternoon was quite exciting with lots of performances. This year, there was quite a population of Lower School drummers, including a Reception pupil who did exceptionally well. As in previous years, there was a mixture of solo rhythms, duets, band arrangements and a specially assembled ensemble involving post exam candidates. It was exciting to see the audience well engaged and constantly cheering on the children, who not only played their hearts out but also adorned shiny and colourful outfits. The concert was graced by this year's invited guest drummer Liam Frost. Liam is a former Banda pupil who has continued playing music ever since he left in 2022. He joined his drum teacher Mr Masai and the event host Mr Kaberia for a drum off to end the evening. Special recognition was given to those who sat for the London College of Music exams, ranging from Step 1 to Grade 3, having all passed. A message of good will was extended to Kristien and Justin who were completing their studies at The Banda, having played the drums actively for a number of years.







PTA QUIZ NIGHT

The PTA held their famous quiz night at Matbronze last Thursday. 11 teams consisting of parents and teachers joined us for the enjoyable and hotly-contested evening of brain trivia and a delicious BBQ. We managed to raise Ksh150,000 for Oceans Alive and handed over the cheque during the course of the week. Congratulations to the winning team, Artificial Intelligence (Kali, Harriet, Rohan, Carole, Bea, Siana, CJ & Jess), who took the trophy home this year. Well done to team Hoof Hearted who came a close 2nd and team The Ogs who were 3rd. Thank you to Fleur and Brad for organising the event, and additionally to Brad for coming up with all the questions and being a superb quiz master. Also, thank you to Fleur, Wendy, Carole and Cecilia for helping out during the evening, it was a great night.





YEAR 8 - CAPTAINS

Congratulations to our Sports Captains for this term; Oli and Talia - Cross Country, Etienne & Inaya - Rugby & Netball and Marcos & Kera - Tennis.



YEAR 7 - MACBETH

Yesterday's promenade-style performance of Macbeth by our Year 7 pupils was extremely impressive. Set against the various backdrops in The Banda grounds, the pupils led the audience on a dynamic and immersive journey through Shakespeare's darkest tale.

In just four weeks, Year 7 managed to grasp the complexity of the play, craft their own scenes, and bring it all to life with creativity and confidence. Their voice projection was particularly impressive given the outdoor setting. Organisation and teamwork also shone through, creating a seamless experience for the audience, who clearly enjoyed the experience.

Year 7 should be extremely proud of what they achieved — a powerful and memorable version of Macbeth which they thoroughly enjoyed putting together. Enjoy the photographs below!





Today, hot on the heels of the premier of Macbeth yesterday, Year 7 took on the role of theatre critic and gave some reviews of the performance:

Yesterday, the Year 7s at The Banda School performed a Shakespearean classic, Macbeth. "It was phenomenal!" said one of the parents and even though the play is a tragedy, some bits were hilarious. Grace

The famous plot of Macbeth includes a power hungry Lady Macbeth, the murdered King of Scotland and the three witches with their prophecies. It was an outdoor performance where the audience followed the scenes around. Juliet

Many parents know this tragedy written by William Shakespeare, which left lots of parents very proud of the actors who were fighting against the sound of planes overhead and traffic on Magadi Road. Andrea

Lia was very good in her role as a depressed Lady Macbeth. Her expressions and trembling, worried voice tied the whole play together. Grace

A notable actor, Jayden, who played one of the murderers, spoke a memorable line, "You egg! You son of a traitor!" which lightened the mood of this dark tragedy making some of the parents and characters laugh. Andrea

The staging and props were amazing with moving from one spot to another, the three witches in a tree and students with branches marching to war. Ella

They did a wonderful job of taking us back in time. As soon as we stepped into the first scene, it was brilliant all the way to the end. My favourite scene was the last scene because it was brilliantly staged with the wood moving and the drums and of course the epic final battle. PJ

YEAR 6

Year 6 have been busy creating striking art collages, exploring shape, texture, and colour. Using a mix of materials, they've layered, cut, and arranged with care and imagination. Each piece reflects a unique perspective and a bold use of composition. The pupils have shown great focus and flair, producing high-quality collage work that demonstrates both creativity and thoughtful design. A talented and enthusiastic group, their efforts are clear in every finished piece.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have been creating beautiful Batik artwork based on the theme of 'Fruit and Vegetables'. Batik is a traditional Indonesian technique that uses wax and dye on fabric. It's a detailed process that takes both skill and creativity – qualities Year 5 have shown throughout. Their designs are bright, abstract, and show close-up views of different fruits or vegetables. The pupils have worked hard and fully embraced the theme, producing high-quality and imaginative work that reflects their talent and effort.



