

Mr. MA's Music Fridays!

The American School of Kinshasa TASOK TALK – OCTOBER 2021

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Message from the Director - MAP Testing & Travel

What is MAP testing? You may have had your child come home last week sharing that they are finishing 'MAP testing' - but what is this and why is it important? The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth test is the most trusted and innovative assessment for measuring achievement and growth in K–12 math, reading, language usage, and science.

Who uses MAP testing? Close to 1000 international schools in more than 145 countries trust MAP as their preferred assessment provider to meet the most rigorous global standards and achieve and maintain accreditation. MAP is also used in 1000's of schools throughout the United States in grades 3 to 10.

Why do we use MAP testing? Using MAP Growth insights, teachers can confidently tailor instruction to challenge every student, whether they are below, at, or above grade level. MAP Growth student reports also present realistic learning goals by subject areas so that, through a teacher's guidance, students can individually see their progress and be inspired to take charge of their own learning.

What's next? Secondary is finishing up MAP testing this week and principals will start processing the results to share with families and teachers prior to the October Break. Additionally, teachers will use this valuable data to align their instruction to meet the needs of our students.

Travel Over Break

For those families already planning for the upcoming October Break and December Break, please ensure that you follow the *TASOK Family Travel/Campus COVID Protocols* found in this edition of the TASOK TALK. We have been fortunate to have instruction '*in-person*' this year and the intend on continuing this model after each break.

Be safe, be well, be kind,

Dan Mullen - TASOK Director





Our Mission for Excellence: The American School of Kinshasa provides dynamic and individualized educational challenges and opportunities that promote diversity and empower each of its students to develop into independent global community leaders.

An Afternoon in the Life of a Secondary Student Lesley Peacock - Secondary Principal

The Back to School Afternoon really signified that Semester 1 was now fully underway. It was also a significant milestone, having followed on from the Introduction Session to New Parents, in hosting our second large parent event, whilst still maintaining health and safety protocols.

Thank you to the large number of parents who joined us for the Secondary Back to School Afternoon on Thursday 9th September. The event provided an opportunity to meet teachers as well as being introduced to the subject courses.





It was a busy afternoon with parents following a condensed version of their child's schedule. That meant 6 classes providing an authentic taste of life in Secondary School. Each block was ten minutes in length and began with a subject overview, followed by a brief question and answer session. A five-minute passing time followed as

parents guided by their children, (if they hadn't been waylaid elsewhere), walked, and sometimes ran to

their next class. It's no wonder that your children come home exhausted after school and try to use that as an excuse to get out of homework! The student shop team enthusiastically sold branded TASOK merchandise in the library.

Our students are beginning to look very similar with their masks, TASOK hoodies, drink bottles, sun hats, and now umbrellas as we enter the wet season.



TASOK FAMILY TRAVEL/CAMPUS COVID PROTOCOLS 2021-2022

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL For Adults & Children

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html Please plan all travel accordingly to meet guidelines as they will be strictly enforced.

Fully Vaccinated

Follow both requirements below

**NOTE: 'Fully vaccinated is considered 2 weeks after 2nd dose for 2-dose vaccines, and final dose for those with single dose"

Unvaccinated

Follow both requirements below

**NOTE: The CDC suggests anyone who has recovered from COVID in the past 3 months follow the 'vaccinated' path for international travel purposes. This is only for 3 months from the date on the official medical certificate stating recovery from COVID (required) - after this time they are considered 'unvaccinated'.

1) DRC Requirements:

- INRB COVID PCR test upon arrival at N'djili Airport AND,
- Isolate at home until you receive a negative result from the INRB test.

**Email results to: nurse@tasok.net

1) DRC Requirements:

- INRB COVID PCR test upon arrival at N'djili Airport AND,
- Isolate at home until you receive a negative result from the INRB test.

**Email results to: nurse@tasok.net

2) CDC Guidelines state that you:

- Do not need to isolate after travel.
- Must monitor for symptoms and act accordingly.
- Must take a COVID test after 3-5 days (from date on INRB test - this can be an Antigen test).
- Must continue to practice health & safety routines

2) CDC Guidelines state that you:

- Must isolate for 7-days after travel (use the entry date on the INRB test).
- Monitor for symptoms and act accordingly.
- Take a COVID test after 3-5 days (from date on the INRB test - this may be an Antigen test).
- If Antigen test is negative, you may come out of isolation on day 7).

