



Parade of Nations!



The American School of Kinshasa TASOK TALK – DECEMBER 2022

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Message from the Director - International Day!

Celebrating diversity through International Day is one of my favorite times of the year, witnessing the wide range of nationalities represented here at TASOK. This year we had over 42 nationalities in the parade, and were very fortunate to have our TASOK families join us for both the parade and drone photo - **SOAR**ing to New Heights!

The food was amazing!! - This resonated with students, parents, and staff, as they enjoyed the International Day Lunch that many of us remember as a highlight of the day. This was only possible due to the generous families that cooked and prepared their national dishes to share with our community - **THANK YOU!**

As I mentioned during the wonderful musical performances, we have a great team here at TASOK that organized the events, setup, and activities that took place with students across divisions. Thank you as well to our own PTC for an exceptional job in planning and organizing the lunch!

This was truly a great way to start the long weekend *being thankful* in the true nature of Thanksgiving.

Yours in Education,

Dan Mullen - TASOK Director



TASOK 'SOAR' Like a Condor:
Design by Grade 12 Senior, Balita Rabezanahary



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.*

MEET OUR TASOK TEAM!

We dedicate this space to celebrating all the amazing people at TASOK, supporting the school and TASOK Mission, making TASOK a great place to live, work, and learn! Each month we will share information about our team, some of whom work behind the scenes. Make sure to say 'hi' next time you see them on campus, and a quick 'thanks' for all they do for our community!

Interview with: **Denis Makambu**



TASOK Atelier Team



Interview with: **Bijou Kabemba**



TASOK Receptionist



What do you do at TASOK?

I am the Lead Electrician maintaining the Electrical infrastructure which includes
SNEL supply
4 x Generators
3 x Voltage Stabilizers
Applying my knowledge of Cooling equipment to the maintenance of over 250 AC units and the many fridges in the homes and at school.

What do you do at TASOK?

My main role in the reception is to interact with colleagues, students, and parents. I am also a member of the safety team which ensures that all COVID Safety procedures are respected.

How long have you worked at TASOK?

I have been working at Tasok since August 2009 which makes it just over 13 years.

How long have you worked at TASOK?

I have been at TASOK since 2006, so about 16 years now.

What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in?

I am from Kwangu province. Together with my wife and 4 girls and 3 boys in the Matete Commune the area is known as Debonhomme.

What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in?

I am from the province of Bandundu, and I currently live in the commune of Ngaliema.

What do you appreciate about TASOK?

I appreciate the way the work gets organized because I feel I get treated well and I also get the necessary tools to do my job. I enjoy the discussions we have to share my ideas and help better the Atelier and to feel that if we make a mistake we can work on it and grow in that area as a Team.

What do you appreciate about TASOK?

TASOK is a welcoming place and has a nice sense of community which I appreciate.

What job accomplishment are you most proud of during your time at TASOK?
 A previous Maintenance Manager Mr Brian Trapp ordered three Voltage Stabilizers in September 2009. I was not sure if an outside contractor was going to do the installation. Mr Brian Trapp then told me that I would be doing the electrical installation. I was nervous but I decided that it would be good for me to do it. When the installation was finished I was very proud of what I had done and it helped me grow as an Electrician.

What job accomplishment are you most proud of during your time at TASOK?
 I don't have any in particular, since I believe that everything that I have accomplished has had a positive impact for the good of the school.

What are you most proud of in the DRC?
 The DRC is my home for better or for worse, so just being free to go places is one thing that I enjoy.

What are you most proud of in the DRC?
 I am personally proud of seeing my community in the DRC showing hospitality towards people coming to the DRC. There have been many challenges here in changing this but I feel that the people of the DRC can help in changing the way people feel about the DRC.

What do you do as a hobby?
 I like to dance and enjoy good food with nice company.

What do you do as a hobby?
 On weekends I walk with a group of friends and other people join the walk and I feel it builds a better community. We joke and laugh a lot and we also help each other if there are challenges.

What do you appreciate in your current position?
 I enjoy the position I have because it allows me to contribute to the Tasok community which makes me proud.

What do you appreciate in your current position?
 I appreciate that I can interact with many people and create nice relationships with them through my position.

MSA Reflective Process and Feedback!

Thank you, again, to everyone that participated in the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools re-accreditation process for TASOK!



The visit in October went smoothly and we recently received a draft of the written report, evaluating our school based on 12 standards:

1. Mission
2. Governance and Leadership
3. School Improvement Planning
4. Finances
5. Facilities
6. School Organization and Staff
7. Health and Safety
8. Educational Program
9. Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning
10. Student Services



11. Student Life and Student Activities
12. Information Resources.

The visiting team observed that we **meet or exceed the MSA expectations** in each of the standards. They made a number of positive observations and also proposed some ideas for us to consider for ongoing growth and development. We will share more details about their observations once we receive the official report.