LOWER SCHOOL PLANET WARRIORS

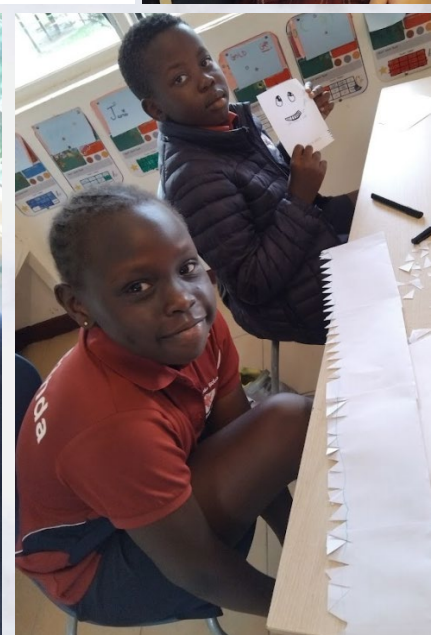
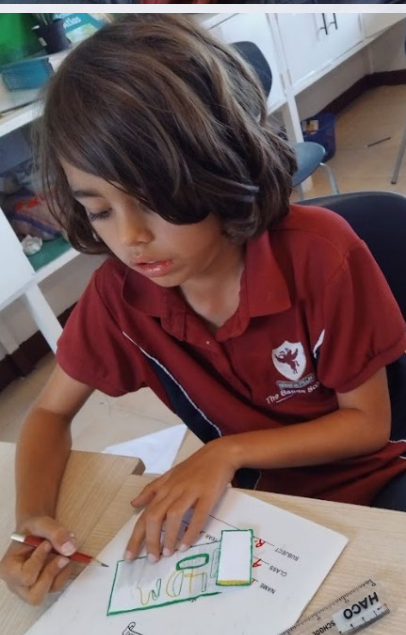
The Lower School Planet Warriors are back in action drawing and appreciating nature in our lovely little garden!



YEAR 4

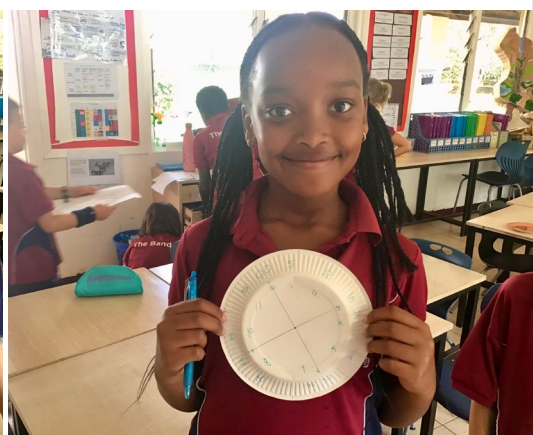
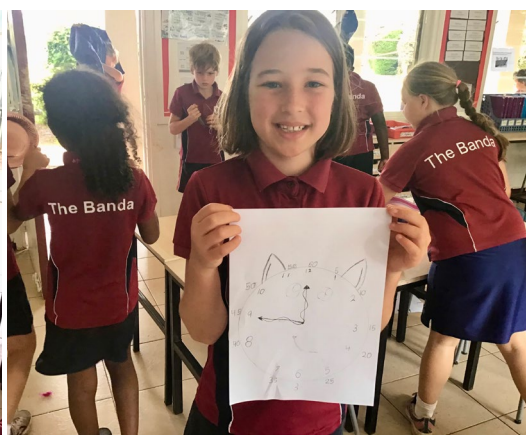
In Kiswahili, we learnt how to tell the time in Swahili. To reinforce the concept, we went outside and made a giant human clock. Some of us were the minute numbers and we used hockey sticks for the clock hands. It was lots of fun and helped us understand time even better. In RS, 4DM made their own Shrine in the style of a Hindu mandir.





YEAR 3

Our introduction to recap time was by using clocks and our own bodies (hands) to make different times. This helped us remember where the hands of the clock should be and we also worked out some durations of time. We then made clocks to help us tell time.



