



MAASAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Fall 2024 NEWSLETTER

The 2024 MEF December Matching Fundraiser Starts December 3!

Our 2024 Giving Tuesday/December Matching Fundraiser goal is \$40,000 with all the funds going towards the Engaruka English Medium Primary School's (EEMPS) 2025 student sponsorships and primary school operating costs. We received a matching fund commitment of \$10,000 for the first \$10,000 in donations. Please help us secure these matching funds and watch for an email kicking off the fundraiser on December 3! The fundraiser will end on December 31.



MEF 2024 Accomplishments and Updates, Theo Dillaha, MEF Board Chairperson:

- We are incredibly proud of our standard 7 (7th grade) students and all our teachers. All our students passed the national primary school leaving exam with an A or B average grade and EEMPS received an overall "A" rating.
- The completion of the MEF-funded portion of the Boys' Dormitory is imminent. MEF funded three dormitory wings and restrooms that will accommodate all the male boarding students. ENCO is seeking additional funds and donors to complete the final wing of the dormitory and the patron's quarters.



Boys' Dormitory Restrooms



Boys' Dormitory Courtyard

- ENCO Secondary School (ENCOSS): Although MEF is not directly soliciting donations to support ENCOSS, we have agreed to accept donations for ENCOSS student sponsorships and ENCOSS construction. So far, we have received approximately \$100,000 in donations in support of ENCOSS construction and sponsorships.

Message from Martha, EEMPS School Manager:

- I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to the success of EEMPS. Your generosity has allowed us to deliver quality education to our students, making a lasting impact on their lives and futures.
- This year has been truly remarkable, marked by incredible achievements. Our grade seven students excelled, with many earning an A on the national secondary school entrance exam, a reflection of their hard work and determination. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and eagerly anticipate their continued success as they transition to secondary school.
- In collaboration with our local Engaruka community, we have also made significant progress on the construction of the ENCO Secondary School. This milestone project will provide local students with access to quality secondary education right here in Engaruka. Ground-breaking is complete, and construction is well underway. It is exciting to witness this vision taking shape, offering our youth the opportunity to pursue their education close to home.



- Another vital initiative nearing completion is the Boys' Dormitory. This facility will offer a safe and comfortable environment for boys who need accommodation to continue their studies at EEMPS. With the roof now in place, we are on track to complete construction by December. This project represents a key step in enhancing the overall learning experience for our students.
- Thank you for believing in our mission and making these achievements possible. Together, we are building brighter futures and creating lasting change. We look forward to continuing this journey with your support and commitment to excellence in education.

2024 National Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) Results: Tanzania primary school standard (grade) 7 students take the PSLE exam each September to determine their eligibility for secondary school. This year was the first year that EEMPS had standard 7 students, so this year's PSLE results are the first independent examination of the quality of the EEMPS educational program. **We could not be more pleased!** Of the 80 public and private primary schools in the Monduli District, EEMPS ranked 8 or in the 91st percentile. We received an overall grade of A. The table below compares the results of EEMPS with those of the two public schools in Engaruka. As shown, EEMPS graduates are much better prepared for secondary school than their local public school peers.

2024 National Secondary School Entrance Exams (PSLE) for Engaruka Schools						
PROFICIENCY GROUP	Engaruka English Medium Primary School (29 students)		Engaruka Juu Primary School (public, 112 students)		Engaruka Juu Primary School (public, 81 students)	
	SCORE (/50)	SCHOOL GRADE	SCORE (/50)	SCHOOL GRADE	SCORE (/50)	SCHOOL GRADE
Swahili Language	42.1	A	29.6	C	27.8	C
English Language	48.1	A	22.9	C	18.5	D
Social Knowledge and Work Skills	39.7	B	28.9	C	22.1	C
Mathematics	37.5	B	19.8	D	19.0	D
Science and Technology	40.7	B	29.2	C	25.3	C
Citizenship and Ethics	40.9	A	26.7	C	20.2	D
Overall School Score	248.9	A	157.1	C	133.0	C