Please refer to the TASOK Academic Calendar to plan your travel return dates and allow for required isolation:

https://tasok.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TASOK-2021-2022-Approved-Academic-Calend ar.pdf

October Break:

Classes resume in-person on October 25th for all students that have completed required isolation after international travel.

Winter Break:

Classes resume in-person on December 5th for all students that have completed required isolation after international travel.

Please email any of the following that apply to: nurse@tasok.net

- INRB Test Results from N'djili Airport
- Day 3 to 5 Antigen test (for those isolating for 7 days)
- COVID recovery certificate dated within 3 months (if applicable)











Email:

info@tasok.net



Website:

Contact:

VOYAGES INTERNATIONAUX pour Adultes & Enfants

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html Veuillez planifier vos voyages de manière à vous conformer aux directives.

Complètement Vacciné

Conformez-vous aux deux exigences ci-dessous

**NOTE: 'Une personne est considérée complètement vaccinée 2 semaines après avoir reçu la 2eme dose pour les vaccins à 2 doses, et la dose finale pour les vaccins à dose unique"

Non Vacciné

Veuillez suivre les exigences ci-dessous

**NOTE: Le CDC suggère que toute personne guérie de la COVID dans les 3 mois passés suive les mêmes directives en matière de voyages internationaux que les personnes vaccinées. Ceci est valable seulement durant 3 mois à compter de la date du certificat médical constatant officiellement la guérison de la COVID (obligatoire) - après cette période elles sont considérées comme "non-vaccinées".

1) Exigences de la RDC:

- Test COVID PCR de l'INRB à l'arrivée à l'aéroport de N'djili ET,
- S'isoler chez soi jusqu'à la réception des résultats négatifs du test de l'INRB.
 - **Envoyez les resultats par email à: nurse@tasok.net

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- Test COVID PCR de l'INRB à l'arrivée à l'aéroport de N'djili ET,
- S'isoler chez soi jusqu'à la réception des résultats négatifs du test de l'INRB.
 - **Envoyez les resultats par email à: nurse@tasok.net

• Les Directives du CDC statuent que vous:

- N'avez pas besoin de vous isoler après le voyage.
- Devez surveiller la survenue de symptômes et agir en conséquence.
- Devez faire un test COVID après 3-5 jours (à compter de la date figurant sur le test INRB - cela peut être un test antigène).
- Devez continuer à respecter les gestes barrière

2) Les Directives du CDC statuent que vous:

- Devez vous isoler pendant 7 jours après le voyage (à compter de la date d'entrée figurant sur le test INRB).
- Devez surveiller la survenue de symptômes et agir en conséquence.
- Devez faire un test COVID après 3-5 jours (à compter de la date figurant sur le test INRB - cela peut être un test antigène).
- Si le test antigène est négatif, vous pouvez sortir de l'isolation au 7eme jour).

Veuillez vous référer au Calendrier scolaire de TASOK pour planifier les dates de retour de votre voyage tout en respectant les périodes d'isolation obligatoire:

https://tasok.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TASOK-2021-2022-Approved-Academic-Calendar.pdf

Congé d'octobre:

Les cours reprennent en présentiel le 25 octobre pour tous les élèves qui ont achevé la période d'isolation obligatoire après un voyage international.

Congé d'hiver:

Les cours reprennent en présentiel le 5 janvier pour tous les élèves qui ont achevé la période d'isolation obligatoire après un voyage international.

Veuillez envoyer par email a nurse@tasok.net les documents ci-dessous qui conviennent:

- Résultats du Test de l'INRB effectué à l'aéroport de N'djili
- Résultats du Test antigène effectué entre les 3me et 5me jours (pour les personnes en isolation de 7 jours)
- Certificat daté de guérison du COVID, intervenue dans les 3 précédents mois (si cela s'applique)

Concept-Driven Learning

Mike Bailey - Elementary Principal

Oct. 8 Elementary Parent Session Concept-Driven Learning

Friday, October 8, we will hold our first parent information session exploring the role of concepts in the PYP program. This is an opportunity to build a shared understanding of our practices and how the PYP framework guides the shaping of our development of the learning engagements and opportunities for our students.