YEAR 3

Year 3 Design and Technology students have begun the final stage of their desk tidy project. As part of this process, they have been learning about various finishing techniques, as well as methods for joining wood—both permanently and in a way that allows for disassembly. In addition, students explored the life cycle of a product to better understand the environmental impact of manufacturing and material choices.



YEAR 2

The Year 2s had so much fun this week as part of our learning about George's Marvellous Medicine in Literacy we got to go to the Science labs and create our very own marvellous medicines! We even got to explore the use of dry ice - it was very exciting watching our medicines bubbles and smoke!



YEAR 1

The three little pigs provided inspiration for 1SM this week when they tried to recreate their construction choices in small groups. Team work, communication and problem solving skills were all on display alongside some amazing creativity and imagination! After the wolf made a visit and attempted to blow down the buildings. This provided an opportunity to reflect on building choices and discuss the properties of the materials using some scientific vocabulary - all fun in Year 1!

The 1SO boys and girls were delighted as Mura in Year 4 read aloud a story he co-authored with his sister, Njoki in Year 1



PEGASUS EARLY YEARS

NURSERY 2

This week we enjoyed learning about the life cycle of dinosaurs. Dinosaurs are believed to have been oviparous, so we chose which dinosaur baby we wanted to colour, we used paint stamps to decorate our eggs and did some very careful cutting and sticking to finish off our masterpieces!



NURSERY 1

Ahoy, young explorers! Set sail with boats, bubbles, and big ideas as kids discover why things float or sink—and how we travel the seas in style!



RIISING STARS

Old McDonald had a farm, and on his farm he had a... What farm animal can you spot? The Rising Stars enjoy different activities playing with the farm animals.



WEEK 5**MENU****MONDAY****TUESDAY****WEDNESDAY****THURSDAY****FRIDAY****MORNING BREAK****LUNCH: SOUP****MAINS****VEGGIE /
SPECIAL
DIETS****SIDES****DESSERT
MAIN SCHOOL****DESSERT
PEY**Flapjacks
FruitSandwiches
FruitCrunchy Cookies
FruitCheese straws
FruitMarble Cake
FruitCream of Carrot
Soup & Bread RollsCream of Leek &
Potato Soup &
CroutonsCheesy
Vegetable &
Macaroni BakeCottage Pie
(PEY - Mince &
Rice)Chicken in
Tandoori Sauce

Beef Pilau

Chicken Nuggets,
Roast Potatoes &
GravyVegetable Pilau
GF Pasta in
Tomato SauceVegetable Pot Pie
GravyPaneer in Tandoori
Sauce
Butter Bean Curry

Vegetable Pilau

Lentil & Vegetable
Croquettes

Yogurt Sauce

Cauliflower &
BroccoliPita Bread
Kachumbhari

Yogurt Sauce

Crunchy
Vegetables

Sweetcorn & Peas

French Beans &
CarrotsFruit Crumble
& Custard

Yogurt & Honey

Fruit Salad

Fruit Platter

Cake & Custard

Fruit Crumble

Yogurt & Honey

Fruit Salad

Fruit Platter

Yogurt

- From sauces and chutneys to flapjacks and focaccia, 95% of our what we serve is cooked on-site by our catering staff
 - We cater for varied food preferences in our menu and always have Halal and allergen free options
 - All eggs are free range and organic as well as many of the vegetables

Menu is subject to change



VEGETABLE MOUSSAKA



Ingredients

- 1 Eggplant, Thinly Sliced
- 2 Tablespoon Sunflower Oil
- 1 Large Zucchini
- 2 Potatoes Thinly Sliced
- 1 Onion Sliced
- ½ Teaspoon Garlic
- 1 Tablespoon White Vinegar
- ¼ Kg Channa Daal Boiled But Firm
- 500 gm Tomatoes Chopped
- 500 gm Grated Tomatoes
- 1 Teaspoon Dried Oregano
- 2 Tablespoons Chopped Parsley
- Salt And Pepper to Taste
- 1 Cup Crumbled Feta cheese
- 2 Tablespoon All Purpose Flour
- 1 ¼ Cup Milk
- ½ Cup Grated Cheddar Cheese
- ½ Cup Grated Mozzarella Cheese