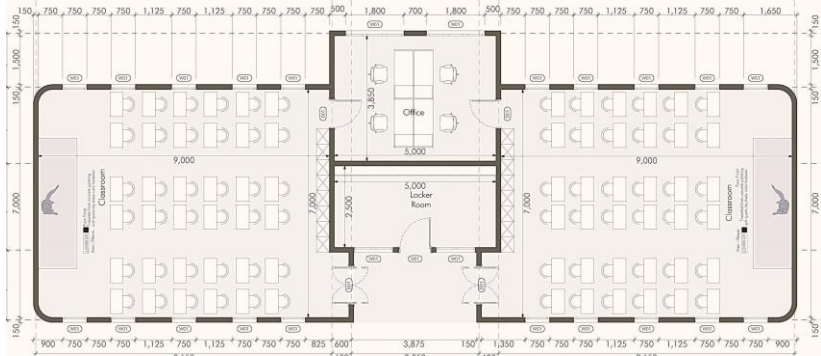
Maasai Education Society (MES) Update: As noted in the last newsletter, EEMPS now has a Canadian charity partner. MES is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a Private Foundation Charitable Registration Number 761502731 RR0002. Click on one of the following links to visit the MES [website](#) or [Facebook page](#). Tax-deductible donations for Canadian citizens can be made online at <https://maasaieducationsociety.com/donate/> or checks can be mailed to Maasai Education Society, 2341 Ottawa Avenue, West Vancouver, BC V7V 2S8, Canada. Contact audreylspielmann@gmail.com for more information.

Student Spotlight: Naserian Jeremiah is a bright and hardworking student who transferred to EEMPS from a local government school in 2023. She will be in standard (grade) 4 in 2025. Despite not knowing English when she arrived in 2023, Naserian has shown tremendous dedication and effort in her studies. She has improved greatly and now performs very well in her classes. Naserian comes from a needy background and is currently seeking a sponsor to help her continue her education and pursue her dreams. With continued support, Naserian has the potential to achieve even more and make a positive impact in her community. The cost to support Naserian for the 2025 school year as a boarding student at EEMPS is \$700 or you can partially sponsor her or another student. Email maasaieducationfoundation@gmail.com if you are interested in supporting Naserian or another EEMPS student.



Please visit the ENCO EEMPS website at <https://encoinitiative.org/category/student-needing-sponsors/> for short biographies of students needing support. *Note: There are no students needing support at this link as of 11/26/2024, but ENCO has promised to add them quickly.*

ENCO Secondary School (ENCOSS) Update and Crane Family Support: The ENCO Secondary School has moved from the “Vision” to the construction phase and expects to admit its first standard (grade) 8 students in January! Last July, ENCO and the Engaruka community held a fundraiser to raise funds to start construction of the proposed ENCO Secondary School. The fundraiser was incredibly successful, \$44,000 was raised to construct the first two-classroom building, and detailed planning began. Since then, the school received conditional approval from the Monduli Education Department to proceed and construction of the first two-classroom building began. MEF has received over \$100,000 from the Crane Family Foundation, Rob and Shannon Crane, and other members of the Crane family to construct a Biology/Chemistry Lab Building and Washroom Buildings for girls and boys. Ultimate plans for the secondary school call for 8 two-classroom buildings, a biology/chemistry lab building, female and male washroom buildings, a physics/computer lab building, and an office/meeting room building. ENCOSS will have two levels of secondary school: ordinary secondary school (O-Levels) with standards 7 to 11 and advanced secondary school (A-Levels) with standards 12 and 13. ENCOSS will place a priority on the education of girls and 65% of admitted students will be girls.



ENCOSS 1st Two-Classroom Building (Funded by ENCO)



ENCOSS Classroom Building Progress, Oct. 2024

How EEMPS is Protecting Girls: Combating FGM and Early Marriage: EEMPS and the proposed ENCO Secondary School place a high priority on protecting girls from FGM and early childhood marriage. Some girls have trekked to the school, requested asylum, and been admitted to the school to escape forced early marriages and possible FGM. EEMPS also identifies girls at high risk, invites them to attend, and convinces their families of the advantages of having an educated daughter. Why are FGM and early marriage such an issue for our students, even when they are illegal?

