



THE REGENT DIGEST

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER, 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **DofE Cupcake / Mufti day** Friday 7th October 2016.
- **Whole School Dinner** Saturday 8th October 2016.
- **Boarding Schools Fair 2016** Monday 10th October
- **Mid-Term Assessments** Monday 10th - Friday 14th October 2016.
- **Parents' Meet & Greet** Friday 14th October 2016.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday 29th September students, staff and parents, along with invited VIP guests, were treated to a stunning showcase of Nigerian culture and traditions. Tribes from different regions of Nigeria were represented with dance, music and an exhibition of costume and culinary treats.

An audience of around 1000 people was treated to a fiesta of colour, sound and scrumptious food!

Further photos can be found on pages 3 & 4 of the newsletter.....



I recently read an Article in This Day Newspaper on the number of Nigerian athletes who competed for other countries during the recently concluded Rio Olympics. They were 27 in number and amongst them six medal winners. The question I often ask is; we have so many people of other nationalities born in Nigeria, why do we never hear of any competing for Nigeria?

This brings me to the topic of my Article for this week's Digest: "Patriotism". I feel this topic is apt as we celebrate our National Day on the 1st of October.

Wikipedia describes patriotism as an emotional attachment to a nation which an individual recognises as their homeland. Not until we start teaching our children the importance of Patriotism would they start to understand the importance of serving our Nation. We are in an era when DSTV and the internet shape the lives of children and they are often influenced by Western Culture and Values. The problem is not DSTV but the programmes our children watch. When was the last time you saw your child watching a programme on NTA? I remember growing up watching programmes like Village Headmaster, Cockcrow at Dawn, New Masquerade, Behind the Clouds, Checkmate to mention a few and how we often learnt morals from such programmes and how they encouraged patriotism and nationalism.

We often criticise the Government but often forget that Nigeria is our country and we all have to contribute to make her great. In the recent past, many people have criticised the Government for the current state of the economy, but have we really sat to think of how we have in one way or another contributed to the recession of our Economy. The "change" we clamour for must first start with everyone believing in Nigeria and having a sense of national pride. Our president is just one man who cannot do it alone. Often times during our School Assembly, the Principal, Dr. Hickman has had to ask students to sing the National Anthem over again because of the lacklustre way in which it was sung. Each time I listen to some other nationalities singing their National Anthem, I feel the passion for their country.

I recently scolded a student for uttering words like; "We are Nigerians and that is how we behave..." condoning indiscipline because we are Nigerians and it should be okay.

How often have we encouraged our children to serve our nation? There is a perception amongst many Nigerian athletes that children of the elite or upper-class do not compete in sports for Nigeria. This I believe to be true because I was captain and coach of the Nigerian Karate Team for many years and witnessed this myself. However, that is not the case in the United Kingdom. The Sutton Trust pointed out that at the last Rio Olympics 32 percent of Britain's 130 medallists in Rio attended fee-paying schools, compared with 36 percent of Team GB's medal-winners in London. In Nigeria the opposite seems to be the case; you hardly find any athletes who attended private schools competing for Nigeria.

If only we really believed the words of our National Pledge and lived them daily, what a great Nation we would have. It is not surprising that many cannot recite the pledge even some of our elected representatives. Often times, we only take but never give back.

As we celebrate our National Day, I charge us to teach our children what it means to be patriotic and to be of service to our Nation. For me, these words will always resound in my heart as I pledge allegiance to the Greatest Nation on earth:

"I pledge to Nigeria my Country, to be faithful, loyal and honest. To serve Nigeria with all my strength, to defend her unity and uphold her honour and glory, so help me God".

God bless Nigeria.

Mr. Olusegun Akinola - Vice Principal – Boarding and Activities Coordinator

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Even though we are still a few days away from the annual celebration, it already feels as though we are celebrating. As this time approaches, it connects us with our hometowns, our tribes, our families and cultures. Independence Day leads us to think of our backgrounds, the colourful identities that make up Nigeria and the reason why we should swell with pride as we place our hands over our hearts and pledge to the flag.