If you were unable to join us for the oral report (a summary of their visit), you may find the transcript here:

[FINAL ORAL REPORT SUMMARY LINK - TASOK 10.27.2022](#)

Caring : The Benefits of Helping Others

Sarah Clover -Secondary Principal

The IB Programmes identify 10 attributes, the IB Learner Profile, that represent the IB Mission Statement in action. International Day gave us an opportunity to see the development of a caring mindset as Secondary students were paired with Elementary students as buddies for the day. Secondary classes were asked to communicate with Elementary teachers to find out about the developmental needs of their paired class. With this information, they worked to design activities and think ahead about how they would help their buddies throughout the day. This was challenging for our Secondary students, but also enjoyable and rewarding as they reflected on the important part they played as novice teachers for the day. Simple acts of taking care of others, help our students see that they are capable, responsible and play an important part as role models in our community.







December Music Performances and Library Donations

Mike Bailey - ES Principal

December Music Performances

Preschool to Grade 5 on Stage in the CAC

December 15

8:15 am and 10:30 am

As we head into the holiday season, it is a great time to celebrate with music and student performances. With this in mind, Ms. Hall, our music teacher, is working with the elementary students to prepare performances to share with the TASOK community. On December 15, our last day before break we will hold two performances in the CAC. One at 8:15 AM and one at 10:30 AM. The elementary students will perform for our secondary students and any parents who are able to join us. Parents may come to either performance, as suits their schedules best. Music shared will include student compositions, some holiday favorites, and some sing-a-longs. We look forward to seeing you on the 15th!



Library Book Donations

Over the break many people will be traveling to home countries or visiting new places. On your journeys keep the TASOK library in mind. We would greatly appreciate additions to our collections of books in international languages or resources that will support students in learning about different cultures and languages. We welcome any donations of new or gently used books. Some types of books that are popular with students are books for learning a new language, traditional story books, childrens' stories, and even language dictionaries.

Website:

www.tasok.net



Contact:

+243 818 846 619



Email:

info@tasok.net



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@TASOKinshasa



International-Mindedness

Vitna Bailey - PYP coordinator

TASOK celebrated International Day on Nov. 23. It was a great experience where we all came together as one community, celebrating one another, and sharing love and respect for who we are.

International-mindedness is at the core of the IB mission and we build the concept of international-mindedness on diverse perspectives, values, and traditions we each bring. Developing and demonstrating international-mindedness is complex and nuanced, but we believe the learner profile attributes and ATL skills provide the foundational skills and dispositions for its development. According to IB, an internationally minded learner:

- is a competent communicator
- is open-minded and knowledgeable
- is a caring and principled thinker
- uses his or her curiosity and research skills to inquire about the world
- thinks and reflects critically about opportunities and challenges
- takes action for positive changes (for example, to promote intercultural understanding, foster caring relationships, to care for self and others)
- takes risks to further self-development and understanding of others

(The learning community p. 12 - Boix Mansilla and Jackson 2011; Oxfam 2015; Singh and Qi 2013; UNESCO 2015)

International Day events are over, but developing international-mindedness in us continues everyday through the elements of PYP, discussions, conversations, action, and reflection as we broaden and enhance knowledge, understandings, and perspectives.

Save the Date!

December 2, 2022

8:00-8:45 am (Right after Music Friday)

ES Parent Session: French in the PYP at TASOK

TASOK SECONDARY STUDENT COUNCIL

Aaniya Dhrolia- StuCo President

Over the past six weeks, the Secondary Student Council has organized the following events: Congo Week, the Assembly, and the Halloween Carnival. During Congo Week, students were involved in three different competitions: Pagne, Quizzes regarding Congo, and Aisha Competitions. Students were competing among their grade levels in order to be prized as a winner. Furthermore, the assembly at the end of Congo Week was to celebrate culture and the memorable week! Lastly, the Halloween Carnival was the highlight of the week where students gathered to play fun, amusing carnival games that kept the reminiscing about their childhood years. There was delicious food served through the Student Council that many enjoyed! The goal for Student Council this is year to foster interactions within the community and grow together, let's continue to build on the TASOK Spirit!

Parade of Nations & International Day Lunch - 2022/23





MYP Coordinator Update

Kelley Marchant - MYP Coordinator

End of 1st Semester is RIGHT around the corner!

A BIG thank you to all the parents who took time out of their busy schedules to come to our Parent Conferences on November 4th. Many of our teachers reported great conversations with both students and parents about ways to successfully work together in positive ways.

Having just finished Thanksgiving and anticipating the Winter Break, it's easy to lose sight of how close we are to the end of the semester! With only four weeks left, it's important that students are keeping up on current work and making up any work missed. Please assist your student in checking both their planner and ManageBac on a daily basis. Many summative assessments will be happening over the next couple weeks, so encourage your student to stay organized and keep up on their work as we go into the final stretch.