- The Maasai have deeply rooted cultural practices that challenge young girls' health, education, and futures. Female genital mutilation (FGM) and early childhood marriage remain widespread. Despite significant health risks and legal prohibitions, these practices persist, shaped by tradition, economic pressures, and social expectations.
- FGM is commonly performed on girls between infancy and puberty as a rite of passage into womanhood. For many Maasai families, it is seen as a cultural norm tied to marriageability and social acceptance. However, the practice has devastating consequences, including severe pain, infection, childbirth complications, psychological trauma, and even death. Efforts to eradicate FGM are gaining momentum, with local activists and organizations such as ENCO advocating for alternative rites of passage that honor Maasai culture without causing harm. At EEMPS, education about the dangers of FGM is prioritized, aiming to eliminate new cases among students and their siblings.
- Early childhood marriage, often involving girls as young as 12, remains a significant challenge. Cultural expectations, economic incentives like bride prices, and limited educational opportunities drive this practice. Early marriage disrupts education, exposes girls to health risks from early pregnancies, and often results in emotional and social isolation.
- EEMPS and ENCO efforts to protect girls include:
 - Programs highlighting the health risks and benefits of delaying marriage, challenging long-standing norms.
 - Increased access to schools and EEMPS scholarships for at-risk girls provide alternatives to early marriage, breaking the cycle of poverty.
 - Promoting alternative rites of passage that respect Maasai traditions without harmful practices while empowering girls.
- Change is gradual but visible as more Maasai families embrace education over early marriage. Empowering girls with choices and opportunities fosters a brighter future for individuals and their communities. Efforts like those at EEMPS and ENCO's broader advocacy are paving the way for a generation of Maasai girls to thrive.

For more detailed info, click on the following links: [FGM](#) and [Early Childhood Marriage](#).

How to Help the Engaruka English Medium Primary School: There are many ways that you can help.

- **Student Sponsorships:** A student sponsorship is \$700 per year and covers a child's tuition, fees, clothing, room and board, medical care, etc. You can also provide partial support for a child. Sponsors receive updates on their child.
- **Donations:** General donations go towards school operating costs or facilities construction. The remaining construction needs include staff housing so that we can attract the best teachers, a water treatment system and guest housing for visitors. To donate via credit card, click [HERE \(https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2457198\)](https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2457198).
- **Corporate Match:** Many corporations match the donations of their employees to charities. We receive over \$15,000 in corporate matching funds annually from corporations such as Altria, Apple, GE, IBM, and Verizon. Thousands of companies participate. Please check and see if your donations are eligible for a corporate match at the following website: <https://www.charitynavigator.org/donor-basics/giving-101/employee-match-programs/>.
- **Kroger Community Rewards:** The Kroger family of companies (Kroger, Ralphs, Dillons, Smith's, King Soopers, Fry's, QFC, City Market, Owen's, Jay C, Pay Less, Baker's, Gerbes, Harris Teeter, Pick 'n Save, Metro Market, Mariano's) and some other merchants donate a percentage of your purchases to a charity if you specify them as your preferred charity. Sign up at: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>.
- **Vehicle and Boat Donations:** Supporters have donated two cars to us in the past that they no longer use. It is incredibly easy. Just click on the following link <https://careeasy.org/nonprofit/Maasai-Education-Foundation>, fill out a one-page form, the service picks up the car and sells it at auction, and you get credit for a charitable donation.
- **eBay Sales:** Did you know that you can designate all or a portion of eBay sales to charity? When you do so, eBay waives the percentage of the fees that you donate. For example, if you sell something for \$20 and designate all the funds for a charity, eBay will waive all your transaction fees. If 50% is designated for charity, 50% of fees are waived.
- **Maasai Education Foundation Amazon Wish List:** Items for the school will be delivered on our next trip. Donated items are charitable donations and tax deductible. <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/6ADPF403U0A2>
- **Donate to the Canadian Maasai Education Society:** Click <https://maasaieducationsociety.com/>.
- For more information on any of the above, please email maasaieducationfoundation@gmail.com.

HOW TO DONATE

BY CHECK: Send checks payable to the Maasai Education Foundation, 345 Woods Lane, Newport, VA 24128.

BY CREDIT CARD (with no fees) click the following:

<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2457198>



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MEF, PLEASE VISIT

<https://maasaieducationfoundation.org> or

<https://www.facebook.com/MaasaiEducationFoundation/>

Email: maasaieducationfoundation@gmail.com

Text: 540-922-2971



Engaruka English Medium Primary School