

BEYOND THE BOOK INITIATIVE

ROYSAMBU PRIMARY SCHOOL



PROJECT ABSTRACT

'Beyond the Book' is an initiative coined by Ms Muthoni Muiruri, an alumni and member of the Board of Management (BOM) of the school with support from the school principal. The initiative is aimed at equipping disadvantaged school going children with books to read beyond the usual curriculum reading and empowering them through fostering a culture of reading.

A key goal of this initiative is to improve the lives of these children through promoting literacy and we aim to do this through providing inspiring book collections and story books to all the students in the school. In addition, the intention also aspires to provide a forum where the students can come together to read the books, discuss and share experiences in a safe environment.

Supply of books for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years is requested to assist in setting up the library in the school.

STATEMENT OF NEED

Roysambu Primary School is a mixed day public Primary School located in Zimmerman Estate, Roysambu Constituency, Nairobi County. The school has an enrolment of 2084 pupils as at May 2019 aged between 4 to 15 years of age. A huge majority of the students come from low-income household, including the refugee population living around the area the school is situated. There are currently refugee students enrolled from South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

Classroom conditions at the school are wanting due to the ever ballooning number of pupils enrolled in the school as a direct result of the Government sponsored free primary education program and at present, the schools holds about 70-90 students on average per class.

The school has inadequate resources in terms of facilities and books, with about 4-5 pupils sharing a desk intended for two students at most.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Beyond the Book Initiative will be implemented in 3 phases;

Phase one involves provide enough reading materials and books to the pupils to ensure each student has a book to read at any one time. Phase begun in 2018 and is currently ongoing. Through donations from Maktabas Inc. and other well-wishers, we have been able to receive and catalogue over 700 books. There is still need for more books.

Phase two which has also been initiated involves setting up a library lesson/book club where the pupils are provided a forum to read and discuss books that they have read.

This provides a comfortable learning environment away from the usual classroom setting. The library lesson/book club is considered to be an extra-curricular activity for the school and is conducted on Saturday morning through the facilitation of volunteers.

Phase three involves setting up a central book storage facility/space where the books can be safely kept and exchanged among students through a library system. Phase three is currently ongoing as the principal was able to identify suitable space for setting up a library. There is, however, a lack of shelves, reading desks and books.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of *Beyond the Book Initiative* is to improve the lives of these children through promoting literacy and a reading culture. It further aims to empower, embolden and improve the confidence of each child through developing life skills.

Studies have shown that poor readers are more likely to suffer from low confidence and self-esteem, become disruptive in the classroom and are at a great risk of dropping out of school. By immersing and engaging these pupils in leisure reading during their free time, the initiative aims to keep the pupils engaged and away from mischief.

The **specific Objectives** of this initiative include;

1. Improve English reading and speaking skills and abilities
2. Enhance Student comprehension
3. Assist the children build confidence in public speaking
4. Enhance student vocabulary
5. Assist the pupils explore beyond their environment through books
6. Improve general knowledge
7. Help the pupils develop empathy

Beyond the Book Initiative intends to build and nurture support systems that these young ones may be lacking elsewhere in their lives.

EVALUATION AND MEASURABLES

Continuous monitoring of this initiative will be undertaken over the course of the school term and will be measured against the below parameters;

1. Improved test scores in English and Comprehension during mid and end term examinations
2. Increased interest and attendance of book club session
3. Improvement in public speaking skills
4. Continual borrowing and consumption of books through the Library System

Compiled by – Muthoni Muiruri
Email – muthoni.moerory@gmail.com
Tel: +254 720 280 942

Some Images of the School and the Initiative



The Principal and some students receiving the book donations



The library in progress



The library in progress



Class 8 students having a debate session as part of the weekend bookclub activities



Students listening in an on a debate. Book club session.



Class in session. One of the lower primary classes in session



Book donations received by the students, principal and deputy principal



A Saturday book club session

END