Diploma Programme Coordinator Update

Garrett Austin - DP Coordinator



It was recently announced in the October edition of the TASOK Talk that changes were made to the DP exam schedule for the May 2023 session. The IB recently released further clarification on those changes, and the rationale for them, through a recently released FAQ document. I've selected the most relevant questions and answers for parents and students to share with you to better understand how and why the IB is changing the DP examination schedule:

Why is the IB introducing a new format to the exam schedule from the May 2023 session onwards?

It is important that the integrity of IB assessments is upheld in order to protect the reputation of its qualifications. The IB understands that change is never easy but must adapt to the constantly changing world where digital technology and social media are profoundly changing the way we work, learn, and interact.

Is there any flexibility with the start/finish times?

The start time indicated on the schedule is the point from which **all students must be in school and under supervision**. If the whole cohort is present in school and under supervision, there is flexibility to start the exam within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time.

Can students have a supervised break between exams?

The time allocated for a supervised rest break between exams is at the discretion of the school. However, any supervised gap/break between exams must not impact the start time for the afternoon exams.

What are the requirements to supervise students during breaks between exams or at the end of an exam if a student finishes early?

Students must remain under supervision in a designated room/area with no access to cell/mobile telephone, internet or any digital device that would enable communication with external IB students or any other person. The students are permitted to talk to other students in the school that have

Website:

www.tasok.net



Contact:

+243 818 846 619



Email:

info@tasok.net



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completed the exam provided this is not disruptive to any other exams that might be ongoing. Students may also consult paper-based study notes.

If all students have finished the exam, do they still need to be kept under supervision?

Even if all students in a school have completed the exam, there may be other students in other countries who have not yet started the exam. Therefore, the requirement to keep students supervised is to ensure they do not have access to phones, internet, social media or digital messaging services until the planned end of the exam

You can see the updated examination schedule for the May 2023 session here:

[May 2023 examination schedule](#)

Celebration of Learning

Megan Mullen - Grade 2

Grade 2 had the opportunity to share their learning with the TASOK community after completing their 'How We Express Ourselves' unit. Students inquired into the diverse ways artists express themselves, how artwork can be interpreted differently, and how culture influences art. Their celebration included a short video showing their learning process along with artwork created in homeroom and in art with Ms. K.



This celebration provided students with an opportunity to share their learning journey with the greater TASOK community. Parents and community members filled out feedback forms after viewing students' art. A huge thank you to the TASOK community for celebrating our students. We look forward to more celebrations later in this school year!



Kindness Month

TaShawndra Govan - Counselor

How can we make the world a better place? It first starts with Kindness. Kindness whether big or small, can go a long way and can happen right in your own backyard. We in the ES division used the month of November to reinforce compassion and empathy amongst our community. Students performed daily Kindness Challenges (even on the weekends!), were Kindness Detectives, dressed up for Spirit Week and participated in the "Appreciation Station" in addition to other activities.

The intention behind our Kindness Campaign was for students and teachers to practice selflessness and altruism while strengthening skills such as respect, responsibility, empathy and compassion. The Kindness categories consisted of being kind to others, being kind to nature/environment and being kind to yourself. Our hope is that students will take what they have learned and practiced this month and keep being intentionally kind all year long.



TASOK ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL (ES StuCo)

Mike Bailey- ES Principal

ES Stuco has been busy in the month of November supporting the Kindness Challenge and making plans for an ES Green Team to lead clean-ups. We did test clean-ups to see how much garbage was generated at different times of the day and ultimately decided a weekly clean up was the answer. We have two leaders each day who manage materials and lead the clean ups. All students who are interested are able to participate. Clean ups will continue every Wednesday. Help us keep our campus clean!



This Friday, ES Stuco will introduce a brand new challenge to continue our focus on how we can treat each other well. Look for more information coming on Friday, Dec. 2.

The TASOK Green Team News!

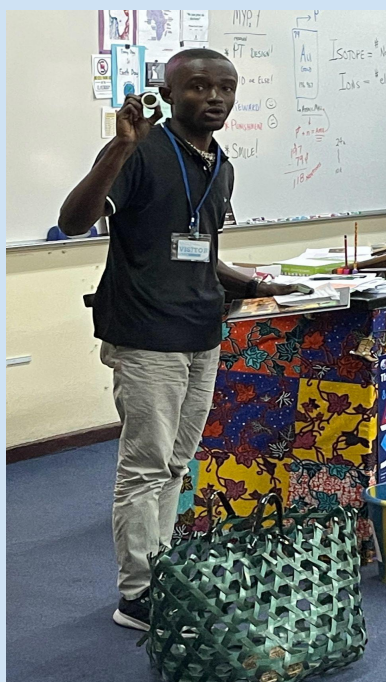
Phil Marchant - MYP Science & IB Biology



As our 1st trimester ASA comes to a close, we have collected over 85 kg of trash and recyclables. Our amazing teams traveled outside the TASOK walls and cleaned new and difficult areas. I was so proud of our students' willingness and their lack of complaining showed great character! We took on the IB learner mindset and showed care for our environment and demonstrated being risk-takers!