Schedule

7:30-7:55 Music with the students

Friday mornings the Elementary school starts our day with a group celebration of music led by Mr. M-A. Parents coming to the parent session may enter the ES gates with their children and watch from the designated area behind the library

7:55-8:40 Parent Session in Room 21- Concept-Driven Learning

Parent learning engagements focused on understanding the role concepts play in driving the inquiry and instruction in the PYP program.

Art Walk (Weather Permitting)

Before and after the session parents can visit our Art Walk displays that will be set up in the area between the library and the G4/5 classrooms. Displays will be set up throughout the day for students to visit, and will be open for parents. We hope this will be a regular occurrence and over time we will be able to display the work of each of our students in this manner.



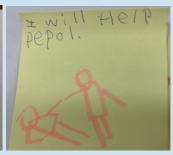
Creating and Re-establishing the Community we Aspire to Be



Website:

www.tasok.net

No play fighting
Safe distance
invite people
tell someone the Rules









Exploring our community and the conditions that will help us thrive together

It has been a great beginning of the year in the elementary school. We have had new members join and reconnected with past friends. A very big part of the beginning of any school year is dedicated to getting to know each other, establishing relationships, and coming together as a positive and supportive community. We establish agreements on how we will work and create opportunities together and look at the routines and rituals that will create an environment that fosters safety, celebration, respect, and agency for our students and community members.

Establishing norms and agreements

As a school and community we get to choose what kind of community we have and our actions and structures help express our values. The development of our norms and agreements is purposeful and helps engage and support each other in our learned environment. Together with the students we explore what kind of environment we want and what personal actions we can take to support our community. We come up with agreements to help us navigate disagreements and conflict and support our play.

The development of norms also takes place with the adults in the community. An example of this is that at the beginning of each year, teachers together look at what the agreements will be for working together and supporting the students. This recognizes how each of us can actively contributes to the culture we foster in our school.

ES Teacher Meeting Essential Agreements

Be a supportive communicator

Be aware and mindful

Be present and engaged

Be a respectful and supportive team member

Bringing back cross-grade and student-parent celebrations of learning

Over the last two years, due to the pandemic, we have had to limit the mixing of students and the bringing of parents onto campus. As we have developed systems, safety protocols, and found out more about how we can keep our community safe, we have looked at ways to bring our students and families together again. We are starting to add cross-grade level celebrations of learning. For example, today Grade 1 and 2 students shared different games they created and developed in PE with their peers from other classes. Additionally, many of our students visited the Art gallery set up by our DP students. Very soon we will start bringing in parents on campus for more celebrations of learning as well. We will use different spaces and have protocols to help us bring back our community sharing while also maintaining our safe environment. WE are looking forward to being back on campus as a whole community more frequently.





ES Student Council

This last week grade 1-5 classes have selected our student council representatives for October-December. The ES student council is focused on supporting celebration at the school, school development, and creating opportunity for student action. In addition, the student council will support whole school opportunities for celebration and action. They will work with secondary students on cross divisional projects and celebrations. In the student council students will work with action groups and staff mentor to explore issues important to them and plan initiatives that they will carry out during their term.

PYP Update

Vitna Bailey - Elementary PYP Coordinator/Librarian







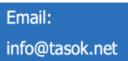




Learning is happening in full swing. Students are not only gaining knowledge, understanding, and skills, but are also encouraged to demonstrate the IB learner profiles throughout the day. They are learning to be inquirers and thinkers as they ask questions and search for answers. Positive relationships they have with their teachers and classmates empower them to be take-riskers and caring as they communicate and reflect on their learning together with open-minds. Recess provides opportunities for students to be principled on their own accord and to develop their body and minds in a balanced way.

Please save the date for our first ES parent session that is scheduled on Friday, October 8th from 7:40 AM to 8:40 AM. We will have a lot of fun as we learn about and dive into the Key Concepts of the PYP.









PTC Grade Level Representatives

Help rebuild the Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) by becoming a Grade Level Representative!

