



Kenya Connect ***STEPS TO READING***

Kenya Connect is celebrating READING! We are grateful to many donors who are inspiring reading by donating a STEP in the Library Learning Center. We invite you to read some of their wonderful book choices!

Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste

Step donated by Dana Livne's fourth grade class at the Garrison Forest School.

Dana Livne taught about Kenya throughout the year and invited Kenya Connect to their classroom. The fourth grade class held the school's first Walk for Wamunyu and raised \$5000 to support our library programs. The students voted for Jumbies since they loved reading it in class.

Imani's Moon by JaNay Brown-Wood

Step donated by Dana Livne fourth grade class at the Garrison Forest School.

Dana Livne taught about Kenya throughout the year and invited Kenya Connect to their classroom. The fourth grade class held the school's first Walk for Wamunyu and raised \$5000 to support our library programs. The students thought that Imani's Moon would be a wonderful book for the Kenya Connect Library.

The Short Seller by Elissa Brent Weissman

Dana Livne taught about Kenya throughout the year and invited Kenya Connect to their classroom. The fourth grade class held the school's first Walk for Wamunyu and raised \$5000 to support our library programs. The students thought the learners in Kenya would be interested in learning about finances.

The Magic Mystery of Trees by Claire McElfrick and Jen Green

Step donated by Cindy Dyer and Friends Kenya Connect 5K Team 2022

Board Chair, Cindy Dyer had one of the largest KC5K teams and raised over \$1000. She selected *The Magic Mystery of Trees* in memory of her nephew, Ben Shellhaas, who passed away. Ben was studying forestry and loved to be among trees. Cindy and her family hope that this book will inspire students and adults to plant and nurture trees around the world.

Yoko's Paper Cranes by Rosemary Wells

Step donated by Katie and Steve Baughman

Katie Baughman, a teacher at the Garrison Forest School, traveled to Wamunyu as volunteer in 2017. Since then, she has connected Garrison Forest School students in a variety of projects with St. John's including creating The Reading Challenge guides, collecting books and girls' panties for Wings Poa Reusable Sanitary Pad kits and other initiatives. Garrison Forest has been a sponsor of the KC5K.

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Step donated by St. John's Parish Day School

St. John's Parish Day School has been partnering with Kenya Connect since 2006. They started with the PenPal program and have raised funds for various projects. For over a decade, St. John's has been holding the "Walk for Wamunyu" to raise funds for various projects. In 2022 they raised \$11,000 for our new library and literacy programs. The students selected three books to adorn the steps. Since 2006, six SJPDS teachers/staff have visited Kenya Connect.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

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Chika Chika Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

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students selected three books to adorn the steps. Since 2006, six SJPDS teachers/staff have visited Kenya Connect.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Step donated by Kenya Connect in honor of Kwame Alexander's Visit

Award winning author, poet, and educator Kwame Alexander visited Kenya Connect in 2022. While in Wamunyu he conducted a teacher professional development workshop on writing, held a special story time for students and visited a school. His books have touched children around the world and we were honored to host him for a visit. ***The Crossover*** received the prestigious Newbury Award.

Hidden Figures Margot Lee Shetterly and Winifred Conkling

Step donated by Jackie Crispell's Family and Friends Kenya Connect 5K Team 2022

Board Member Jackie Crispell created one of the largest teams for the KC5K and raised over \$1000 for a step. Jackie's Mother, Barton Edwards Bruce, was a computer scientist and mathematician who worked at NASA with some of the women in the Hidden Figures book. The step is in memory of Barton, a Kenya Connect friend, extraordinary mom and community volunteer, advocate for girls in science, and wonderful friend to many.

Best of All by Max Lucado

Step donated by students at the Surrey Christian School, British Columbia, Canada

Students at the Surrey Christian School raised funds to install two steps and to support Kenya Connect's Literacy programs. Krystal Wolgram and Heidi Walter's class learned about the work of Kenya Connect and raised the funds through a collection and sale.

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot

Step donated by Sharon and Michael Runge

In celebration of the Life of Dr. John Reynolds, husband, father, son, brother and extraordinary veterinarian.