The beautiful thing about these subdivisions that make up Nigeria is the simple thought of home; the warm, reassuring feeling you get as you remember that you *do* have an identity; and an identity to me is a resting place after a long day of work. No matter where we go, nothing; not a change in accents or physical features can alter the fact that we are Nigerian, and it shouldn't be something we should run from.

In preparation for the day's events on Thursday, 29th September, I have been working with a number of Volta members to showcase the Bini tribe, which just happens to be my mother's tribe. What I love the most about the tribe is their dressing: the lovely coral beads and thick, velvet wrappers. I have learnt about the many Obas of the Bini people and also about the former queen warrior, Queen Idia, who I will be dressed up as on Thursday.

Learning about the cultures of our fellow Nigerians brings us together in a bid to eliminate our differences, and there aren't that many. For instance, I've just discovered that the musical instrument, shekere, a dried gourd with beads draped around it, is used by Yoruba people and Bini people.

The Independence Day celebration is important to me because it reminds Nigerians that despite all our problems there is always a reason to celebrate; the fact that we have a country to call our own instead of having to live as immigrants in a community we don't understand is reason enough to make every 1st of October special.

Obi uto na Independence Day! Happy Independence Day!

Naomi Madu (Year 11)



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NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS



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Has Nigeria been a success story since independence?

The concept of 'success' in this context is 'essentially contested'. This means there are competing but ultimately incompatible interpretations of the notion, so objectively and definitively assessing which is correct is impossible.



As part of the school's work surrounding Independence Day 2016 the Humanities Faculty asked students and teachers about their criteria for a successful country and how far Nigeria has satisfied these since 1960.

Here is a sample of their responses:

- ◆ Year 7 student: 'A successful country has a stable economy where prices don't change lots – this isn't really the case in Nigeria at the moment.'
- ◆ Humanities teacher: 'For such a huge country like Nigeria success could simply mean remaining unified – according to this criterion Nigeria has ultimately been a success.'
- ◆ Year 10 student: 'The levels of corruption & insurgency could be significant criteria for a country's success – these have varied over time in Nigeria and remain high but are falling.'
- ◆ Year 7 student: 'A successful country is able to make money from its natural resources – Nigeria has done this quite well, but it doesn't benefit everybody equally.'
- ◆ Humanities teacher: 'Nigeria's political and economic successes have not yet been consistent, so perhaps success in the long term should be defined as consistency in delivery.'
- ◆ Year 10 student: 'Nigeria's rich and varied culture is rightly celebrated which promotes a healthy patriotism – this is an important sign of a successful country.'
- ◆ Year 7 student: 'A successful country is one made up of happy people – lots of Nigerians are too poor to be really happy although they are still strong despite this.'
- ◆ Year 10 student: 'A proper democratic system of voting is an indication of a successful country – Nigeria has improved lots in this area recently.'

AND NOW, here are three questions for you dear readers...!

1. What do you think makes a country successful? Is Nigeria successful according to your criterion?
2. Do the criteria for a country's success evolve over time?
3. For a new country should securing economic development trump protecting democracy?

Please email your ideas to registrarsec@regentschoolabuja.com or tweet [@mrmann2016](https://twitter.com/mrmann2016)

The Regent Secondary School is proud to announce the appointment of a number of well-qualified, experienced administrative and teaching staff. We welcome these new staff members to the Regent family, and trust that their association with our school will be both rewarding and productive. Brief pen portraits and photographs have been included in this edition to introduce the new staff to the school community.

Mr. Abdulrahman Abdulraheem – Physical Education and Nigerian Studies Teacher



Mr. Abdulrahman Abdulraheem is from Kwara State in the northern part of Nigeria. He holds Bachelor of Science degree in Physical and Health Education (B. Sc. Ed.) from Bayero University in Kano. He has been teaching for upward of 16 years, working in a number of international schools in Nigeria. He is happily married and blessed with children. He is glad to find himself in this community of dedicated and hard-working people. He believes that working at The Regent Secondary School will give him the opportunity to add new spice to games in the School.