The purpose of the TASOK Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) is to create a supportive and sustainable relationship between all members of TASOK to create a strong sense of community through open communication, planning events and creating new initiatives to bring our community together in support of student learning and growth.

As a PTC Grade Level Representative your role is to:

- Attend PTC meetings (quarterly)
- Be the main point of communication for the parents at each grade level
- Support PTC Events
- Welcome new parents to the grade level and support their transition to TASOK

Please consider volunteering your time for a strong TASOK community!

If you are interested <u>please inform your</u> <u>classroom or advisory teacher</u> and they will forward your name on to the PTC contacts!



MYP Program Update

Kelley Marchant - MYP Coordinator/Theatre

PERSONAL PROJECT has launched for all 10th Grade Students!

The grade 10 Personal Project is a culminating milestone for our students' academic journey through the MYP (Middle Years Program). Students are expected to choose a project to create a product that reflects their personal interest and learning goals. Students will be working with one of our teachers (supervisor) to help ensure guidance and adherence to the MYP Personal Project guidelines.

Over the past couple weeks students have met with supervisors for the first time and been through several advisory sessions to get them started. Keep an eye out for upcoming deadlines on ManageBac and mark your calendars for the EXHIBITION on February 16th!







Dan Flynn, our Personal Project Coordinator meets with 10th grade students during Wednesday Advisory sessions.

New & Improved Student Council begins at TASOK!

Thanks to Yoanna Toulou and a CAS Project she started last school year, we have started Student Council again! Elections were held in September and we are excited to announce the following **Executive Council:**

President: Abdallah Tarhini Treasurer: Manha Allybokus Grade 10 Rep: Rubi Luamba Grade 7 Rep: Janice Quarshie Vice President: Sam Girois Grade 12 Rep: Michael Ekerue Grade 9 Rep: Habibo Dakhlallah Grade 8 Rep: Lea Tarhini

Secretary: Yoanna Toulou Grade 11 Rep: Scarlett Peillet-Long

Grade 6 Rep: Mariam Toure

We also want to extend a big thank you to the other 37 students working on our new council in committees!



First Executive Council Meeting on Thursday, September 23rd!



First meeting of our newly elected President & Vice President with Dr. Mullen and Ms. Peacock

Website:

DP Update: Launching the DP Self-Study

Garrett Austin - DP Coordinator/History

It's hard to believe, but it has been five years since the IB Diploma Programme was authorized at TASOK. That means it is time to begin our five year self-study to determine how well we have done in developing the DP at our school. The self-study is a two step process:

1. Self-assessment

- a. Checks school meets all requirements identified for each practices in the Programme Standards and Practices (see standards right)
- b. Determine the degree to which the school shows development of the practices
- c. Determine the degree to which the school shows development of the standards.

2. Programme development plans

- a. Over the course of offering the programme, school engage in various efforts to enhance or improve programmes
- b. School selects and shares one aspect of programme development that has been undertaken
- c. Submits evidence of how the programme development was planned and implemented
- d. Shares reflection and lesson learned from their efforts

Over the next six months, various committees will be formed to participate in the self-assessment. They will be made up of all stakeholders within the school, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, and board members.

At the same time, DP teachers will be working on the programme development plans for this year. We have two areas to focus on for 2021-2022. The first is to improve teaching and learning practices for each subject's internal assessments (IAs). The second is to further develop a culture of collaboration and improved fidelity of the DP Core.



Business Office News *Kareen LaPlanche*

Thank you TASOK Families!

Thank you for returning your tuition agreements and making payments as per schedule. It's important to keep your accounts in good standing to avoid additional charges. If your company is responsible for the fee, make sure we have the right contact person on file to follow up with.



We continue to accept payments through our online portal or via direct deposits or bank transfers to the school accounts. The tuition rates are published on our website **Tuition & Registration Fees 2021-2022**.

- The Capital Development (\$4000) & Admission (\$300) fees are one-time & non-refundable
- . The enrollment & (re) enrollment \$1000-deposit for placement/seat guarantee is non-refundable
- . Late payment penalties start to apply; the fee is 5% of the balance owed
- · Bank charges are the responsibility of the issuer

Miscellaneous School Supplies are available for sale at the Front Desk. The Student Store continues to sell spiritwear, follow their ads and notices to catch the new products they are offering.