We also had a guest speaker come and share his passion for taking care of the environment entrusted to him! Thank you, Ngwesi for your inspirational presentation and teaching us how to reuse plastics! We look forward to partnering with you in the future!



Thanks **Green Team**, see you 2nd trimester!!!

Please join
The **Green Team** in
assisting **TASOK**
stays beautiful
& free of trash!



For your questions, any suggestions, solutions, interested in volunteering, or concerns . . . please contact Phil Marchant, Green Team ASA Supervisor – pmarchant@tasok.net

Website:
www.tasok.net



Contact:
+243 818 846 619



Email:
info@tasok.net



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EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2022-2023

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (K - Gr. 12):

Gilbert Kaburu & Stefan Bergh

A huge vote of thanks to all the Elementary School and Secondary School After School Activity leaders and volunteers, and to all the students who made our Trimester 1 a resounding success. ASAs for the second trimester will run from January 23rd to March 17th. As always, we rely mostly on members of our community (teachers, TAs, students and parents) to offer a variety of opportunities for our students. If you are



thinking about an activity to offer but have not yet decided, please let us know so that we can come up with options. If you have already made up your mind, please complete the form [here](#).

The make-up classes for ES are listed below:

- Tuesday 6th December- Jewelry ASA for Grades 3 - 5
- Thursday 8th December- Basketball ASA for Grades 4 - 5
- Friday 9th December- Jewelry ASA for Grades 1 - 2

ATHLETICS (Gr. 6-12):

Stefan Bergh

Unfortunately the Cross-Country meet was canceled this year, however we would like to congratulate all members of the Cross-Country team for their work and dedication throughout the season. Thank you Mr. Mills and Mr. David for your time and energy devoted to the team.

Season 2 Sports have begun and all teams are practicing hard. We will have upcoming friendly games this month against local schools and you are all encouraged to come out and cheer on the Condors!

Thursday, December 1 - Girls Basketball vs. Ecole Massamba

Friday, December 2 - Boys Basketball vs. C.S. Okapi

Monday, December 5 - MS Girls Soccer vs. C.S. Okapi

Tuesday, December 6 - MS Boys Soccer vs. The Wonder School

Thursday, December 8 - Girls Basketball vs. ITI Gombe

Friday, December 9 - Boys Basketball vs. Ecole Massamba

Monday, December 12 - MS Girls Soccer vs. Ecole Massamba

Tuesday, December 13 - MS Boys Soccer vs. Ecole d'abondance la prunelle

LET'S GO TASOK

WINTER PLAY: A *Midsummer Night's Dream* AUDITIONS!

Kelley Marchant

Our winter play is Shakespeare's ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, a comedy with many twists and turns. This is an updated and shorter version of the play. Auditions are open to all students in Grades 6-12 with a few roles for 3rd-5th grade students. A commitment to 1-3 rehearsals for the first month and 2-3 a week just before the show opens at the end of February will be required. If you are considering getting involved in the production, please read the [TASOK Performing Arts Handbook](#).

Auditions will be by appointment during lunch next week Monday-Wednesday, December 5-7th and until 4:25 pm on Monday and Tuesday. Auditions will include filling out a form and a reading from the script that should be prepared ahead of time. You may audition alone by reading one of the attached speeches or with one other friend by doing one of the two scenes. You must also fill out the form completely before auditioning. These materials are available here or in HS7. To make an appointment to audition see Mrs. Marchant in HS7 or contact her by email and let her know when your student would like to come in. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Marchant by email to ask questions: kmarchant@tasok.net.

[Midsummer Audition Form](#)

[Midsummer Audition Monologues/Speeches](#)

[Midsummer Audition Scenes](#)

[TASOK PERFORMING ARTS HANDBOOK](#)

[A Midsummer Night's Dream Script](#)

Night Run 2022-2023

Stefan Bergh

The 6th annual Night Run was held on Saturday, November 12 with approximately 75 runners taking part in either the 2km Fun Run/Walk or the 5km Race. A big thank you to everyone that participated and donated to this year's TASOK Night Run. As you know, the proceeds from ticket sales were for Mr. G and Mr. Serge to be used towards their rehabilitation and recovery from the terrible motor accident. As a community we were able to collect the incredible sum of \$1500.

Website:

www.tasok.net



Contact:

+243 818 846 619



Email:

info@tasok.net



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Congratulations to all participants and especially to our **two-time champions**, Felix Guevara and Paulina Lauble



Again a BIG THANK YOU to all community members for your generosity and support.