Mr. Balint Kocsis: English Teacher



Mr. Kocsis comes from Cleveland, Ohio. He lived in the USA, Thailand, and Nigeria. He is currently completing an MA Applied Linguistics and TESOL at the University of Portsmouth in the UK. His teaching experience includes test preparation with specialty in IELTS and Cambridge ESOL Examinations. His looks forward to assisting Regent students to develop and integrate English skills in the four strands (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) with analytical, paraphrasing, and critical thinking skills requisite for higher education success. His extensive travels and love of reading have helped him become a child of the world and to appreciate and enjoy the diversity the peoples of the world have to offer. He integrates his well-rounded world view across a spectrum of cultures and religions into what he shares with students in the classroom.

Mrs. Emily Ojeh – Economics and Geography Teacher



Mrs. Ojeh is from Delta State, south-south Nigeria. She has been teaching for more than twelve (12) years working in various capacities. She sees teaching as her passion, calling and world. She is excited to join the Regent family where she hopes to add her wealth of experience in nurturing the total child.

Mrs. Sally Horton – Business Manager



I am delighted to be joining the Regent School family as the Business Manager. I am looking forward to our time in Africa and have had a really warm welcome from everyone. My time each week will be shared between the Secondary and Primary Schools to support the Administration teams in providing the best learning environment for the teachers and students. I am married to Graham, the new Headmaster of the Primary School and we arrived in Nigeria two weeks ago from the UK. Previously, I have worked in school administration in the UK and the Middle East, as well as teaching piano and playing in amateur orchestras and choirs

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Mr. Thomas Mann – Head of the Humanities Faculty

Born in the UK, Mr. Mann has been teaching since graduating from Oxford in 2008. He has previously worked as a Head of Department as well as an Education Consultant with a Ugandan NGO. Having travelled extensively in Northern, Eastern and Southern Africa, this is Mr. Mann's first time in the Western region. An accomplished musician, he is thrilled to be leading the Humanities Faculty.

Mrs. Halimot Akanni – Physical Education Teacher

Born on the 1st of December, Mrs. Akanni has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical and Health Education obtained at the Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State. She is from Alimosho local government area in Lagos State. She has quite a number of international certificates, ranging from child protection in school to preventing bullying. Mrs. Akanni recently completed her Leadership Diploma Course (LDC) in the Word of Faith Bible Institute (WOFBI). She is married and has a son. She is a goal-getter and is always willing and ready to learn. She is very creative and multi-talented and believes that this will have grate impact on both the student and the community at large. She enjoys most sports but has strong passion for volleyball, football and aerobics. Her philosophy is: "You are either the best or one of the best; never settle for second best"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual "Meet and Greet": Every year with the good graces of the Friends of Regents Parents Group, there is a special social evening whereby parents - new and returning - can come to greet teachers in an informal manner. This year, the event will be held on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, COMMENCING AT 7:00 p.m. All teachers will be in attendance for this very important occasion.

Boarding Schools' Fair 2016: A Boarding School's Fair is scheduled to be held at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, on Monday, 10 October from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Parents and students interested in boarding schools in the U.K., U.S.A. and Canada are invited to attend. The following programmes will be on offer: International Baccalaureate, A Levels, Foundation Programme, Advanced Placement.

Mid-term Assessment – Term 1: Parents and students are reminded that continuous assessment is conducted throughout the year. In addition to tasks assigned during lessons, class tests are also administered on a continuous basis. A mid-term assessment week has been scheduled from Monday, 10 to Friday, 14 October. Please also note the following important dates:

- First Half-term Reports to be issued – Friday, 21 October
- Top Achievers' Accolades Assembly – Friday, 4 November
- Parent-Teacher Conferences – Friday, 4 and Saturday, 5 November

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

INES MUFUTA-ODIA
10 SENEGAL

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