

HAPPY PIKIN

&

StoryMi
Academy



PRESENT...

HAPPY PIKIN FESTIVAL

2023 !! PROJECT REPORT

On Dec. 2nd

@ Aunty Ayo International School

From 2pm to 5pm.





ORIGIN STORY

Once upon a time, there was Sophie. She lived on Manuwa Street and loved organizing activities with the kids of her neighborhood.

There was also Georgina who, with her sister, created a publishing house focused on children's books – Happy Pikin Collections.

One day, they put all their superpowers together and saw how much more they could do together.

So, powered by the loyal love of Sophie, Manuwa Street Cinema grew into a Happy Pikin Festival.





Yasmine @ HPF 2023

AN AFTERNOON FOR FUN AND EXPLORATION

This is our third edition, and our focus remains the same: for **everyone involved to have fun**, feel safe and appreciated, and discover new crafts with passionate individuals.

The Happy Pikin Festival (HPF) aims to be a third space for children outside of school and home, where they can safely **express themselves** around grown-ups who believe in self-expression.

HPF curates an afternoon of fun where **children can try their hand at new skills** without fear of academic performance or parental pressure. It's a **safe space** where one can make mistakes, be goofy, speak up, share their experiences, and hear others'.

We want to give **access** to sports, arts, storytelling, and hopefully, next year, science.

RESOURCES

HPF 2023 REPORT

For the past three years, our program has flourished with delightful activities, all made possible by an **incredible team of volunteers and professionals.**

This wouldn't have been achievable without the generous support of **Aunty Ayo International School**, which graciously hosts the festival each year in their accommodating premises, featuring 500m² of well-maintained green fields and classrooms for indoor activities.

Beyond the premises, the school staff's **support** and involvement **from the start** allow for great planning and execution of the festival.

From the Principal to the teachers, supervisors, security, and cleaners, **we are all committed to the success of the festival.**

This year, it became even more possible thanks to the **financial support** of private individuals and organizations.



RESULTS





Kasja @ HPF 2023

130 KIDS 5 HOURS

We aspired to welcome even more kids, but due to economic factors and inflation, we had to carefully evaluate our options. We are pleased that we opted for a smaller number of kids than we had initially targeted; we were able to give them our best.

Just the right amount to spend all your energy – from art and craft to sports, dancing, and so much more. It allows children to have a fun introduction with a passionate teacher and sparks their curiosity. If their interest is piqued, that's the goal.

1 TEAM

One team, one goal: Have fun, show love! Thanks to our dedicated team, we can organize such a variety of activities from sports to arts to workshops about menstruation in a safe and fun atmosphere.

1 SPACE

While our desire to expand is strong, we must acknowledge that it all began here in Manuwa. The significance of being able to come here every year is not lost on us. Witnessing the children grow into themselves at each festival is a true privilege.



10 ACTIVITIES:

- Reading Corner
- Colouring
- Visual Arts
- Photography
- Menstruation & Health Workshop
- Podcast-Radio
- Boxing
- Self-Defense
- American Flag
- Football
- Dance
- Games