For additional **inquiries**, you can call or schedule an appointment with me.

Kareen Laplanche, Finance & Operations Manager Email: business@tasok.net | +(243) 81-880-1330 | www.tasok.net

TASOK Vehicles for sale

Website:

www.tasok.net





2007 Suzuki Grand Vitara: 4,000 USD or best offer
Schedule a visit for viewing and test driving: +243 81 478 8353. Vehicle will be sold as is.
For more details please phone +243 81 880 1330 or email business@tasok.net.













Nurse's Corner Cell +243 817 252 011

Nathalie Katalayi – TASOK Nurse: <u>nurse@tasok.net</u>

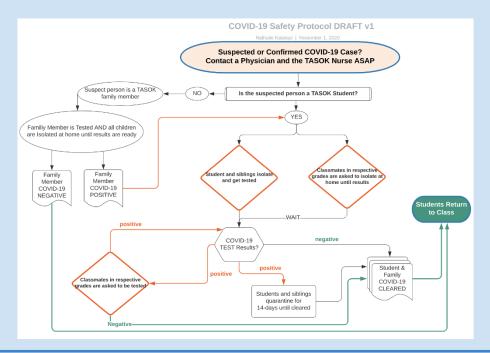
Our Nurse, Nathalie Katalayi stays in close contact with the changing access to COVID vaccines here in Kinshasa. As most of you are aware, Moderna has been in the DRC for some time now and Pfizer just recently arrived. Nathalie will continue to monitor and share updates as they become available. Should you have any updates on access, or information to share, please reach out to Nathalie at: +243 817 252 011

Should Someone in Your Family/Household Test Positive for COVID-19:

- 1. Keep your child and all siblings home from school and isolate.
- 2. Immediately consult a doctor and have everyone in the household tested for COVID-19
 - 1. This includes all TASOK students (regardless of age)
 - 2. This includes all family members in the household
- 3. Immediately inform the school of your situation and all symptom/testing details so that we can start the contact tracing process.
- 4. Quarantine as recommended for up to 14 days until all family members retest negative.
- 5. Provide the Nurse with a negative COVID-19 test result and follow instructions.
- 6. Students will not be allowed to return until all family members have tested negative.

Should a Family Member of a Student in Your Child's Class Test Positive for COVID-19:

- 1. Once the school is notified (Step 3 above), we may ask the remainder of students in that grade level (and teacher) to test or stay home and isolate until the student in question has COVID test results submitted to the school (Step 2 above).
- 2. If the test result is **POSITIVE** the remaining students in that grade level (and teacher) will be required to have a COVID-19 test **AND** all siblings will be asked to remain at home until the test results are in.
- 3. If the test result is **NEGATIVE** the remaining students in that grade level (and teacher) will return to school and resume normal instruction.



At TASOK, we continue to reinforce the following at school, are you doing the same at home?

3 W's to reduce risk of COVID-19







COVID-19 RESULTE STRATEGIES





PreventEpidemics.org

#KnowCOVID #PreventEpidemics

Teach your kids about the 3W's or 3M's:

Les 3 M pour réduire les risques de COVID-19







COVID-19 RESOLVE





Plus d'informations sur PreventEpidemics.org

#KnowCOVID **#PreventEpidemics**

Contact:

Website:

TASOK CALENDAR OF EVENTS ALSO FOUND AT:

https://tasok.net/events-calendar/



All School Calendar - 2021-2022 Calendar At a Glance

ALL DATES ARE INCLUDED ON THE TASOK EVENTS CALENDAR FOUND AT: https://tasok.net/events-calendar/

August 2021

16-20 All Staff Orientation 20 New Family Orientation 23 First Day of School

September 2021

2 Grades 6-12 Awards

6 Labor Day Holiday

8-10 ES Open house by Group

9 SS Open House and MYP Sessions

9 Grade 11 and 12 Parent Sessions

13-15 School Photos

13-17 ES MAP Testing

20-24 SS Map Testing

28-1 Oct. Mock Exhibition Grade 12 VA's

October 2021

2 SAT - Registration deadline Sept 3

4-15 Annual Financial Audit

7 MYP Assessment session for Parents

8 ES Parent Session

13 Grade 10 PSAT/NMSOT & Grade 11 USG

11-15 Congo Week

18-22 School Break

29 Quarter 1 Ends - Progress Reports Due

30 Halloween Carnival (Tentative)

November 2021

1 Trimester 2 Begins

5 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Scheduled Classes)

