

A rapid Bodaboda ride through Nyali was the beginning of every school day in Milele. This fifteen-minute adrenaline-impression cocktail with a 'good morning' and a nice chat with the 'bike-driver', a horn concert on the ears, passing impressions, funny, frightening, threatening, exciting and beautiful, outside at the refreshing sea air of Mombasa, in the exhaust steam of the big city.

As an introduction to the day ahead, perfect! The first days in Milele were as unpredictable as my way to school, packed with impressions. 'Let's see what will happen next' was my motto, which turned out to be extremely profitable...

The first days at school I had enough time to arrive, to orientate myself and to settle in slowly to the Milele community. Everyday school life in Milele is well organized and well clocked. From 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. all the children, as well as the teachers, have their place and their tasks. In the beginning it seems difficult to find a place as a newcomer in this routine school life and to get involved. But thanks to the great support of Joe, Mr. Godfrey, Mama Elminah and all the teachers, my questions and worries were clarified immediately and after a short time I became a permanent part of the school. Quickly it became clear: everything can, nothing must!

Teaching my subjects (math and physics) in English was a new experience for me, and the different language levels of the students also presented me with new challenges during the teaching. The equipment of the school is sparse by European standards, but completely sufficient. With a little creativity and spontaneity, a lot can be achieved and there is no shortage of children and young people who are enthusiastic about activities of all kinds and eager to follow the lessons! In addition to technical lessons, I have tried to teach children (and teachers) how to do handicrafts and painting in 'creative arts' lessons. It gave me a lot of pleasure to do handicrafts with the students, although the highlight of the children was rather the final photo after the lesson than the proper work with paints, scissors and paper 😊

While the older students still have lessons or homework to do in the afternoon, their younger siblings have a safe place to play in the schoolyard of Milele, romp around, just being a child. I also come to play a part in that. I quickly found my place, because the PP1 children love to play memory. And so do I!

Accompanying the music and dance group to the municipal music competition, swimming lessons, christmas card project, school shopping with Elminah at the market of Kongowea, geography project with the 8th class...everything can, nothing must!

I enjoyed every day in school! Probably also the interesting conversations with the teachers, the chatting in the office or lunch with Mr. Godfrey and Joe made my stay unique!

Thank you Forever Kids Kenya Team, Thank you Joseph and Nadja for the personal attention, Thank you Milele Elimu Centre!

Your Antonia