John always loved animals. As a small boy he would befriend neighbor dogs since he could not have one since his brother and sister had animal allergies. He did have pets including a guinea pig, gerbils and even a rat! In high school, he read the book, "*All Creatures Great and Small*", which inspired him to become a veterinarian. He worked hard in high school and earned top marks. He studied at Colgate University for his bachelor's degree and then attended and graduated from the Veterinarian School at Cornell University. John was the owner and lead veterinarian of the Pittsfield Veterinarian hospital in Massachusetts treating dogs and cats and other small animals. A Rotarian and member of the Humane Society Board, John believed in the power of community. John

died suddenly in December 2021. The power of a story changed John's life and provided him with a goal for a future career and his life's work.

The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywait

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Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn

Step donated by Kenya Connect in honor of the Mothers' Day Movement

The Mothers' Day Movement was founded by a small group of women who believe in making a difference for women around the globe. They were inspired by *Half the Sky*, a book by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, which chronicles the oppression of women and girls in the developing world. For over ten years they have chosen an NGO to be their beneficiary at Mother's Day. In 2022 Kenya Connect was selected and raised close to \$50,000 for our Girl/Boy Empowerment Program to decrease teen pregnancy along with other empowerment programs. This step is dedicated to Kim, Eva, Stephanie, Wendy, and Dominika.

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Step donated by Lindsey's Village Team, Kenya Connect 5K 2022

Board member Lindsey Burns created a team for the Kenya Connect 5K race. She had the largest team of 55 friends and family from all over the U.S. AND raised over \$1000! She chose *Charlotte's Web* since it was a favorite childhood book. Lindsey volunteered in Kenya in 2019.

I Will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifirenka, Liz Welch, and Martin Ganda

Step donated by The Montgomery School and Kami Mulzet's Class

Kami Mulzet traveled to Wamunyu as a volunteer in 2018 and assisted with teacher professional development and literacy programs. Her students have written PenPal letters to Sofia Primary School and she has worked to engage the school with Kenya Connect's programs.

Mama Miti by Donna Jo Napoli and illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Step donated by Laura Carter, retired teacher, long-term volunteer and former Kenya Connect Board member

Laura Carter has been volunteering with Kenya Connect since 2008 and has assisted with teacher professional development, literacy and other Kenya Connect programs. She conducted her first Teacher professional workshop in 2012 at the LRC using the book *Mama Miti* in which participants created collage art which have since been framed and are displayed at the LRC. She chose this book because it has inspired the growth of professional development at Kenya Connect. She visits Wamunyu on an almost yearly basis and has shared her gifts and talents with the community.

Read, Read, Read by Amy Ludwig Vanderwater

Step donated by the Newfane School and Nancy Simmon's class.

The students held a coin collection to raise the funds. They selected ***Read, Read, Read*** since it was written by a local New York author. They learned about Kenya Connect through participating in a BOCES/LevelUp Village class in 2022. Students learned about each other's environment and connected via a zoom meeting.

Refugee by Alan Kratz

Step donated by The Montgomery School and Kami Mulzet's Class

Kami Mulzet traveled to Wamunyu as a volunteer in 2018 and assisted with teacher professional development and literacy programs. Her students have written PenPal letters to Sofia Primary School and she has worked to engage the school with Kenya Connect's programs.

Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets by Kwame Alexander, Chris Colderley and Carolina Marjory Wentworth.

Step Donated by Candlewick Press

Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets sprang from an appreciation of the work of twenty diverse poets across centuries and around the world. Each of the poems in this book is an ode to one of the twenty celebrated poets, to their work, or to the act of writing poetry. As Kwame Alexander writes in the preface, "I believe that by reading other poets we can discover our own wonder." Award winning author, poet, and educator Kwame Alexander visited Kenya Connect in 2022. While in Wamunyu he conducted a teacher professional development workshop on writing, held a special story time for students and visited a school. His books have touched children around the world and we were honored to host him for a visit.

Revolution in Our Time by Kekla Magoon

Step Donated by Candlewick Press

Revolution in Our Time puts the Panthers in the proper context of Black American history, from the first arrival of enslaved people to the Black Lives Matter movement of today.

Kekla Magoon's eye-opening work invites a new generation of readers grappling with injustices in the United States to learn from the Panthers' history and courage, inspiring them to take their own place in the ongoing fight for justice. It is a National Book Award Finalist, A Michael L. Printz Honor Book, and A Corretta Scott King Author Award Honor Book.

Interested in donating a STEP to inspire reading? Contact Sharon@kenyaconnect.org or James@kenyaconnect.org