

Container Library for Kenya

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

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WHERE IS MERCY SCHOOL?



MERCY SCHOOL - 11 corrugated iron classrooms, July 2017

Imagine the excitement and wonder of children at this school in Kenya when they first see a ready-made library from Australia inside a 6-metre shipping container.



These four classrooms are the new rooms for the Early Childhood Development Unit.

Baby class for 3-year old – 35 children

Pre-Unit class for 5-year old – 20 children

Nursery class for 4-year old – 37 children

Class one aged 6 years – 32 children

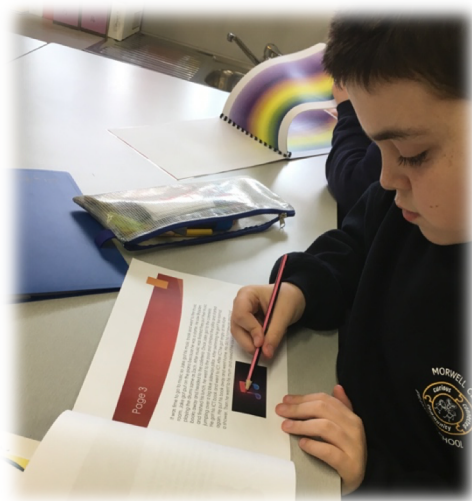
MERCY SCHOOL - 4 corrugated iron classrooms replaced with brick Jan-Feb 2018

BENEFITS FOR AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS and FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

At Morwell Central Primary School, we are dedicated to upholding a core set of values, where Acceptance, Support, Persistence, Individual Responsibility, Respect and Excellence (ASPIRE) are an integral part of all interactions.

Morwell Central Primary School is committed to creating an environment that nurtures learning for life and promoting our school vision of **“A Curious, Connected Learning Community”**

At Morwell Central Primary School, we encourage our students to take ownership of their learning as well as promoting the development of skills that will enable them to be lifelong learners. We provide opportunities for students to become engaged in rich and varied learning experiences that respect and suit individual developmental stages, while promoting the growth of the whole child.



When a group of students in the 4 to 6 Learning Hub were introduced to the **‘Library Container Project’** in February this year, they were surprised that **Mercy Academy Primary School** did not have a library already, for students to choose books to read. So, through discussion and encouragement, the students decided to write their own books to send to **Mercy Academy** to help stock their new library.

These books will facilitate an exchange between the two schools, as the Morwell children will include a profile of themselves as the authors of the books and in turn the Mercy children will exchange, in response, about their lives and culture.

The students chose their own topics to write about. This choice supported our own school’s belief that students take ownership of their learning. The students were given specific teaching on how to plan, storyboard, draft and publish their books over a period of 8 weeks. The skills our students at Morwell Central Primary School developed had real meaning for them, as they strived to become authors for an authentic purpose.

As the other writing groups learned of the project, they also wanted to contribute their books to help stock the library. *As a result, there are over 50 books which will become part of the **Mercy Academy library**.* This **Library Container** will have over 6000 books when it is sent

As part of our partnership with **Mercy Academy Primary School**, Kenya, our grades 4 to 6 Learning Hub are involved in an Inquiry unit which requires our students to create, plan and implement a business that will raise money for our '**Library Container Project**.' hoped that through this type Inquiry learning is an active thinking process, where students take-action to create change.

Working with **Mercy Academy Primary School** has given our students an authentic purpose to raise money for and it is hoped that through this kind of **community service students will have the opportunity to practice the values and school vision we teach.**

Morwell Central Primary School Newsletter - 14 September 2018

*Thank-you to everyone for supporting todays **4\5\6 Business Inquiry Expo**. This was a student run event and an authentic learning experience as they planned and ran all 39 businesses. The 4\5\6 students did their best to meet the supply and demand needs. Thank-you for your understanding and support of this worthy cause. Well done to all our 4\5\6 students on their successful day.*

Wheel of Luck



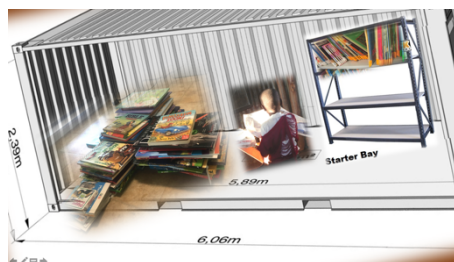
Pizza



The amount raised from the children's 39 businesses was \$3700. The school office gave each business \$20 which was returned from each business out of their profits. **This money will cover the container transportation from Melbourne to Mombasa.**



Glengarry Primary School has also come on board to help with this project and will donate books as part of their School Values Program.