Social Volleyball Opportunity for all Association members (parents, teachers, alumni):

Come on out and play volleyball on our sand courts!

Every Sunday afternoon, 4 to 6p, informal family volleyball for adults and teens. (Bring your whole family! The others can play on the basketball court or the soccer field.) Just show up; these are pick-up volleyball games and we'll form teams with whoever shows up. Bring a volleyball if you have one; we'll also have one from school.



Contact: Ruthy DeHolton, 0816032067 or WhatsApp +15129152384 or rdeholton@tasok.net"

YEARBOOKS COVER ART CONTEST!

Announcing the TASOK YEARBOOK COVER ART CONTEST 2022-2023

**THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE INVITES ALL STUDENTS TO
SUBMIT ARTWORK
FOR THE FRONT AND BACK COVER OF OUR
2022-2023 YEARBOOK!**

Contest Rules:

1. Digital or PDF versions be submitted by EMAIL by Friday, December 30th at Midnight
--Must be emailed to BOTH Mrs. Dago AND Ms. Hall
--Mrs. Dago: adago@tasok.net
--Ms. Hall: khall@tasok.net
2. Non-Digital versions (Handdrawn, Painted, etc.) must be submitted by Wednesday, December 14th at Noon.
--Bring Secondary artwork to Mrs. Dago in MS6 or Elementary artwork to Ms. Hall in HS8.
3. Artwork must be the size of A4 paper
--A4 = 8 1/2 X 11 3/4 INCHES, or 210 X 297 mm, or 21.0 X 29.7 cm
5. Must include both a FRONT cover art and BACK cover art
6. Must not include plagiarized or stolen images from the internet. All images must be purchased legally from a site like Canva, OR you may use royalty-free images from websites such as Pixabay or Unsplash.

Need some inspiration as you create your design?

Ask yourself:

- What do you love about TASOK?
 - What TASOK Core Value do you like best?
(EXCELLENCE - INTEGRITY - INCLUSION)
 - What represents us as a community?
 - What makes TASOK unique?
 - What will you always remember about TASOK?
- Keep in mind that it should reflect TASOK's culture, heritage, and people!

LET YOUR IMAGINATION SOAR!

If you want more information or have any questions, please contact
Mrs. Dago or Ms. Hall



Get last year's 21/22 'Special Edition' in the Cashier's Office - now only \$30

You can also purchase the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 editions for \$20 each!

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+243 818 846 619



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info@tasok.net



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COLLEGE CORNER – Preparing our Class of 2023!

Julie Mullen – College Counselor



Yay!! Early Action is currently underway and we already have quite a few senior university acceptance!! More to come during this exciting part of the year for our grade 12's!!!!

For more information about SAT dates, how to register, and requirements prior to the test, please visit the College Board website at:

[COLLEGE BOARD SAT REGISTRATION LINK](#)

2022–23 School Year Test Dates

SAT Test Date*	Deadline for Registration Changes, and Regular Cancellation
Aug 27, 2022	Jul 29, 2022
Oct 1, 2022	Sep 2 2022
Dec 3, 2022	Nov 3, 2022
Mar 11, 2023 (Digital)**	Feb 24, 2023
May 6, 2023 (Digital)**	Apr 21, 2023

*Your registration options will be limited if you aren't [taking the SAT for one of its main purposes](#).

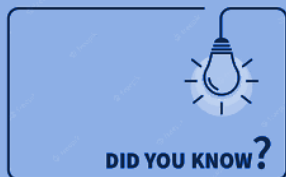
**Students taking the digital SAT who need to borrow a device from College Board will need to register and request their device earlier than the registration deadline, to allow time for international shipping.

What's Next?

The grade 12's are starting to plan life after TASOK!

Grade 11's & 12's:

Please continue to have great discussions with your parents and share information about your Bridge-U planning and resources with your parents.



Historical Note: TASOK opened its doors on September 18, 1961, with 27 students and a staff of 4 teachers. Classes were held on the compound of the American Baptist Mission. Four years later in 1966, the school built and opened the high school buildings on the current land. Later additions included the elementary “pods” in 1971 and the middle school in 1974. In January 1984, enrollment increased to 519 from K-12 with an academic staff of 50.

TASOK Canteen Services 2022/23!

Ekonzofoods - by Ekonzo Admin



Off to a great start with our cafeteria services in both elementary & secondary! From September to November, **200 accounts** were created.

We have an **average of 80-90 students and staff** using new canteen services each day, using EkonzoFood's online ordering system. That makes about **3621 orders** served so far!

