



Black Rhino Academy

**Annual Report
2021/22 School Year**



Letter from our Head of School

Dear All

A big thank you to you all for your continued support and encouragement of all our community at Black Rhino Academy. I feel privileged and proud to work alongside some special and talented individuals (students, parents and staff). As such, I am committed to securing the best possible outcomes and successes in all we do.

Since joining Black Rhino at the start of this school year, I have been impressed with the dedication of staff and the support of our parents and partners in driving achievements and successes forwards. Some examples include introducing a student council with head students and a group of prefects to allow more of a student voice and responsibility!



We as a school introduced a comprehensive tracking system to enable us to discuss the child's needs more in-depth, to help us plan better for their future and able us to discuss more in depth with parents their child's success and needs for development.

We have built some close links with local charity organizations, where we raised money for food and donated old textbooks, which were all well received. Our relations with international charities, such as Books for Africa, have helped us increase our books in the library and computers.

Our donors in Germany helped us improve our literacy needs for next year, with their help going toward our reading programme, phonics programme and class reading sets! All of which will make a massive difference to our students and how our teachers' approach teaching reading.

The school held regular academic challenges, such as spelling bee, mental maths and capital cities, science week, maths week, and poetry week (one of our pupils won a regional competition). We also looked closely at celebrating the child, so we introduced a learner profile for our students to work towards. We held weekly assemblies to hand out achievement certificates to celebrate the child meeting these profiles.

Communication with the whole school community was also a significant change during the school year; we held regular termly parent meetings, termly letters home, regularly updated on our website and a more comprehensive school report. As for the staff, we had regular meetings, including one-to-one, key stage departments and a daily bulletin. To help improve the voice of the school, we introduced parent, staff and child questionnaires to get a better feeling of how to help build the school's future. We also introduced a Senior Management Team (SMT) to represent a broader body of our school community.

Plans to embrace and develop opportunities for our young people was very high on our agenda and we looked closely at cross-curricular links and encouraged our pupils to be truly independent and take charge of their own learning. To allow our students to have a broader educational experience, we increased core subjects this school year, such as history and geography and a stronger emphasis on global perspectives.

Working in partnership with other local education providers and adding to the Physical Education training day we held, we have a mission in presenting to a wider audience (to enable others to understand and value the qualities and strengths of our young people) by holding some teacher training to local schools this coming school year.

Paul Horstead
Head of School



Highlights from the 2021/22 School Year

Student Council

At the beginning of the school year we choose our first Student Council including our first head boy and head girl. The council met with Mr Paul regularly and had input in various decisions that affected students. They participated in the revision of our lunch menu, suggested how best to use our weekly assembly and generally asked their fellow students for issues they would like to raise with school leadership. The

head boy and girl would also provide tours to potential new students and their parents so that they could learn about Black Rhino from their perspective rather than just the adults.



We are very proud of head boy Narri and head girl Glory for taking on this new responsibility and for the whole council for their contribution.



Spelling Bee Competition

We held our first annual spelling bee in February. An exciting day as students tried to get as many words spelled correctly on their boards to proceed to the next round. We also introduced a number of other school wide competitions throughout the year such as capital city challenge, mental maths and times table competitions.



Poem Competition

At the beginning of the year our students participated in the Collins Big Cat Writing competition where they wrote a poem about "What does home mean to you?". Schools were allowed up to four entries so we first held our own internal competition and the top four entries were submitted to Collins. We were so excited to hear in May that one of our Year 3 students Bryson Magai was a Regional Winner for his age group (5-7). Collins sent him a price which included a number of books for him to enjoy over the summer break.





Science Fair

Student led learning was at the heart of our science fair with the children conducting experiments using the scientific method and preparing display boards explaining their experiment or research. The display boards included questions, research, hypothesis, description of experiment (materials and procedure), and a conclusion. This was a fun day for all and much was learned in a very interactive way.



