

BENI SCHOOL PROJECT



November 14, 2021

A Word from the Prince of Peace Principal

PRINCE OF PEACE SCHOOL OPENING FOR 2021-2022

We extended the 2020-2021 school-year until mid-September in order to make up for lost time due to the pandemic. That meant that we could only provide three weeks of vacation before opening the 2021-2022 on October 4. Teachers and students alike were happy to get started up again.

Unlike many public schools where classes were delayed because teachers were striking to demand better facilities and much delayed salary increases, Prince of Peace got off the ground without any hassles. Faculty, students, and parents cooperated to assure a successful beginning; no one wanted to repeat the delays experienced last year. We have been fortunate in the recent past to see a decrease in the level of violence in the region and we need to take advantage of this lull to move forward with classes.

Here is a rundown of our numbers this year:

- In kindergarten and pre-K: 153 students
- In grades 1-6: 340 students
- In grades 7-12: 190 students

The total number is **683 students.**

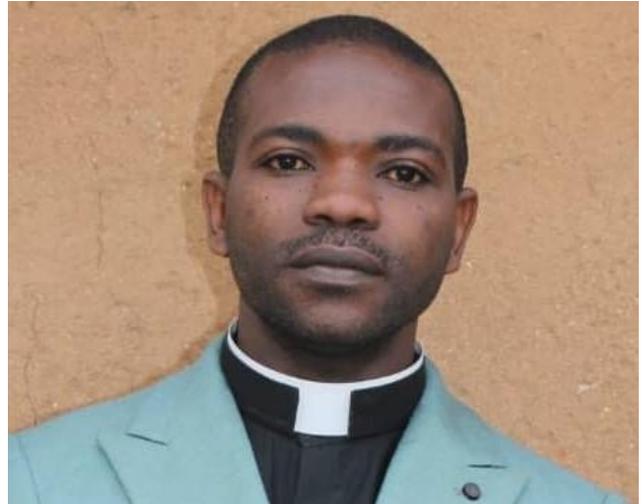
This number does not include the adults who use the classrooms in the afternoons to learn the basics they were never able to as children.

We would like to take advantage of this issue of the newsletter to reiterate, from the bottom of our hearts, our gratitude to all our benefactors who have shown great generosity in helping us build our facilities and furnishing them so well, all for the academic excellence of our students. Your support is invaluable. As you already know, an Assumptionist education aims to positively transform our students and the society in which they live. This is needed more than ever in the Congo, a country struggling to get out of a decades-old quagmire.

In other news, we have a new dean of students for the secondary school, Fr. **Justin Mbavugha, a.a.** and one for the grade school, Fr. **Nicolas Mahamba, a.a.**



Fr. Justin Mbavugha, a.a.



Fr. Nicolas Mahamba, a.a.

Construction of three new classrooms for pre-K students

At the moment you are reading this, three new classrooms are under construction for our pre-K children. In addition to the classrooms, there will be a small canteen and an office for the sister director of the school, an Oblate Sister of the Assumption. The readers of the French Assumptionist weekly magazine, *Le Pèlerin*, have made these new facilities possible.



Now we are happy to introduce you to some of our students.

Murielle M. Mughole

Murielle is 12 years old and she is in 5th grade. She's from Beni city. Her father is a teacher and her mother, an accountant. She has 2 brothers who also attend Prince of Peace School and she has 1 sister.

Murielle and her parents love Assumptionist schools and were very happy when Prince of Peace School opened its doors.

To the question of what she's interested in, Murielle's answer is clear. "I'd like to become an **accountant** like my mother."

Murielle is very intelligent and we have no doubt that she'll achieve her dreams.



Benedicte K. Kamate



Benedicte is 11 years old and is in 5th grade. Benedicte's father works for the town of Beni and her mother sells wood. Benedicte has 2 brothers and one sister.

Her dream is to become a medical doctor. In fact, Benedicte is sensitive to sick people around her. Her family has been affected by epidemics like Ebola. And so Benedicte dreams of one day saving lives.

Christbelle K. Kasolene

Christbelle is 11 years old and is in 6th Grade. Her father was killed in the Beni massacres. Her mother is a physician. She has 3 sisters who also attend Prince of Peace and 1 brother.

Christbelle appreciates the education she gets at Prince of Peace School. She enjoys the family spirit which is at school. "I feel at home here", she says.

For the love she has for children, Christbelle would like to become an elementary school teacher. We wish her well.



Gabriel M. Mahungu



Gabriel is 11 years old and is in 6th Grade. His father works as a customs official at the Congolese-Ugandan border. His mother is a teacher at the Oblate Sisters' high school here in Beni. Gabriel has 1 brother who also attends Prince of Peace School and 5 sisters.

Gabriel's dream is to become a medical doctor. Confident and smart, we believe he has what it takes to achieve his goal.

Sandrine Kavira

Sandrine is 17 years old and is in 12th Grade. Her family is half in Butembo and half in Beni. Her parents are farmers. She has 2 brothers and 1 sister. She wants to study Applied Chemistry. In fact, Sandrine is very interested in food processing techniques, soap making, candle making, etc. This, she says, can have a huge impact on improving people's lives.



Mercy Bakwa



Mercy is 14 years old and is in 9th Grade. His family lives in Beni. His father runs a small business and his mother is an elementary school teacher.

His dream is to become a political leader. In fact, Mercy has seen inefficient politicians all around him. He believes that politics can be better than what he has seen. And that's why he wants to make a contribution to good governance in the DRC. It's an ambitious dream and we encourage him, indeed.

Shekinah Katungu

Shekinah is 17 years old. She has witnessed, first hand, some of the atrocities that have been rampant in the Beni area. In fact, her family lives in Oicha, a small town that has been very affected by massacres. So, she was obliged to leave Oicha and to settle in Beni. Her father is a nurse and her mother a chemist. She has 3 brothers and 3 sisters.

She loves being at Prince of Peace School because she feels loved and cared for. She wants all her siblings to come to Prince of Peace for their schooling.

Her dream is to become pharmacist like her mother. In fact, Shekinah is very interested in pharmacology.