Trends show the **top 10 favorites** being:

1. Chicken/Rice & Beans
2. Shawarma
3. Taco
4. Pasta Bolognese
5. Cheeseburger
6. Chicken/French Fries & Vegetables
7. Potato & Beef Stew
8. Ham & Cheese Sandwich
9. Chicken/Plantains & Mushroom Sauce
10. Hamburger



To help us know how to better serve you, please fill out this quick survey: [TASOK Canteen Survey LINK](#)
This link is accessible until December 10. We will make changes based on the survey. The updates will be communicated after the break.

Reminder on how to sign-up and set-up your Canteen account:

- **REGISTRATION** on the website www.ekonzomiz.com
- **LOGIN** to your family space:
- **ADD** your child(ren) to the Canteen:
- **ADD MONEY** to your E-Pocket with the available payment gateways (VISA, MasterCard, Mpesa, Orange Money, Airtel Money). No cash payment is allowed.
- **PLACE** your weekly order for each member of your family registered in the canteen
- **DAY-TO-DAY ORDER.** Orders are placed at least the day before no later than 1:59 p.m. for the following day. From 2:00 p.m. the following day becomes unavailable for orders.



For questions/comments/issues with your orders, please contact Ekonzo directly at:

- orders@ekonzomiz.com
- or +243 851 315 465 (WhatsApp)



Website:

www.tasok.net



Contact:

+243 818 846 619



Email:

info@tasok.net



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The PTC Place



Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make International Day an exciting event. A special thanks to all the parents, teachers and students who brought food to the PTC-sponsored International Lunch!

Welcome!

We are happy to welcome Carine Niangoran as the new Internal Relations Representative for the PTC. Thank you Carine for your willingness to donate your time, energy, and expertise to our efforts to build community around TASOK!

PTC Mid-year Survey

Thank you to all the parents who filled out our mid-year survey. We will share a summary of the responses with parents, administration and the board either later this month or in the new year.

November PTC/Admin Meeting Minutes

The following is the link to the November PTC/Administration Meeting Minutes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gS9bA8uZxmftGaxXYBYRairLSiMOeJHmpqxKmyMq0jM/edit?usp=sharing>

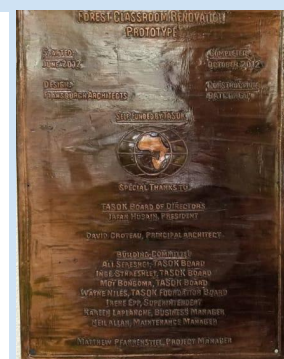
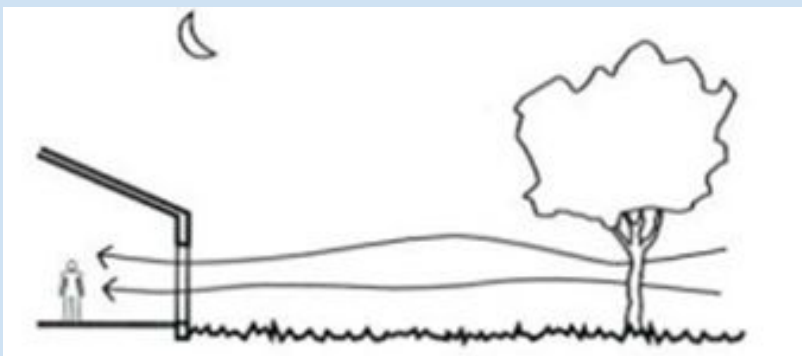
Facility Improvement

Forest Classrooms celebrate 10 years! Nov 8 2012 - Nov 8 2022

Karen Laplanche - Finance & Operations Manager

This November, TASOK celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Forest Classroom Building Prototype, known as MS 1&2 classrooms. This building is the first of 10 classroom renovation projects, part of the self-funded Master Plan implementation initiative. The [Facility Improvement Plan document](#), commonly referred to as the TASOK Master Plan, was adopted in 2010 and updated in 2016. The TASOK board launched the process in 2011 by forming a building committee to appoint a project manager, finalize designs, select materials & equipment, select contractor(s), supervise, etc... The prototype took 5 months to complete. The forest classroom concept (FCR) promotes contact with nature with limited disruption to the campus layout. Its [special features](#) are summarized below:

FCR Concept



INCREASED ATTIC VENTILATION

CLASSROOM CROSS VENTILATION AT BODY HEIGHT
INCREASED NATURAL LIGHT

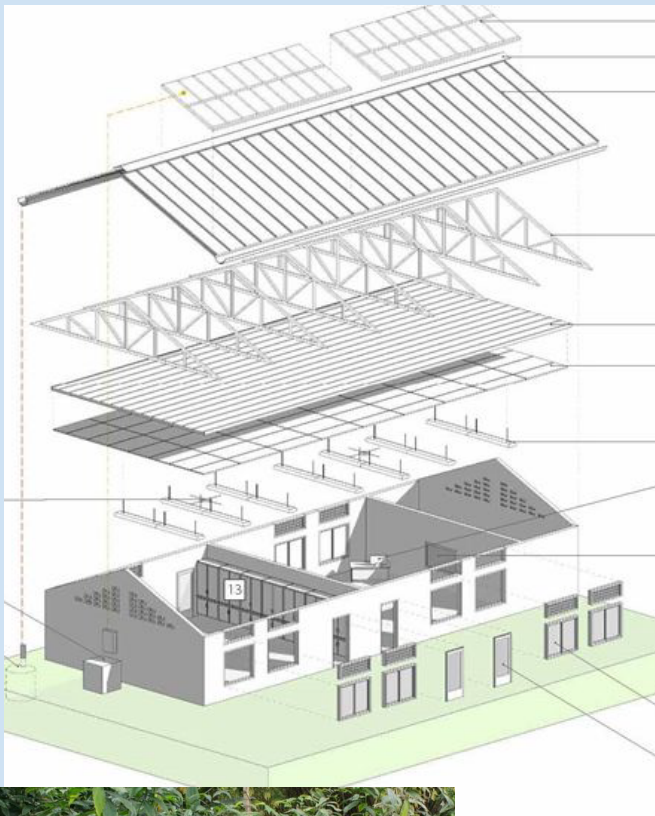
THERMALLY INSULATED METAL ROOFING
STEEL ROOF TRUSSES
THERMALLY INSULATED CEILING
ACOUSTIC CEILING

OPERABLE ALUMINUM JALOUSIE WINDOWS
ALUMINUM DOORS WITH LAMINATED GLASS
DIRECT LIGHTING FIXTURES
ENERGY EFFICIENT HI-TEC CEILING FANS
SPLIT A/C SYSTEM

RECYCLED WOOD FROM TRUSSES
(TRIM AROUND CEILING, WINDOWS & UTILITY DOORS)
RECYCLED WOODEN DOOR
RAINWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Materials are internationally sourced: DRC, Australia, Belgium, South Africa, Turkey & USA

The concept is embedded in subsequent projects: MS 6&7 (2013), MS 3&4 (2014), SS Library (2015/2022), KG Building (2016), SS Art (2017), HS 9&10 (2018), Preschool (2019), HS 7&8 (2021), and ES POD (2023-expected).



Special Thanks to David Croteau & Flansburgh Architects who worked with board, admin, staff, students and parents to develop the master plan (2010) and its updated version (2016). Thanks to board members who served the school between 2010 and 2022, the project managers (Matt Pfannenstiel, Greg Etter, David Schaad, Yaron VP, Alpha Moyo,



Ana Domingo), the directors (Irene Epp, Simon Gillespie and Dan Mullen), the maintenance department (Neil Allan, Louis Konzo, Robbie Van der Merwe) and the contractor (J.P. De Winter), for bringing the projects to life.

Fast forward to 2022, Project #10 is well under way in Elementary School. It's the most ambitious one of the series and includes three (3) buildings: two (2) Forest Classroom buildings and one (1) Fallback room/Gym. The completion is expected by March 2023. The former clustered-POD design is replaced by an open courtyard-concept connecting the three spaces and bringing light and height to the rooms. To know more about the projects and process, request an appointment with the project management team at business-2@tasok.net.



Current TASOK board members visiting the project site during their board retreat in November 2022

Business Office Info

Kareen Laplanche - Finance & Operations Manager

Important dates

Hello parents, we continue to partner with you or your institution/company to ensure that all students' accounts are in good standing. If you haven't already, please return the tuition agreements. Our accountant will send follow up emails to prompt you on what is still missing.

Take note of a few important dates for this semester and next:

- We received confirmations of Continued Enrollment for Semester 2 from many of you. We will start sending out reminder invoices starting December 2 payment is due by **January 9**
- Financial Aid Application for Semester 2 - Apply by **December 1** (for more information, request details at business@tasok.net)

Reminder regarding our multiple Payment Options

TASOK offers families and companies the convenience of making tuition payments as we miscellaneous purchases/bill settlements online.

We partner with Diamond Mind/Community Brands, an independent school payment service provider. All payment information is completely secure using the highest security standards in the industry.



WEBSITE OPTION

Go to the school website's "Payment Portal" link, or enter it directly clicking here:

PAYMENT PORTAL

- Sign-up to set up an online account;
- Enter student first name, last name and ID with payment information; the student ID # is on the invoice;
- Submit payment. Payment acceptance methods and any fees associated with an electronic payment are outlined in the payment portal.
- You can find common answers to online tuition payment questions at <http://diamondmindinc.com/parentFAQ/>.

MOBILE OPTION

You can also pay using our mobile payment app: MySchoolWallet©

Signing into the MySchoolWallet App for the first time?