First long term Black Rhino Volunteers

We welcomed our very first full time volunteers to Black Rhino in January 2022. After some delays due to covid William Dehn and Justin Valentine arrived ready to help with all kinds of projects. They had gotten connected to us through FAME Medical in Karatu and William's aunt is one of the FAME US board members and a medical volunteer.



Justin came equipped with donations to spend the full term teaching Taekwondo as part of our PE curriculum. The children enjoyed learning about controlling their bodies, self defence and the very popular breaking of the 'wooden' boards.

William also got busy with reorganising, labelling and arranging our library which had just received a shipment of donated books from the UK.

Both volunteers also helped with various classroom activities from sharing about the American culture in history and geography class to playing with boarding kids after school. It was a pleasure to have them with us for almost 3 months and it will be very hard to find

volunteers as enjoyable and hardworking as these two.



Our Pre-school students learning Yoga from Volunteer William



From our School Journal

By Volunteer Billy Dehn

The family and sense of community that has been built at Black Rhino Academy is apparent from the start. It's a rare feeling to feel so welcomed, so soon, in a new country/town/workplace, but that is what I felt quickly upon my arrival.



Caroline and Nickson have constructed a space so productive to the educational experience that all the children arrive at school each morning eager and excited to learn. All of the teachers add to this environment with their enthusiasm and hard work between classes, and there is plenty of opportunity for you to contribute in a variety of places, according to your interests and your skills.

For my first week, the staff worked with me to construct my schedule at the school: finding which classes I could and would want to help in, available projects that I could work on, and opportunities available to me to create my own projects constructive to the school. As the term went on, my schedule was flexible to any changes I wanted to make or projects I wanted to focus on as I settled in. I ended up working on establishing a classification system for the library, as well as helping/teaching in history, french, math and PE, amongst other small projects here and there.

The accommodations at Black Rhino were fantastic, as there was nothing more I could ask for to be provided. The campus is really special, tucked away in the forest but still close to town. All the trees and landscaping integrated with the built environment of the school give hundreds of birds a home and truly make the campus feel alive at all times of the day. Groceries and laundry are coordinated through the staff without problems. Fantastic meals were available to us to share with the boarding students. The teachers and staff went out of their way to show me the town, their favorite restaurants and things to do. It was very easy to get comfortable quickly at the school.

And of course, I will treasure the time I was able to spend with the students of Black Rhino. They're all incredibly smart and capable, truly with their own personalities and interests. It was incredibly rewarding to work with them, teach them and in general just hang out with them. They will absolutely go on to do great things in their life.

If Black Rhino wasn't so far away for me, I would be planning a return volunteering trip for later this year. It was such an incredible experience, and if given the opportunity to volunteer here I really couldn't recommend it more to you. While I don't know when yet, I do plan on returning to Tanzania again soon so I can spend more time with everyone at Black Rhino Academy.



Field Trips

Art Field Trip for Year 3

Year 3 Students took a field trip to African Galleria where the artist in residence gave them a special art lesson. Students were able to choose an existing painting and learn the techniques to create their own version.



Year 4 Trip to Shanga

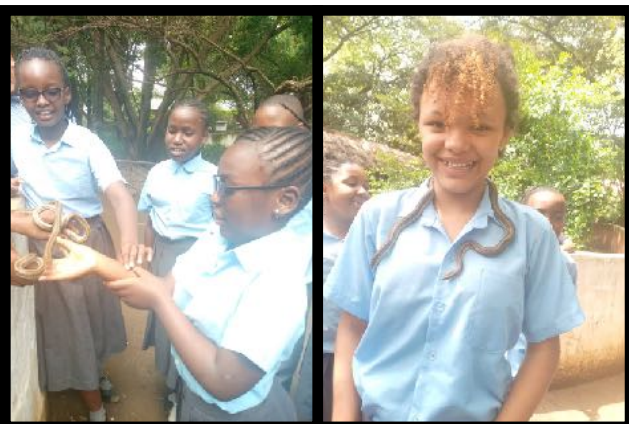
Year 4 students enjoyed a trip to Shanga in Arusha. Shanga is a social enterprise, which employs people with disabilities to create unique and high-quality handmade jewelry, glassware and homewares incorporating recycled materials. Our students got to meet various staff and learn about the recycling process which tied in with their science lessons.



