

# **BENI PROJECT UPDATE**

Last Updated Monday, 15 November 2021 13:41

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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: 290 students

The total number is: 783 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 decade-old quagmire.

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



Fr. Justin Misa, S.S.



Fr. Nicolas Mahamba, S.S.

## 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 students. 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 *Pelerin*, have made these new facilities possible.



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

### Murielle M. Mbuyi

Murielle is 12 years old and she is in 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Christabelle K. Kasolene

Christabelle is 11 years old and is in 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

Christabelle 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, Christabelle would like to become an elementary school teacher. We wish her well.



### Gabriel M. MaBungu



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

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

### Benedicte K. Kamate



Benedicte is 11 years old and is in 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Sandrine Kavira

Sandrine is 17 years old and is in 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. Her family is half in Ekombo 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.



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