

# Nate's Notes: Getting Ready for Africa

By Nate Izzett

This August, I will be getting on an airliner with my mother and about twenty-three others. I will be the *only* kid on the two week trip. I am going where few Vernonians have gone before: to Kenya, Africa!

I will be representing a non-

profit organization called KIZIMANI. We will visit three slums near Nairobi. The slums are called Huruma, Eldoret, and Kangundo.

Our mission is two-fold; half the group, including me, will assist two different private Christian schools: New Dawn High School in Huruma, and Jamii pre-school in Eldoret, offering crafts and

games to the kids while the teachers receive professional training from a few people in our group.

The other half of our group will be setting up a medical clinic in both Kangundo and Eldoret. We will have three doctors and many cases of medicines making the journey with us!

Kenya is a moderately-sized nation on Africa's eastern half. Nairobi, where we will be staying at night, is the capital. Kenya is a very poor country. According to the 2010 CIA's World Factbook, America is the 9<sup>th</sup> wealthiest in GDP per capita. Kenya ranks the 165<sup>th</sup> in the world.

The slums we will be serving don't produce electricity and don't have paved roads. The schools are basic one-room shacks with very few supplies and a mud field to play in during the rainy season.

The students are also given a simple lunch of porridge and this is the only meal many of these kids get. It costs about \$125 per student for a year of school, but most of the students from these slums just don't have that sort of money, and some who attend New Dawn and Jamii are sponsored by those who can afford to. The problem is, without an education, they have almost no hope at all of improving their situation in life.

To make matters worse, if they miss even one semester of high school, they have to begin over again in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. For this reason,

many of these students don't graduate until they are in their twenties, and sometimes they don't graduate at all. While we can do nothing to change the overall situation, we *can* make the schools themselves better, which is where the missions team comes in.

And here's how *you* can help. You see, each of us making the trip are responsible for bringing a veritable stockpile of items, which will all be given to the schools and students we are going to serve. Can you help? Below is a list of items that we need:

- Bars of soap*
- New adult small and medium t-shirts (for high schoolers)*
- New or gently-used shoes (All sizes)*
- Black or blue pens (in packets)*
- Coloring pencils (in packets of 12)*
- Crayola markers (packets)*
- Pencils (packs)*
- Pencil sharpeners*
- Spiral notebooks*
- Glue sticks*
- Scotch tape*
- Crayons (packs of 12)*
- Balloons (Need 200 total)*
- Bubbles*
- Preschool reading material (English)*
- K-5 reading material (English)*
- Chalk*
- Chalk erasers*

Supplies can be brought to the VHS band room during school hours.

In the meantime, I will periodically write on our progress, just to keep you posted.

## VHS 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Honor Roll

### Principal's Honors 4.0

Makayla Adams, Yaraslava Denysenko, Katie Ellington, Nicole Glass, Jeffrey Goodman, Nathanael Izzett, Pavel Jiranek, Andrew Jennings, Alisa Levenseller, Samantha Lindauer, Alyssa Loggins, Laura Rice, Leah Rice, Deziree Roberts, Ana Scerbatii, Sicily Scott, Summer Snow, Tynystan Talantov, Shyla Tungwenuk, Natalie Wallace, Samantha Wallace, Brittany Young, Zhudy Zhunussova

### High Honors 3.99-3.50

Kimberly Allen, Kayla Aronhalt, Austin Best-Cutright, Marley Bower, Joshua Butcher, Nicolo Casale, Zi Xian Chen, Andrew Cheney, Rowan Cheney, Lucrece Cheramy, Christopher Dass, Emilee Easlon, Janae Easlon, Jacob Eyrrick, Julia Fletcher, Jessica Gardner, Timothy Jennings, Quin Johansen, Jerrid Johnston, Brandon Krause, Kendrick Leaverton, Alex Lembke, Andrea Lezama, Lea Mari, Jackson Miller, Kaitlin Paleck, Janek Palovsky, Tasia Pond, Daniel Shaw, Kelly Smith, Winter Snow, Sean Solberg, Meghan Sullivan, Ellyssa Szlavich, Dylan

Taylor, Iryna Verhogliad, Jacob Vifquain, Stina Voss, Damian Young

### Honors 3.49-3.25

Ashlee Archer, Skylar Binford, Savannah Brown, Robin Elliot, Amirkhon Habibuloev, Adonis Hopkins, Jacob Levenseller, Lilliann Lindsley, Nathan McMillen, Daniel Rice, Sven Sandstorm, Rowan Scott, Jessica Smith, Lane Sullivan, Sarah Wagner, Kristian Wredstroem

### Honorable Mention 3.24-3.0

Crystal-Ann Carreon, Stephanie Castro, Melissa Charbonneau, Dillon Dethlefs, Shylo Dooley, Mandi Hartford, Cierra Henson, Finn Hoeck, Sara McMahon, Felicia Schirmeister, Robert Stringfield, Nicole Thompson, Logan Titus, Leon Wiegand

### Progressive Honors—Raised GPA by .5 or more

Jonathon Anderson, Jerrid Johnston, Kristen Leaverton, Jacob Loveland, Brenden McNeill, Nicholas Rainbolt, Levi Taylor, Brittany Watrous

## VMS 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Honor Roll

### Principal's Honors 4.0

Brad Ely, Annika Johnson, Jessika Goodman, Jacob Patton, Sheyanne Pedersen, Megan Rice, Jocie-Ranay Roberts, Chase Tolonen, Ian Torres-Petersen, Payton Wolf

### High Honors 3.99-3.5

Tristan Adams, Emily Bergerson, Lily Buchanan, Jacob Butcher, Coral Cook, Megan Ely, Breanna Gardner, Morgan Herral, Ashley Jackson, Amanda Jennings, Bryanna Larson, Ariel Mosag, Jacob Perry, Jamie Scott, Paige Smith, Clay Sullivan, Jarrett White, Cassidy Whitton, Mahaila Whilhelm

### Honors 3.49-3.25

Hayden Cieloha, Kaitlyn Eyrrick, Cassidy Fetch, Benjamin Fleck, Nichole Gardner, Casey Hathcoat, Storm Henson, Brett Jones, Cheyenne

Kemper, Haley Lindsay, Megan Schirmeister, Benjamin Schulte, Sara Smith, Jessica Stringfield, Kole Titus, McKenzie Willard, Mekhi Williams

### Honorable Mention 3.24-3.0

Courtney Barklow, Brandon Clapshaw, Grace Coleman, Courteny Fennel, Hannah Fleck, Lauren Glass, Rachele Hanner-Knighton, Hera Hopkins, Katie Martinez, Jackhenry Masog, Jared Medearis, Amanda Rose-Sicard, Mikila Solberg, Autumn Sorenson

### Progressive Honors—Raised GPA .5 or more

Cobey Brucken, Jamie Duyck, Courteny Fennel, Lauren Foster, Kodee Kelso, Mariah Miller, James Nichols, Sativa Shepherd, Shaylanna Shepherd, Kole Titus, Mckenzie Titus, Alex West, Cassidy Whitton

## Vernonia Students of the Month

### February 2012

#### Rylee Pihl, Kindergarten



Rylee always has a positive attitude and follows directions well. She is a good role model for other students. She is always helpful with her peers and does her best in class. Rylee says she likes learning math in school. Rylee is five years old and has a twin brother, Mathius. She is a Girl Scout, also participates in the Mat Pack wrestling club, and likes to play T-ball. Rylee says her favorite TV show is "Wow Wow Wubbzy" and that she watches Ax Men "sometimes."

#### Autumn Sorenson, Grade 7



Autumn is a wonderful student who listens when lessons are being taught and instructions are being given, and gets her assignments in and on time. It is very evident by Autumn's grades that school is important to her. "She is a complete joy to have in class and you can always expect to see a smile on Autumn's face," says one of her instructors. "She is a terrific young lady with a bright promising future ahead of her." Autumn says she enjoys Language Arts class, plays clarinet in the VMS Band and is playing softball.

#### Samantha Lindauer, Grade 11



Samantha is an excellent student with a 4.0 GPA and says her favorite subjects are math and science. She is the Treasurer for the VHS Student Council. Sami plays for the VHS volleyball team, girls basketball team and qualified for State in track and field in the 200 meters last year as a sophomore, winning a 5<sup>th</sup> place medal. Samantha is actively involved with St. Mary's Church and volunteers each year at the Quilt Fair. She says she would like to pursue a career in nursing and that she loves to cook for fun.

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