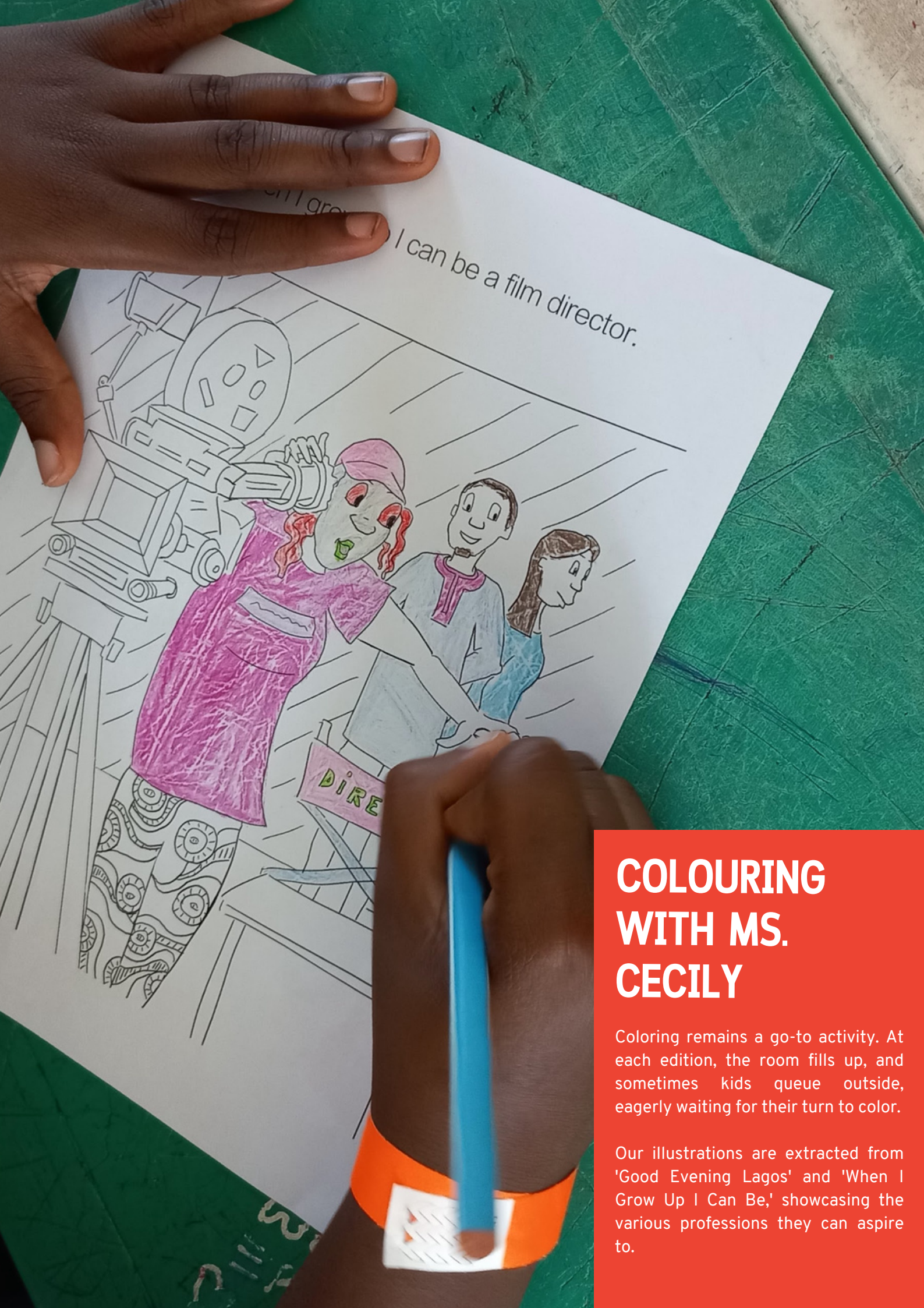


READING CORNER

This is a must, especially for the little ones, although we always manage to captivate the attention of some older kids as well. Amidst activities, under the shade of the trees, or sitting on mats, children get to listen to stories from the Happy Pikin Collections.

Next year, we aim to invite Nigerian authors to read and showcase their books.





... I grow up I can be a film director.

COLOURING WITH MS. CECILY

Coloring remains a go-to activity. At each edition, the room fills up, and sometimes kids queue outside, eagerly waiting for their turn to color.

Our illustrations are extracted from 'Good Evening Lagos' and 'When I Grow Up I Can Be,' showcasing the various professions they can aspire to.



VISUAL ARTS

Thanks to Isabelle, a young graduate from Obafemi Awolowo University who majored in architecture, we were able to organize a painting session.

Children were provided with a piece of paper, a pencil, brushes, and paint to draw whatever they liked.

We now have a robust collection of over 30 pieces of their artistic creations. While it may not be entirely exhibition-ready, Happy Pikin Festival definitely took notice of their remarkable work :)



SILENCE
IS
GOLDEN

PHOTO- PORTRAIT

This activity was led by Kasia Strek, a renowned Paris-based photographer from Poland.

