



# Answers to that quiz now a dial away



**Some of the pupils use who are using the Shupavu 291 application at their school last week.**

**« FROM THE COVER**

and school performance via SMS. This revision application allows pupils to register, take quizzes and compete with other students from other schools.

"I have been using Shupavu 291 to revise for my national exams especially in English and doing Mathematics tests. I believe I know a little bit more," says Wellington, who would like to be a doctor when he grows up. He

advises other pupils who might not have enough text books for revise at home to make use this application. "It's better than watching TV or playing video games. You get used to and enjoy using the phone to revise," adds the 15-year-old.

The study tool is useful to both primary and secondary students who by dialing \*291# or sending the word START to 20851 can start learning through their mobile phones at home after school for revision. Apart from school work, they can also ask



**Casey Diana, a pupil at Milimani Primary School, demonstrates how to revise using the phone with Shupavu 291 application.**

questions on such topics like religion, politics among other issues and the virtual teacher answers them.

"Pupils are required to select subject, topic to revise upon and send quizzes in form of texts. Once you send your answers the system sends the next question plus an explanation to the previous quiz. This helps one to know why you got a wrong answer," explains 12-year-old Margaret Nyambura.

Davis Muriithi, a Class Four pupil, has been using the application for a month. He says he enjoys revising maths the most, though he has also tried social studies and religious

education questions.

Equally excited is Casey Diana. She competes with her friends from other schools and through the app she has learnt new things from other pupils.

"I have been using the mobile phone to revise and do tests for my favourite subjects — English, Kiswahili and Science. I hope by next year when I'm sitting my national exams I shall have benefitted a lot from Shupavu 291," said Casey, who would like to join Alliance Girls High School.

Another innovative aspect of Shupavu 291 is the ASK-A-TEACHER feature, whereby pupils ask questions remotely to a live teacher. Since it is a tool that enables the user to be assisted by the virtual teacher, it is open only outside class hours from 7pm to 9pm.

"Pupils get to ask questions and also get guidelines on various subjects. This helps them to learn from teachers even after school time," explains John Bosco Otundo, a teacher at Milimani Primary School.

The service is accessible on any type of phone. Rachael Njambi, 12, and Tracy Wangari, 11, have seen their performance improve since they started using Shupavu 291. "Before I started using it, I had 368 marks but after revising and researching as I prepared for my exams, I was able to improve and attained 397 marks. My target is 420 marks for the end of term exams," said Rachael.

Calistus Shitakha, 12, advises school children to use mobile phones to access such learning applications instead of using the phones to chat or access bad sites.

## Fun galore as children's home marks three years

Children from Save a Soul Children Centre in Thigio, Kiambu County on Tuesday marked their institutions' third anniversary with songs, poems, and a celebratory mass. That was not all' they had a special guest – Murang'a Principle Magistrate Anthony Kinuthia Mwachigi, who gave a talk.

Justice Kinuthia also shared a meal with them. The judge, who has worked in the children's court for five years, encouraged them to work hard in school. Citing the Children's Act, he said all children have rights which includes the right for education, food and shelter.

"Children's rights start at birth. Every child has a right to be taken care of and to a name," Justice Kinuthia said, randomly asking the delighted children their names.

He said parents should offer proper guidance to their children while at the same time allowing them be children by encouraging them to play.



**PHOTOS | SAMUEL MUIGAI**  
Cartoonists Samuel Muigai (Igah) and Wycliffe Otieno (Wycotie) during a drawing session with children from Save A Soul Children Home in Kiambu last weekend.

The children's centre was founded by Ms Elisabeth Gruber, who previously worked as a volunteer at St Mary's Hospital in Lang'ata. Today the centre has 33 children mostly orphans, those that are abandoned, or from the slums.

Among the 33 children, two are in high school while two others will be sitting their KCPE exams this year. Lisa told of the challenges she has faced while establishing the home. "It has been tough, at times I felt like giving up. However, looking at



**Murang'a Principle Magistrate Anthony Kinuthia Mwachigi addressing children from Save A Soul Children's Home last weekend.**

the children's happy faces today encourages me to keep developing the facility." She visits the institution once or twice a year from her base in Austria.

Speaking during the event, Miss Emily Wanjiku Mwangi, the home's manager, said being only three years old, they do not have classrooms yet but there are plans to put up some. "We use a van to ferry our children to a nearby St Clement Education Centre and pick

them up in the evening. Back here, we have staff members who give the children spiritual guidance and mentorship.

The children also had a drawing and shading session guided by Nation cartoonists, Samuel Muigai (Igah) and Wycliffe Otieno. Fr Michael Kimani, who presided over the mass, said there was need to offer help to the needy. "Children are our future and we should help them at all cost," he said.