BENEFITS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

At Morwell Central Primary School, we believe everyone has the right to fully participate in an educational environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive. *Through working in partnership with **Mercy Academy Primary School, Kenya**, we hope **our students will have the opportunity to develop a mindset that being 'disadvantaged' is not an excuse for poor outcomes and that through ongoing interaction with the students in Kenya our students will see that high achievement can be obtained despite circumstance and family situations.** We want our students to understand that generational poverty can be broken, and pathways and directions changed through persistence and hard work.*

By providing students at Morwell Central Primary School with authentic learning opportunities such as the **Mercy Academy Partnership** and **Library Container Project** we are not only helping a school community that is more disadvantaged than we are, *we are also helping our students to become less self-focused and develop empathy for others, including needs in our own community.* A mindset that they take with them throughout their lives.

Working in partnerships with other communities offers opportunities for our students to practice and develop knowledge, skills and display the ASPIRE values we promote.

Small projects that make a big difference, such as the **Library Container** Partnership with **Mercy Academy**, will help build our school pride and promote inclusiveness. This partnership will link authentic student learning and build on our school ASPIRE values.

FURTHER INFORMATION



Imagine the excitement and wonder of children at this school in Kenya when they first see a ready-made library from Australia inside a 6-metre shipping container.

Children who come to school early, ready to learn, will eagerly find an old newspaper to read, one that we would simply throw into the recycle or place on the bottom of the cocky cage.

The statistics are frightening, only 2 per cent of schools in Kenya have a library. Without books it makes it pretty hard for the kids to learn how to read.

Kenyan children discovering the joy of reading has fired up Morwell Central Primary and Glengarry Primary to partner with Mercy School in Uriri, Kenya to put books into the hands of every child in the school to see them released from poverty through education.



The Kenyan government has mandated that all schools must incorporate e-learning into their curriculum, so we also plan to send funding for **a class set of laptops** to complement this library of books.

Any spare space in the container will be filled with desks, classroom requisites, sports and musical equipment. We need to raise about \$10,000 - \$12,000 to buy, fit out and ship this **Library Container Project** to Kenya.

A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

Education is so highly valued in this community. Consolate Muga who leads the team in Kenya has stated to me that these children see education as more important to them than food and clothes. And we strongly believe this to be true. In June 2017 we went to the school on a Monday morning at 7:00 am and there was already a full class of year 8 children quietly doing private study. Teachers don't give classes till 8:00 am. I asked them, "Why are you doing this?" They replied, "We want to pass our exams." Attaining secondary qualification is vital for their future. They want to pass their primary exams to qualify for a quality secondary school option.

"Students complete primary school at the age of 12-14 years. At this stage they cannot be issued with 'National Identity Cards' until they reach 18. Without an ID card these children cannot seek employment. No employer will accept them, and they must wait 4 to 6 years before they are issued with these vital documents. Many children who do not join secondary school become involved in practices such as drug taking and dealing, early marriages/pregnancies etc.

Talents are nurtured at secondary school level. It is also at this level students have opportunity to interact with other cultures and are exposed to career opportunities. Government systems and mechanisms are taught, therefore without secondary education, a student is considered as one without knowledge or skill. Without secondary education, it is as good as releasing them into society as dependents who will continue to look for assistance from others to survive."

Consolate Muga (Director of Mercy Compassionate Ministries)

WHY IS THIS PROJECT SO IMPORTANT?

The provision of education is not only for the children cared for at Mercy Home/orphanage but extends to children living in the nearby impoverished community unable to attend school because of family breakdown, family illness and poverty. The school provides a foundation for the future education of many children in this community.

We have met and become friends with three young adults who have been through Mercy Home and School then through to the tertiary level. The foundation provided by Mercy School, even with limited facilities has borne fruit. How much more so as many children continue to access this school and its library, pass their exams, go on to secondary and tertiary levels. What a brighter future this Kenyan community would have.

And for our students, will they will have ongoing opportunities with Mercy School through this exchange to practice the values of their schools. Through the ***Mercy Academy Partnership*** and ***Library Container Project*** we are not only helping a school community that is more disadvantaged than we are, *we are also helping our students to become less self-focused and develop empathy for others.*