Her workshop with the children focused on portrait pictures.

Photography holds a significant place in Happy Pikin Festival as it provides another magical way to tell a story.

MENSTRUATION & HEALTH

Talking about menstruation is not always easy; sometimes it's considered taboo, sometimes it brings feelings of shame or embarrassment, and sometimes it's just the fear of asking questions.

In this workshop, Scarlet Drop Foundation shared their first-time bleeding experience, along with the panic that followed, just before the isolation and loneliness of not being able to talk to anyone.

This workshop was a new addition, aligning with our goal of creating safe spaces for children and soon-to-be young adults to express themselves.



A man wearing a blue baseball cap and a black t-shirt is holding a professional microphone. He is standing outdoors in front of a light-colored building with a window. The background shows some greenery and trees. The man is looking slightly to his right.

PODCAST RADIO

This is a new workshop, facilitated by TMT, one of the podcast anchor of Submarine and roach.

In this activity, he reversed the roles and had children interview him, allowing them to become little journalists for a short afternoon.

Stay tuned to listen to the interview :)



SELF- DEFENSE

This class was led by Stanley, a professional trainer who focuses not only on the body but also on the mind. His message is as powerful as his moves.

Before each session, children are encouraged to embrace self-confidence, practice self-control, avoid promoting violence, and develop the ability to defend themselves when necessary.

This workshop is consistently popular with kids, both boys and girls alike.



BOXING

This is another sport that promotes physical fitness, coordination, and instills self-confidence from a young age.

Through the trainer's exercises, children learn respect for others, self-control, patience, endurance, focus, and technique



DANCE

At the end of the day, there's nothing like dancing together to conclude the festival.

School staff, volunteers, children, and sometimes parents, all alike, join in the dance to the sweetest beats.

Next year, we plan to include dance as a standalone activity, where we can learn the latest Nigerian dance moves.

GAMES

For the little ones, sometimes, a little toss and shoot to work out their motor skills is all you need.

Too small to engage in sports with the older kids and too energetic to sit down and listen to a story, this allows them to play at their own rhythm.



LESSONS LEARNED

Our recipe works: Have fun, show love, keep it inclusive, keep it simple!

We have **learned so much** from both the first and second editions. We now understand more than ever the importance of **catering** and **gift bags**. We've learned to manage access and **crowd control** using wristbands. Over time, we've been able to foster a genuine **team spirit** across all stakeholders.

Next year, we may **explore ways to restrict access for parents** and non-volunteers to the event so that staff, volunteers, and children can freely enjoy their afternoon without parental interruptions.

We couldn't have anticipated the **success of visual arts**. With over 30 children at all times in that workshop, there was painting everywhere—on the papers, the walls, and even on their faces. We wanted self-expression, and we got it!

Next year, we will **allocate more resources to art workshops** (space, watercolour instead of acrylic, more pencils and papers) and perhaps if funds allow, provide materials for the children to keep.





THANK YOU

Thanks to **the generosity of our donors and partners**, we were able to conduct a successful third edition of Happy Pikin Festival with **130 children**.

In addition to food, **drinks**, fruits and a lollipop, children were given **each an Happy Pikin storybook, and a reusable flask**.





Kasia @ HPF 2023

THANK YOU AS WELL TO

- Principal
- Vice Principal
- Mrs. Owolabi
- Mrs. Sam Diala
- Mr. In-Law
- Mrs. Bunmi
- Abdullah
- Tike
- Dauda
- Kunbi
- Yasmine
- Camille
- OBJ
- Rehia
- Bimbo
- Cecily
- Gina
- Stanley
- Justin
- Isabelle
- Kasia
- Temitayo
- Kadiatou
- Marion
- Emma
- Tonye
- Evane



Kasia © HPF 2023

HAPPY PIKIN FESTIVAL 2024

We keep the same recipe:

- Have Fun
- Show Love
- Keep it Simple
- Fantastic Volunteers
- Exciting Activities
- Beautiful inclusive school
- Safety First

THANK YOU

&

**SEE YOU
NEXT YEAR**

:)