Method

1. Sprinkle the eggplant with salt and set aside for half an hour, rinse and dry pat
2. Preheat the oven
3. Heat oil in a large frying pan and cook eggplant on medium heat on both sides are browned and remove from the oil on to a plate.
4. Repeat the same method with zucchini slices.
5. Add more oil to the frying pan and cook the potato slices on sides till brown.
6. Sauté onions and garlic until light brown. Pour in vinegar to a boil and reduce heat until liquid is reduced and is thick in appearance.
7. Add chopped tomatoes, oregano chopped parsley, salt n pepper and feta cheese, cook five minutes
8. In an ovenproof dish, layer the above tomato mixture, then eggplants, zucchini and potatoes, repeat same layer again and top up with grated tomatoes, and bake in a moderate oven for 25 minutes
9. Mix flour and milk and bring to boil then add pepper and nutmeg.
10. Pour over the cooked vegetables and top up with mozzarella and cheddar cheese and bake for another 15 minutes and serve hot.

NOTICE BOARD



KENYA'S FIRST-EVER AERIAL COMPETITION

Theme

Carbon Efficiency for a brighter
future - Little change, big impact.

31ST MAY

**KENYA NATIONAL THEATRE
UKUMBI MDOGO**

11AM - 2PM

TICKETS AT [BISO LEARNING.ORG / KENYABUZZ](https://bisolearning.org/kenyabuzz)



KENYA *BUZZ*



NOTICE BOARD



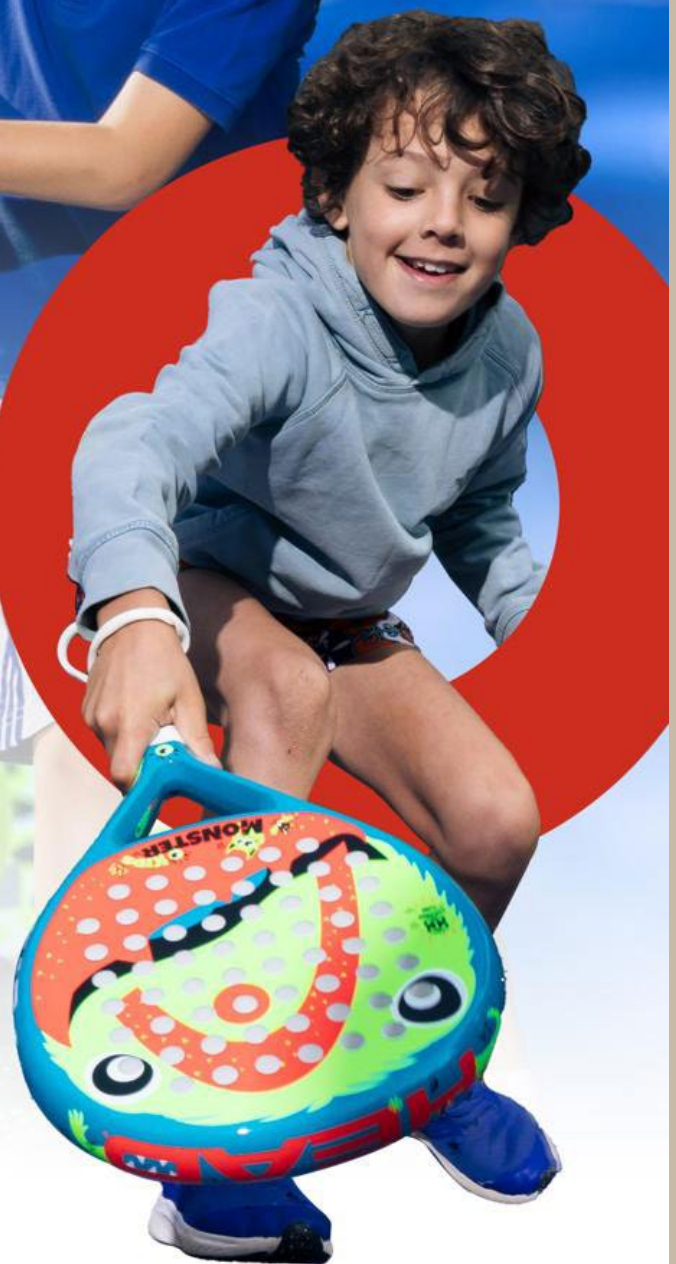
KIDS PADEL MIX-IN

SUN 10AM-12PM

AGE: 8-13YRS
1000KES

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Have a lovely weekend!