6 SAT - Registration deadline Oct 8

18 College Counselling session for parents

24 International Day

24-26 Thanksgiving Break

December 2021

3 ES Parent Session

4 SAT - Registration deadline Nov 4

10 Early Dismissal (11:30 a.m.)

10-Jan 4 School Break

January 2022

5 Classes Begin Again

10-13 Semester 1 Exams Grades 9-11

11 School Make-Up Photos

16-17 Heros Day

21 Semester 1 Grading Period Ends

26 End of Semester 1 - Semester 1 Report Cards Due

27 Start of Semester 2 - Report Cards Go Home

February 2022

11 ES Parent Session

16 Personal Project Exhibition (MS)

27 Personal Project Reports Due (MS)

March 2022

12 SAT - Registration deadline Feb 11

12 Grade 12 Art Exhibition

14-18 Grade 12 Mock Exams

18 ES Parent Session

21-April 1 School Break

April 2022

March 21-April 1 School Break

8 Quarter 3 Ends - Progress Reports Due

11 Start of Quarter 4

15 Good Friday

18 Parent/Teacher Conferences (No scheduled Classes)

22 PYP Exhibition

22 Earth Day

23 TASOK Gala (Tentative fundraising event)

29 DP Exams Begin

May 2022

1 International Labor Day

1-7 Teacher Appreciation Week

7 SAT - Registration deadline April 8

16-27 MAP Testing

17 Liberation Day

20 ES Parent Session

20 Senior Report Cards Due

20 DP exams finish

24 Grade 10 Transition Evening (6 pm-7.30 pm)

25 Senior Send-Off (1:10 p.m.)

26 TOK Exhibition

27 CAS and Service Celebration

28 Prom

30 Senior Day and send off

30 Grades 5-6 Transition Parent Meeting (8.00 am-9.30)

31-3 June Grades 9-11 Final Exams

June 2022

1 High School Graduation

4 SAT - Registration deadline May 5

6-10 Group 4 Projects

10 Jump Up Day Grade 5-6

11 Annual Rummage Sale (internal) - Tentative

15 Final Report Card Distribution

17 Final Day of Classes (Early Dismissal 11:30)

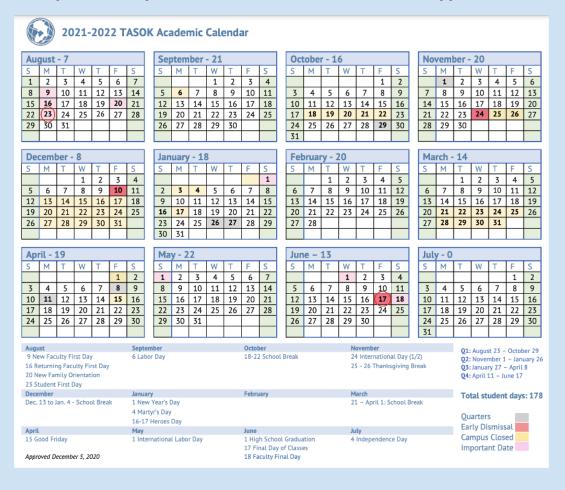
Last Modified: August 30, 2021 - SOME DATES & EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID MITIGATION

TASOK 2021-2022 Academic Calendar:

Also found at:

https://tasok.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/TASOK-2021-2022-Approved-Academic-Calen

dar.pdf



Upcoming Events:

- October 2 SAT
- October 4 ASA's Begin! (M,T,Th,F) 3:15-4:25
- October 7 MYP Assessment Parent Sessions
 7:30 am and 3:15 pm
- October 8 ES Parent Session
- October 13 Grade 10 PSAT/NMSQT
- October 11-15 Congo Week
- October 18-22 School Break

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela





