

Kisaasi Newsletter End of Term 1 25-26



13th Visionary of Uganda
Award Winner pg.1



IB Continuum Visit
Report Is In! pg.3



Inclusion Day pg.13



Message from the CEO



Thirteen years at Acorns has not only proven lucky for me, but has also brought deeper meaning and purpose to my life.

Acorns Group of International Schools was crowned Best International School of the Year 2025 at the 13th **Visionary Uganda Awards**, hosted by the Government of Uganda at Serena Hotel, Kampala.



This recognition is a powerful reminder of what happens when passion, excellence, and purpose come together. It reflects the hard work of our incredible Directors, leadership team, teachers, support staff, and, of course, our amazing students and parents who make Acorns the vibrant community it is.



For our learners, this is a badge of honour.

For our parents, it is a reassurance that their trust continues to be well placed.

For all of us, it is motivation to aim even higher as we shape tomorrow's leaders.

We are proud to leave lasting footprints in Africa's education sector, shaping futures and creating meaningful impact across the region.

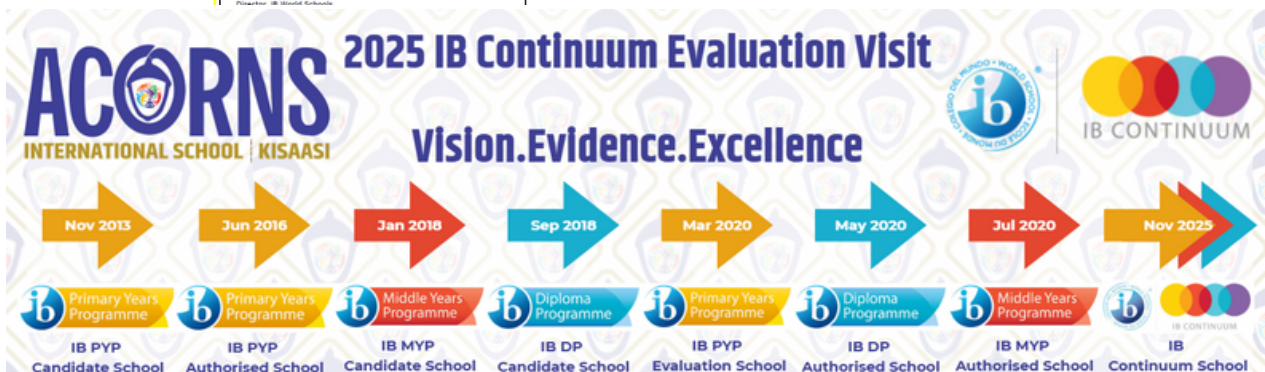
These 13 years also mark my farewell as Head of School at Acorns Kisaasi and my transition into the role of full-time CEO of the Acorns International Schools Group. I do so with gratitude, pride, and deep reflection on an extraordinary journey across the Nakasero, Bukoto, and Kisaasi campuses, and as I continue serving the wider Acorns Group of International Schools.

PYP Candidate Status November 2023	Successful Evaluation IB Continuum World School Dec 2025
<p>22 November 2013</p> <p>We are pleased to inform you that the application for candidacy for the Primary Years Programme at Acorns International School has been accepted. Acorns International School is recognized as an IB candidate school for the Primary Years Programme as of 1 September 2013. Please use the school code 550617 in all communications with the IB.</p> <p>Congratulations on your school's achievement of candidacy. We look forward to working further with your school towards authorization and wish you every success in the next phase of development.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>  <p>Adrian Kearney Director Africa, Europe and Middle East</p> <p>CC: Mrs Ameena Lalani, PYP coordinator</p>	<p>School and Programme Leadership</p> <p>Dear Ameena Lalani,</p> <p>Thank you for completing the programme evaluation self-study process. The International Baccalaureate (IB) recognizes that this process requires considerable time and effort from the entire school community. We appreciate the effort that you have made and hope that the insights gained along the way will be valuable in further developing your school.</p> <p>G. Conclusions of the Evaluation team</p> <p>The school benefits from dedicated leadership, supported by passionate teachers and school community who are committed to ensuring the school's mission of building an accessible, inclusive learning community of global citizens that pursues academic excellence in a holistic, inquiry-based environment that develops lifelong learners with the attributes to shape a better and more peaceful world is at the core of every decision and action in the school. The school's programme development planning was strategic and collaborative, with a clear focus on child protection and wellbeing.</p> <p>The school continues its long-standing commitment to creating a high-quality learning environment and to further efforts toward the sustainability of IB programme implementation.</p> <p>H. Conclusion of the IB on the school status as an IB World School</p> <p>Diploma Programme</p> <p>The school's implementation of the programme shows close alignment with the IB Programme standards and practices.</p> <p>Middle Years Programme</p> <p>The school's implementation of the programme shows close alignment with the IB Programme standards and practices.</p> <p>Primary Years Programme</p> <p>The school's implementation of the programme shows close alignment with the IB Programme standards and practices.</p> <p>We trust that the information found in this report will support the school's continued development of its IB programmes. Your IB World School manager, John Sauer (john.sauer@ibo.org), will be in touch with you to follow up on this report and to support your school's ongoing efforts.</p> <p>Yours Sincerely,</p>  <p>John Sauer IB World School Manager</p>

Acorns Kisaasi: A Full-Circle Moment

Our IB continuum evaluation visit has been completed, marking a significant milestone and bringing my 13-year journey with Acorns to a meaningful point of reflection. What began as a small PYP candidate school has grown into a fully authorised IB World Continuum School and has now completed its full evaluation cycle. Proudly marking **10 years of PYP, 5 years of MYP, and 5 years of DP.**

From candidate status to continuum excellence, and now the assurance of that excellence, it has been an incredible journey to witness and be part of. I am grateful to every learner, educator, and colleague who has contributed to this chapter.



Acorns Bunga: Celebrating 10 Years

Acorns Bunga proudly marks 10 years as a campus. I am extremely proud of this remarkable journey of growth, resilience, and transformation.

Clear evidence of growth is demonstrated in our students. Pictured is Elijah, the first student enrolled, on his first day and on his Primary graduation day. Our vibrant community of now over 300 students, a testament to the trust of our parents, the dedication of our staff, and our commitment to excellence in education.

This milestone also marks an exciting new chapter as we proudly rebranded, reflected our renewed vision, and continued commitment to nurturing young minds and shaping future leaders.



Acorns Kigali: Community Spirit

Acorns Kigali students participated in the district-level basketball and football competitions, where they demonstrated teamwork and resilience. Bake sale was another highlight of the term, which brought together families, staff and students in a spirit of creativity and community support. These achievements reflect our commitment to holistic education and the collaborative spirit of our Acorns.



Acorns Lubowa: Grand Opening

A new beginning- we officially celebrated the Grand Opening of our new Lubowa Campus. The event was a great success, bringing together our school community, partners, and distinguished guests. We were deeply honoured to welcome the Guest of Honour, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hon. John Mulimba, who officiated the opening ceremony.

Acorns Lubowa, like all our campuses, is not only a school, it is a commitment:

- A commitment to ensuring every Acorns child learns in an environment that pursues academic excellence through a holistic, inquiry-based approach that develops lifelong learners.
- A commitment to providing world-class education here in East Africa-globally benchmarked and affordable.

A commitment to preparing our children to be future-ready, academically, emotionally, and ethically-equipped to shape a better and more peaceful world.



Welcome to our New CFO

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Chief Finance Officer Mr Waseem Anwar. Mr Waseem brings a wealth of experience in financial management, strategic planning, and compliance, and will play a key role in strengthening our school's financial sustainability and long-term growth. We warmly welcome him as our CFO for the Group of Acorns International Schools.



Ameena Lalani
CEO Group of Acorns International Schools

Email: ceo@acornsschools.com

Message from the Head of School

Serving the Acorns Kisaasi Community

Having been a part of the Acorns community since 2015, I have always been grateful for the opportunity to serve in the roles I have held. In many ways, I feel that the school and I have grown symbiotically. When I started as a PYP 2 teacher, we had around 80 students, and all staff could fit into one classroom for meetings. Over the past 10 years, the school has grown to ten times its size, and I have learned tenfold from my experiences here.



I am deeply honoured by the trust placed in me by our community to step into the role of Head of School starting in Term 2. This commitment to our school community is a responsibility I take seriously, and I hope we will continue working together to maintain the standards already set while striving to achieve our personal best.

IB Continuum Visit and Report

I am thrilled to report that our IB Continuum Visit, which took place in early November, was a success. This visit is an important part of our ongoing commitment to reflection, growth, and alignment with IB Programme Standards and Practices.

The Visit: During the visit, five IB Evaluators held meetings with various groups of the school community, including students, family members, school staff, and the Senior Leadership Team, and spent time observing our teaching and learning practices. The visit culminated with a Community Meeting with selected representatives from our community. The Visiting Team was able to share personal highlights from the visit and outline the goals that Acorns Kisaasi has committed to developing over the next five years.



The Report: We received the report last week; thankfully, it put our minds at ease for the holiday. Shown are the report's conclusions, which affirm our strengths and confirm alignment with the IB Programs standards and practices. (See G and H)

G. Conclusions of the Evaluation team

The school benefits from dedicated leadership, supported by passionate teachers and school community who are committed to ensuring the school's mission of building an accessible, inclusive learning community of global citizens that pursues academic excellence in a holistic, inquiry-based environment that develops lifelong learners with the attributes to shape a better and more peaceful world is at the core of every decision and action in the school. The school's programme development planning was strategic and collaborative, with a clear focus on child protection and wellbeing.

The school continues its long-standing commitment to creating a high-quality learning environment and to further efforts toward the sustainability of IB programme implementation.

Our Five-Year Development Commitments:

These commitments will guide our strategic Programme Development Plans over the next five years. Progress toward these goals will be shared with the school community, and staff, students, and families will be engaged where appropriate as we move forward together. (See F)

Election Season

We are committed to supporting a smooth election cycle in January 2026. I hope all families have seen previous communication regarding the revision of our Term 2 start date to January 20th. During the holiday, please stay connected to Toddle in case additional communication is needed.

H. Conclusion of the IB on the school status as an IB World School

Diploma Programme

The school's implementation of the programme shows close alignment with the IB Programme standards and practices.

Middle Years Programme

The school's implementation of the programme shows close alignment with the IB Programme standards and practices.

Primary Years Programme

The school's implementation of the programme shows close alignment with the IB Programme standards and practices.

We trust that the information found in this report will support the school's continued development of its IB programme(s). Your IB World School manager, John Sauer (john.sauer@ibo.org), will be in touch with you to follow up on this report and to support your school's ongoing efforts.

Yours Sincerely,

Adrian Kearney
Director, IB World Schools

F. Opportunities for future or further programme development

The school identified the following areas as priorities for programme development

Priorities:

- Agency & Inquiry
- Community Engagement
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Continuums: Transitions, Curriculum, ATL, Assessment, and Service

Rachelle Hale-Molo
Head of School

Email: headofschool@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Early Years

This term has been filled with meaningful learning, joyful celebrations, and moments that have brought our EYP community closer together. Our students have continued to grow in confidence and capability, embracing new challenges and experiences at every step.

Alongside these special events, the daily rhythm of learning has been equally important. Across the EYP, students have grown from novice learners within their year bands into confident, capable young thinkers. Their progress in communication, early literacy and numeracy, inquiry, and personal independence has laid strong foundations for future success.



In Memoriam

We honour Matthew, our EYP1 student and friend, who recently passed away. His sudden loss has deeply affected our community. We remember his bright smile, his eagerness to learn, and the joy he brought to the classroom each day. We continue to hold his family in our thoughts and stand with them in support during this difficult time. Matthew will always remain a treasured part of our school's story.

Andi Haskins
HoD Early Years

Email: earlyyearshod@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the EYP Curriculum Coordinator

Our Inquiry Journey

Thank you for your support throughout Term 1. Our young students have had a rich and joyful start to the year. Across EYP, students explored three inquiry units: Who We Are, where they learned about their bodies, feelings, relationships and growing independence; Where We Are in Place and Time, which helped them understand routines, familiar places, family stories and traditions; and How We Express Ourselves, where children communicated ideas through movement, sound, imagination, art, drama and storytelling.



Developing Our Programme

Our new French and STEAM programmes continued to take shape, offering opportunities for curiosity, problem-solving, and hands-on exploration. These additions are already supporting children's understanding of pluralism, creativity, and diverse ways of thinking.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment this term included observations, play interactions, work samples, and literacy tracking for EYP 3. All progress reports are available on Toddle.

Holiday Learning Tip

During the holiday, we encourage families to create at least one intentional play moment each day, follow your child's lead, narrate their actions, and use rich language to support communication and confidence.

Caroline Nganda
EYP Curriculum Coordinator

Email: epcordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Primary

As we come to the end of Term 1, I would like to sincerely thank you for your unwavering support, commitment, and partnership.

It has been a wonderful term filled with enriching learning experiences, including the Global Village, assemblies, academic field trips, and sports days. These opportunities continue to strengthen our students' Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills and Learner Profile attributes, while reinforcing the vision of Acorns and the IB as a whole.



PYP4 Assembly: A Celebration of Health and Media Literacy

PYP 4 presented an engaging assembly based on their units Alive and Kicking and Beyond the Headlines. It featured a musical performance on how sound affects wellbeing, a skit exploring daily health choices and the media's role in awareness, and concluded with an energetic whole-class Zumba dance promoting healthy lifestyles.



PYP5 Assembly: Being Me!

The PYP5 Sea Lions delivered a meaningful assembly showcasing their learning from the unit Being Me, under the transdisciplinary theme Who We Are. Students demonstrated their understanding and personal strengths through an impressive display of football skills, reflecting their growth as confident and knowledgeable learners.

A vibrant dance medley featuring Western and Indian traditional music highlighted the students' open-mindedness and appreciation for cultural diversity.



PYP2 Academic Trip to Kasubi Tombs

PYP2 students visited the historic Kasubi Tombs as part of their Unit of Inquiry Into the Past under the theme Where We Are in Place and Time. At this UNESCO World Heritage Site, they explored traditional Buganda architecture, examined historical tools and symbols, and learned about the kings of Buganda, enriching their understanding of history while demonstrating strong IB Learner Profile attributes.



PYP6 Academic Trip to Kasenyi

PYP6 students took part in a study trip to the Kasenyi Fishing Landing Site in Entebbe as part of their unit Shaping Life and Landscapes. They explored coastal landforms, examined human impacts on these environments, and discussed sustainable solutions, bringing classroom learning to life and strengthening their understanding of environmental responsibility.



Shallon Baguma
HoD Primary

Email: primaryhod@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the PYP Curriculum Coordinator

Students concluded a successful first term by completing their MAP and internal assessments between **24th November and 8th December**. Throughout this period, PYP students demonstrated dedication and commitment as they worked toward achieving their personal best across all assessed subjects.

Our student-parent conferences were smooth and meaningful. As we look ahead to next term, we encourage parents, teachers, and students to continue working together toward the goals we have set. Your partnership remains invaluable as we strive to provide high-quality learning experiences for every child.



Jamal Makki
PYP Curriculum Coordinator

Email: pypcoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Secondary

As Term 1 concludes, we celebrate a season filled with creativity, exploration, service, and leadership. Our MYP and DP students have demonstrated impressive initiative, engaging in authentic learning experiences that nurture wellbeing, responsibility, and innovation. From community projects to global conferences, this term has laid a strong foundation for meaningful growth.



Important Reminders



We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a smooth and focused learning environment:

- **Punctuality:** Please ensure your child arrives at school by **7:35 a.m.**, as lessons begin at **7:45 a.m.** Repeated lateness may result in the student waiting in reception or being sent home.
- **Student ID Cards:** All Secondary students are required to wear their school ID cards with their uniform. Continued non-compliance may result in detention.

Encouragement for the Holiday Break

As the December break approaches, we encourage students to see this time as more than a pause from school routines. It is an opportunity to rest, recharge, pursue creative interests, and cultivate a positive mindset. The holiday season is also a time for sharing joy, hope, and kindness. Students are encouraged to participate in simple service initiatives within their communities, as small acts of service can have a meaningful impact on both individual and collective well-being.

We wish you a restful and rejuvenating break and look forward to welcoming our students back for a new term of learning and adventure.

Shirin Bagchi
HoD Secondary

Email: secondaryhod@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the MYP Curriculum Coordinator

MYP students completed their End-of-Term 1 examinations between December 9th and 12th, using this opportunity to demonstrate their learning while strengthening essential revision and time-management skills.

Notably, MYP5 students undertook pre-mock eAssessments to familiarise themselves with the format required for the May 2026 examination session.

Following the examinations (December 12th–17th), the focus shifted to sports activities, skills workshops, and structured reflection. Students updated their Toddle portfolios by selecting evidence that demonstrates their growth in specific Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills, in preparation for the Student-Led Conferences in Term 2. In addition, students completed Unit Reflections to evaluate their learning strategies and Service Reflections to self-assess their progress toward the service learning outcomes.

End-of-Term 1 reports were published on Toddle on December 18th, 2025. Thank you to the families who joined us to review these reports during the Three-Way Parent–Teacher–Student Conferences on Friday, December 19th, 2025.



Sam Weavers
MYP Curriculum Coordinator

Email: mypcoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the DP/A Levels Curriculum Coordinator

End-of-Term 1 Examinations

IBDP and Cambridge A Level students completed their End-of-Term 1 examinations between November 27th and December 10th. This period provided an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning while strengthening their revision and time-management skills.



DP2 and A2 Pre-Mock Examinations

For DP2 and A2 students, the End-of-Term examinations also served as pre-mock assessments. These were designed to mirror the conditions of the final May 2026 examinations, providing students with early exposure to the required formats. This experience plays a key role in preparing them for the full mock examinations scheduled for the end of January 2026.

Post-Examination Activities

Following the examination period, students participated in a range of activities, including sports, secondary workshops focused on key aspects of the DP Core and international assignments, teacher-led paper feedback sessions, and structured opportunities for reflection.



End-of-Term 1 Reports

End-of-Term 1 reports will be published on Toddle on December 18th, 2025. We encourage all parents and guardians to review their child's report and to join us for the Three-Way Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences on Friday, December 19th, 2025.

Kanyesigye Kenneth
DP/A Levels Coordinator

Email: dpcoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Careers Counsellor

Career activities at Acorns International School – Kisaasi continue to progress steadily, and November has been an exciting month as students actively shape their academic and professional futures.



We are pleased to share that the DP1 Internship Programme, held from 13th –17th October, was highly successful. Most students completed one-week placements across various organisations, gaining valuable exposure to real-world work environments while developing professional and workplace skills.



We extend our sincere appreciation to the organisations that generously hosted our students: *Movit products ltd, Goodman International LTD, Ascenture Outsourcing Services, Wilmat Development Foundation, Mantra Technologies Limited, Proxor & Partners Consultants, C-Care International Hospital-Kampala, Hi-Tech Center-Kyambogo, KKCA, Uganda Human Rights Commission, and CR. Amanyam Advocates & Solicitors.*

Students who were unable to secure internships during this period are encouraged to use the upcoming break to arrange placements. Internship experiences strengthen university applications while supporting personal growth, responsibility, and career clarity. University application season is in full swing for our DP2 and A2 students.

Many have already submitted their applications across different countries and institutions. We are delighted to share that several students have begun receiving offer letters from various universities. To date, students have offers from 14 universities in the UK and 4 from the USA.

Simon Ainomugisha
Careers Counsellor

Congratulations to all those who have secured early offers! We look forward to celebrating more successes in the coming weeks.

Email: careerscounsellor@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Human Resource



Staff Appreciation Day

This year's Staff Appreciation Day was a joyful celebration of the dedication, resilience, and passion our team brings to Acorns International School each day. We took time to honour our teachers, support staff, and administrators who consistently go above and beyond to create a nurturing, engaging, and inspiring environment for our learners. Your commitment is the heartbeat of our community, and we are deeply grateful for the impact you make. Thank you for your excellence, compassion, and unwavering professionalism throughout the year.

We thank our amazing PTO for their thoughtful gifts and appreciation!



Breast Cancer Awareness Week

As part of our ongoing commitment to health and wellness, the school observed Breast Cancer Awareness Week with a focus on education, early detection, and empowerment. In partnership with Kisaasi Medical Center, we offered free breast cancer screenings to all staff throughout the week. This initiative helped raise vital awareness about a condition that affects millions and encouraged proactive health practices. We are proud of the strong participation and the shared commitment to safeguarding our well-being.



Aliison Ngtagize
HoD Human Resource

Email: hr@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Administration

Term 1 Reflection

Every school term tells its own story, and this one has been especially meaningful. It has been shaped by reflection, teamwork, and shared effort. Thank you to the entire Acorns community for your continued support and contributions.



EYP/PYP After-School Clubs – Highlights

Our students went above and beyond this term, participating in competitions and workshops that encouraged them to step outside their comfort zones, engage with peers beyond school, and embrace new learning experiences.

All participants gained valuable skills, and several students were recognised for their achievements. Rahman received the Overall Participation Award at the Financial and Business Hackathon 2025, while Gabriella earned a bronze medal at a chess competition. We also commend all students who took part in the Sick Cell Awareness Campaign, led by our club instructor, Mr David and the Robotics Hackathon led by Ms. Melon.

We are proud of how students are applying their learning beyond the classroom and thank parents for their continued guidance and support.



Preparing for Term 2

As we prepare for Term 2, please note the following:

- Lunch and Clubs Forms will be shared via Toddle at the start of the term.
- Family ID Cards must be carried by all adults collecting students.
- Medicines required during school hours should be handed to the school nurse or communicated to Ms Rosyelene.

For queries regarding EYP/PYP after-school clubs, lunches, uniforms, sickbay, after-school care, or Family IDs, please contact admin@acornskisaasi.com.

We wish you a restful break, a happy festive season, and a wonderful New Year.

Rosyelene Ampumuza
HoD Administration

Email: admin@acornskisaasi.com

Message From the Head of Finance

Recommend Acorns!

We offer a 15% reduction in one Term's fees following the recommendation of a newly enrolled student.

Fee Payment Deadlines

To better facilitate your cash payments the Cashiers Office will be open the following Saturdays at the start of Term 2: January 24th and 31 and February 7th and 14th.

Term 2 payments are due January 27th, 2026

Term 3 payments are due April 21st, 2026

Late payments will incur a 5% surcharge.

For bank payments, email your receipt to accounts@acornskisaasi.com

Cash payments must be made in US dollars, series 2013 or after, and free from marks.

The Cashiers Office will be open Saturday Jan 24th and 31st.



Challa Sridevi
Head of Finance

Email: finance@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Head of Specialties



Spain Football Trip

Acorns' Football Team made a successful return to the World School Football Championships in Salou, Barcelona. The U11 Boys achieved a historic third-place finish, marking a proud moment for both the school and the country. Individual honours went to Gift, Adrian, and Randy, who were named Players of the Match. We thank the families and sponsors whose support made this achievement possible



Acorns' Ukasha Jemba Shines in AFCON U-17 Qualifiers

We congratulate Ukasha Jemba on his selection to the Uganda U-17 National Team. Representing both Acorns and the nation at the AFCON U-17 qualifiers in Ethiopia, he scored against Djibouti, an outstanding achievement we are proud to celebrate.



U15 Girls Volleyball – China

Five Acorns U15 girls proudly represented Uganda at the International Schools' Volleyball Meet in China. Their commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship were commendable and appreciated throughout the competition.

Talent Hunt

Acorns hosted the 7th International Schools Talent Hunt on 8th November, welcoming seven international schools. Notable wins included first place for Ethan Lggya (Instrumental U11), Veeragana (Drama U9), and second place for Sasha and Jordana (Voice U20), highlighting our students' creative excellence



Swimming Gala

On 29th November, Acorns hosted the ISSA Swimming Gala, where our swimmers delivered a strong performance, finishing second overall. We commend the team for their dedication and excellent representation of Acorns at the event.



Henry Kalanzi
Head of Specialties

Email: specialiteshod@acornskisaasi.com

Message from our Counsellors

As part of our Personal, Social, and Physical Education (PSHE) curriculum, all students have begun engaging with the Safer, Smarter School programme during their PSPE lessons.

During this past term EYP2-PYP6 students focused on lessons meant to help children recognise safe and unsafe behaviours and understand when and how to seek support from trusted adults in different situations.

Secondary students engaged in hands-on activities that deepen their understanding of themselves and their relationships. MYP 1-3 students have focused on Self-Esteem and Personal Power, identifying their strengths, positive qualities, and the characteristics they value in themselves and others. These reflective activities have sparked meaningful discussions, with one student sharing, "I didn't realise how many good qualities I have until I wrote them down."



MYP 4-5 students explored personal rights and responsibilities using the Communication Bill of Rights. Through discussion, they examined what they have the right to feel and express, their responsibilities within relationships, and the communication choices they control. One MYP 4 student reflected, "It helped me understand that I'm allowed to say no and that I'm also responsible for how I treat others."

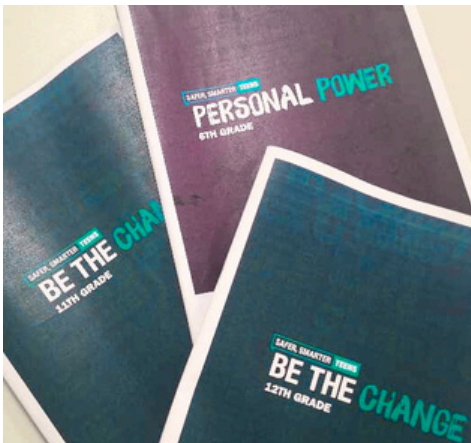
How Families Can Stay Involved

We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is essential in reinforcing these important messages. As promised, we continue to share communication via Toddle, outlining the content discussed in class. We encourage families to review these together and continue the conversation at home.

In these shared communications, we hope families are taking note of the vocabulary used when identifying various aspects of health and safety. We are keen to impart key safety vocabulary across the yearband so that there is a unified understanding of how students express themselves. Ensuring that all learners understand and consistently use age-appropriate terminology related to personal safety will empower them to communicate clearly and confidently if they ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

This shared language supports students in recognising their rights, setting boundaries, and asking for help. It also strengthens the partnership between home and school, as parents and guardians can better understand the language used at school and reinforce it at home. Our goal is to build a community where every child's voice is heard, respected, and protected.

Thank you for your collaboration in ensuring our students feel safe, confident, and well-informed across the environments they navigate.



Emma Kimani
Primary Counsellor

Email: primarycounsellor@acornskisaasi.com



Lieke Caldenhoven
Secondary Counsellor

Email: secondarycounsellor@acornskisaasi.com

Message from Learner Support Services

INCLUSION DAY 2025
Celebrating Our Strengths, Embracing Our Differences



World Inclusion Day

World Inclusion Day on 20th October brought our community together around the theme “Celebrating Our Strengths, Embracing Our Differences.”

The day focused on learning, empathy, and celebration, ensuring every learner felt seen and valued. Rooted in the IB understanding of inclusion, the activities highlighted the importance of recognising diversity, removing barriers, and enabling all students to participate and achieve. Through practical and visible experiences, inclusion was brought to life across the school.



The day was filled with purposeful activities that brought inclusion to life. An opening assembly set the tone through student performances, a short film, and messages from staff and school leaders. In homeroom and class sessions, learners reflected on belonging, explored barriers through role-play, and engaged in inclusion-focused lessons such as identity poems, diversity graphs, adaptations for success, and collaborative art. Students also contributed to a Tree of Belonging, highlighting individual strengths.



In November, we attended the National Conference on Autism, themed Advancing Autism Support in Uganda: Bridging Gaps in Diagnosis, Care, and Education. The conference brought together educators, therapists, advocates, and families to share experiences and perspectives. Through professional dialogue and lived stories, we reflected on how to strengthen identification, support systems, and pathways for learners on the autism spectrum. The discussions reinforced the importance of collaboration in advancing inclusive education across the region.

Both events affirmed the direction our school is taking. Inclusion is steady work. It requires reflection, collaboration, and commitment. As Primary and Secondary Learning Support Services Coordinators, we remain focused on building systems that honour every learner’s strengths and reduce barriers to learning across the school. We thank our community for supporting this important mission.



Charity Kathoni Riungu
Primary Learner Support Services Coordinator

Douglas Akena
Secondary Learner Support Services Coordinator

Email: pyplsscoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Email: seclsscoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Message from the Service Coordinator

We celebrate the creativity, leadership, and service demonstrated by our MYP and DP students throughout the term. Through community engagement, fundraising, outdoor learning, and global experiences, students developed empathy, responsibility, and global awareness. Here are some of the highlights of what our students accomplished this term.



MYP3 Community Project

MYP3 students made great progress in their Community Project journey. Earlier in the term, students visited Pearl Junior School in Katoogo to identify genuine areas of need. Through inquiry and reflection, they identified challenges such as access to learning resources, classroom environment, sanitation, and student well-being. These findings helped each group develop ideas that will guide their long-term projects. To support their projects, students organised bake sales and fundraising activities. With planning complete, they will begin implementing their projects next term.



MYP4 Service Internship

As part of the MYP Service as Action programme, students completed meaningful internships with partner organisations, including Sanyu Babies Home, the Uganda Red Cross, Eta Children's Organisation, and the USPCA Animal Shelter. Through hands-on support with caregivers, clean-up activities, special needs engagement, and animal care, students strengthened empathy, leadership, teamwork, and responsibility. We thank our partners for providing impactful learning experiences beyond the classroom.



Duke of Edinburgh International Award Bronze and Gold

This term, students completed their Bronze Qualifying Journey, demonstrating teamwork, resilience, and independence through camping, cooking, trekking, and reflective campfire sessions. We are excited about the upcoming DofE journeys, including the DP1 Gold Qualifying Journey (23rd – 26th February 2026) and the MYP4 Bronze Practice and Qualifying Journey (23rd – 24th February 2026) in Term 2.



CAS & Student Engagement Highlights

Students actively engaged in a broad range of Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) experiences that supported skill development, confidence, leadership, and global awareness.

Through clubs, students explored creativity through Art and Design, Debate, Music, Robotics, Photography and Film, Young Entrepreneurs, and Science-based clubs; built physical skills and teamwork through Basketball, Football, Rugby, Dance, and other sports; and demonstrated service through Red Cross, Interact, Recycling, and Environmental initiatives.



Students also represented Acorns at the Aga Khan Model United Nations 2025, held under the theme Bridging Borders and Breaking Barriers. Delegates demonstrated strong research, communication, and negotiation skills, with two students receiving special recognition for outstanding contributions.



As part of CAS, DP students participated in a community clean-up organized by the Uganda Red Cross in collaboration with Kyambogo University during the mid-term break. This activity directly supported the Service strand of CAS by promoting environmental sustainability and community engagement.

Fiona Kinyua
CAS Coordinator

Email: servicecoordinator@acornskisaasi.com

Book Week

Book Week was celebrated through a variety of engaging activities across departments, bringing stories and reading to life for students and our community. From creative literacy experiences to a book fair and character celebrations, the week reinforced the joy of reading.



3-Way Conferences

Our Three-Way Conferences provided a focused opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to reflect on progress, celebrate achievements, and set goals for the term ahead. Thank you to Acorns families for your continued partnership in supporting student growth.



Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of sportsmanship. Students from Early Years to Secondary competed in exciting events, while the Acorns community cheered them on. Thank you for bringing your energy, support, and community spirit throughout the week.

Early Years Results

- Earth - 1st
- Metal - 2nd
- Water - 3rd
- Air - 4th
- Fire - 5th
- Light - 6th

Primary Results

- Light - 1st
- Earth - 2nd
- Fire - 3rd
- Metal - 4th
- Water - 5th
- Air - 6th

Secondary Results

- Air - 1st
- Earth - 2nd
- Light - 3rd
- Water - 4th
- Metal - 5th
- Fire - 6th



FAMILY FUN FEST

Saturday

21

Feb 2026

10am-4pm

Acorns International School, Kisaasi



Calling Vendors and Sponsors!



Scan the QR Code for the Registration Form