

Habari ya Asabuhi! {Good Morning!}

For the past two afternoons, the team has had Kiswhali lessons taught by CGA alumni. Many of them are picking it up and enjoying practicing with the staff at their guest house and the students at school.

It was a BUSY and long day for the team, but they endured the heat and had a fantastic day. It started with each team member (in groups of 2-4) being in a classroom for devotions/prayer time. It was a great chance to start connecting with the students. Some listened to the class teachers lead and others jumped right into leading themselves. They then moved on to their project groups. The sewing group stayed busy fixing small holes and sewing on buttons to the students' uniforms. The painting team finished a first coat on our new (built in Nov 2013) computer lab. The construction crew worked with our CGA foreman to learn how to build desks...the local Kenyan way; getting back to the roots of construction, using handsaws and hand planes! As Larry Fox put it, "What we accomplished all day, we would have finished in 30 minutes in the US. But... we relearned the lost art of true carpentry." Then there was the Creative Arts team; aka Arts & Crafts. Wow- they were impressive. They went from class to class, Nursery, Pre-Primary, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, nonstop with a short lunch break in the middle. The students loved getting to do a different type of creative arts project; using materials teachers don't normally have access to. It was a special treat.

Even though these projects are fun and a great assistance to the school or a special/new activity for students, we continue to express to the team that the relationships are so much more important. Kenya (and much of Africa) is a relationship-based and community centered culture. This is drastically different from our task-oriented and individualized culture of America. The team seems to be really embracing this difference in the culture and doing their best to invest in the individual conversations and interactions.

Every Tuesday is clubs time for 5th-8th grade at CGA. 4 team members organized and facilitated a different club. Brooke did some sing-a-long worship songs. She taught the kids a new song and they, in turn, taught her a new song. Larry taught about satellite imagery and how it's used to make maps! He did a great job bringing it down to their level and brought with him a large printed map of Kenya (satellite image), with zoomed-in sections of Mbita and even CGA. The students enjoyed getting to pick out places around Mbita they knew (as seen from space). Bruce and Jinx lead a group in how to play Yatzee. We're not sure how many of the kids picked

up the actual rules, but they sure did enjoy playing with the dice (and making lots of noise shaking the dice in cups!) The Craft team also did 2 fun crafts with a large group of students. It was a fun clubs time for the students to get to do some different activities than they're used to.

One couple, Larry and Gwen, went on the first home visit today. They went on a home visit to the sponsor child of Larry's brother and sister-in-law (visiting Calvine). They came back just thrilled with having had that chance to visit the home, and understand the child's life and family a bit more. Tomorrow the sponsors will start going on many home visits. They're looking forward to meeting the parents/guardians of their sponsor child, seeing their home, meeting siblings and learning more about their life. What a special experience!!

Please continue to keep them in your prayers. Karen is feeling much better with almost her full energy levels back! Praise God! Use the prayer requests from yesterday (below) as a guideline. Additionally, we pray for Pastor Bob from Peace Lutheran Church (of which 8 of the team members here are from). Today he is having heart surgery to put in a new defibulator. This is after the surgeon's tried to do this surgery 5 weeks ago, but instead they ended up doing open-heart surgery of which he's still recovering from. Pray for the surgeon's hands and wisdom, and peace for his wife, Diane, and family. Bob's family has had a long-time relationships with CGA; including his daughter Megan serving at CGA for 6 months a few years ago.

Love from Mbita,
Daneen, for the team