Year 5 Trip to Meserani Snake Park

The park is home to a variety of snakes common in Eastern and Southern Africa from the Black Mamba to the Black and Red spitting Cobras and the African Python. There are approximately 48 snakes you can view. Other reptiles at the park include Monitor Lizards, Tortoises, Crocodiles, and a few species of birds that have been orphaned or injured and would not survive if they were returned to the wild.

Year 5 students learned about reptiles, got to hold real snakes and even enjoyed a camel ride.





Annual End of Year Event - Swahili Day

For the second year in a row our teachers and students spent term 3 preparing and rehearsing for our annual year end show. This year the theme was Swahili culture and students were divided into groups to share about different elements of

Swahili culture: Food, Art, Fashion, Dance, Music. Many parents turned out to see their children perform on the last day of school.

A video of the full event can be found [online here](#).



4th Anniversary of Black Rhino Grand Opening

We also celebrated the 4th Anniversary of our official opening ceremony with a last minute cake. Not quite as large of a celebration as four years ago but our staff enjoyed the cake.



Co-Directors cutting a last minute cake in the new staff dining area



Official Ribbon Cutting in January 2018



67
Total Students

World Teacher's Day with a friendly kids vs teachers game

24
Total Boarders



Pyjama Movie Day



Monthly Certificate Assembly



Black Rhino Sports Day

11
Full-time Teachers



Capital Project Update

After working on getting our utility area ready to handle the next major construction phase throughout term 1, we officially got started on the school hall with a site visit by our Tanzanian architect and engineering team. Godwishes Minja, architect; Emanuel Laurent, Quantity Surveyor; Richard Shumbusho, Electrical Engineer; and Samuel Makara, Structural Engineer came on December 8th 2021 to discuss final decisions on layout changes for the school hall and to inspect the site.

January 2022 was mostly spent with excavation for the ground floor and digging trenches for the foundation and footings for the column.

April 4th 2022 was

an exciting day as the concrete slab of the ground floor was poured. After 4 days and 2 over night shifts of our crew, we finished the slab. Construction will continue until July 2023 with a planned opening in August 2023.



3D image from NLÉ Works





Looking Ahead

Introducing our new Deputy Head of School Lister Tulapona

We are very excited to appoint Lister Tulapona as our first Deputy Head of School. Lister joined Black Rhino as a class teacher in 2018. She has been the class teacher for our Year 1 and in the past few years our Year 3 students. Lister's dedication to her students and their success as well as their enjoyment of learning as made a her an invaluable member of our teaching team. Lister also has a passion for helping her colleagues grow professionally, one of the many reasons she will make an outstanding Deputy Head. We are so excited for Lister to be part of our Management team and have her voice and knowledge be part of Black Rhino's future.



In August 2022 we will be introducing our **Comprehensive Reading from Cambridge University Press**. This structured program will help our students become better readers which research shows has a positive impact on their whole education. Reading assessments of our students in the last few years have shown that this is an area where we can still improve. This reading program will enable our teachers to help each student at whatever stage of reading they are.

Our Early Years/Pre-school students are also getting a reading boost with the formal introduction of the **Jolly Phonics program**. This way of teaching young children letters and sounds has been shown to be beneficial in their later reading skills.

Completion of the centre of our school - The School Hall

2022/23 will be another big year for our school in terms of infrastructure and construction. Our plan is for the new school hall to be completed at the end of the school year for a grand opening in August 2023. We look forward to enjoying the amazing facilities this building will add to our school including new dining space, an auditorium/performance space to accommodate the whole school, a new library and office space.