- Go to the App Store on your phone.
- Search for MySchoolWallet and install.
- Complete your profile and select The American School of Kinshasa as your school and hit PAY.
- You will see various events and departments, listed as payment types. Select one of the payment types and follow the onscreen directions. Be sure to complete the student's name and fill out the NOTE with what the payment is for (for example, Tuition or Student Store, Student Play, Night Run, **Sports Trip**, etc...)
- Please check the box "I would like to absorb processing costs so that the school receives my whole payment." Each transaction incurs a processing cost from the bank.
- Once your transaction has gone through, you will receive an email confirmation and receipt.



Note that payments can be made via credit card (worldwide), debit card or echeck (for US accounts only). For online payments, receipts are automatically generated after each transaction.

Note TASOK systems do not accept payments for the canteen orders. All must use the EKONZOFOOD platform to replenish their account and order lunch. See the details posted on our website.

Website:

www.tasok.net



Contact:

+243 818 846 619



Email:

info@tasok.net



Twitter

@TASOKinshasa

BANKING OPTION

- Direct deposits (cash or check) at bank counters into TASOK's account are accepted.
- Wire or ACH transfers are accepted.
- Online banking from your bank DRC or US bank to ours is possible. Check with your institution for options available to you.
- Most US transfer options work: wire, ACH, e-check, BillPay, Zelle, etc... These options are only available for US transactions, not international.
- Once the transaction is complete, send the confirmation to us.

ON CAMPUS OPTION

- TASOK Cashier Office accepts cash up to 1,000 USD.
- TASOK Cashier Office accepts debit and credit cards for payments via POS. Both ATM & POS accept VISA ® & Mastercard ®.
- TASOK Cashier Office accepts paper checks issued to The American School of Kinshasa. Checks from a local DRC or US bank are accepted.

Help is available at the office to help you navigate the TASOK website and experiment with the tuition portal or the mobile app! If you need copies of invoices/agreements or would like a receipt for your payment(s), please email accounts@tasok.net.



Stay informed

Visit the Business Office page [link](#) for details on Tuition Rates, Payment Plans and Educational Loans at Local Banks.

For questions/comments, contact us at business@tasok.net | +(243) 81-880-1330 |

The TASOK Board Corner

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next TASOK Board meeting is December 8, 2022, from 4:30-6 pm in the secondary school library. All Association members may attend as observers, and propose topics for future board agendas. For any questions, contact board@tasok.net



Strengthening Communications

Thank you to everyone who attended the October Association General Meeting (AGM), and for the feedback received during the brainstorming sessions at different tables. To add an additional communication channel, TASOK is developing a "Frequently Asked Questions" document that will soon be posted on the website. There will also be surveys covering a range of topics coming soon. Keep the input coming!

Board Elections

As we prepare for elections of new Board members in May, we are putting together an Election Committee, and we need a parent representative from both the Elementary School and the Secondary School to help with the election process. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information, please contact elections@tasok.net

Nurse's Station Cell +243 817 252 011

Nathalie Katalayi- TASOK Nurse: nurse@tasok.net

At TASOK, we continue to reinforce healthy practices.

Make sure to let the nurse know as your child has an allergy or a chronic medical condition that is required to take medicine daily at school or if your child has a temporary prescription to take during the school hours.

Send your child to the Nurse first thing is the morning after 2 days of sickness absence.

Should you child be sick or absent for any reason, please share the information via: attendance@tasok.net

The 2022/23 Academic Calendar is Here!

Also found on our TASOK website [LINK!](#)

2022-2023 TASOK Approved Academic Calendar																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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August 1 New Faculty First Day 8 Returning Faculty First Day 12 New Family Orientation 15 Student First Day							September 5 Labor Day							October 10-14 School Break							November 23 International Day (1/2) 24 Thanksgiving Day							Q1: August 12 – October 21 Q2: October 24 – January 13 Q3: January 18 – April 6 Q4: April 10 – June 9 Total student days: 178																																																																																																																																																																														
December 16-Jan. 6 School Break							January 1 New Year's Day 4 Martyr's Day 16-17 Heroes Day (No Students) Faculty PD Days							February 20-31 School Break							March 20-31 School Break							Quarters Early Dismissal Campus Closed Important Date Staff Days																																																																																																																																																																														
April 7 Good Friday							May 1 International Labor Day							June 1 High School Graduation 9 Final Day of Classes 10 Faculty Final Day							July 4 US Independence Day																																																																																																																																																																																					
APPROVED BY THE BOARD 08/17/2022																																																																																																																																																																																																										

TASOK CALENDAR OF EVENTS ALSO FOUND AT:
<https://tasok.net/events-calendar/>

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 15 ES Music Celebration
- Dec. 15 Final Day of Classes (Early Release)
- December 16 to January 6 - Winter Break
- January 9, 2023 - Classes Resume
- January 13, 2023 End of Semester 1
- January 16-17 - No School
- January 18, 2023 - Start of Semester 2

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

