
CLTAK NEWSLETTER

Issue No 2. | March edition

CLTAK TEACHERS



STEPHANY OWINO

They say familiarity breeds contempt, but in my experience with Mandarin, it fostered a deep appreciation. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine learning Mandarin, as the sight of Chinese characters once gave me a headache. However, everything changed when my mum challenged me to give it a try. Hesitant but curious,

I accepted the challenge. After just two beginner classes, I found myself enjoying the process, and my perspective shifted entirely.

Today, I am pursuing a master's degree at Southwest University in China, specializing in Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages. Has the journey been easy? Not at all. But has it been worth it? Without question. Beyond improving my career prospects, learning Mandarin has enriched my life in countless ways—both at home and in China.



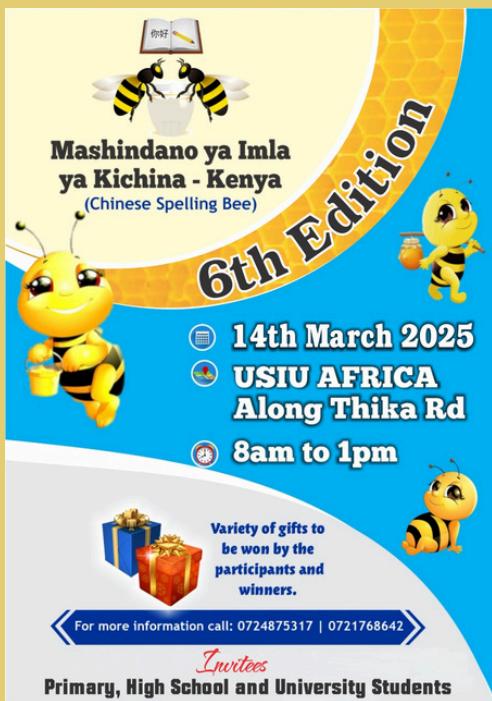
Thanks to this language, I have connected with incredible people, explored Chinese culture, and even had the opportunity to study abroad. Immersing myself in the language and engaging with locals and people from diverse backgrounds has deepened my understanding and enhanced my learning experience.

Studying Mandarin has also been a path of self-discovery. I once doubted my ability to learn such a complex language, yet here I am. My hope is to one day mentor and inspire others—not only to master Mandarin but also to uncover their own hidden potential. I truly believe that language is a powerful tool for communication. When used effectively, it has the ability to leave a lasting impact—not just on the mind, but on the heart.

As someone passionate about learning different languages, I see language itself as a form of love. There's something magical about the way people's faces light up when they realize you can speak their language—it instantly bridges gaps and fosters connections. Even the phrase "I love you" carries a different emotional weight in every language, each with its own unique resonance. That is the power of language: it builds relationships and strengthens human bonds.

As a future Mandarin teacher, I aspire to create a dynamic, engaging, and inclusive learning environment. I look forward to sharing my passion for Mandarin and helping others discover the same joy and appreciation I have found along the way.

ACTIVITY FOR THE MONTH





GEORGE KIRUMBA

When I first arrived in China, the thought of learning Chinese felt like a nightmare. My scholarship, which I would benefit from for nearly four years, hinged entirely on my ability to succeed in my Chinese lessons at Beijing Language and Culture University. My journey toward Chinese proficiency began in September

2011, and along the way, I was honored with multiple awards for being an outstanding student.

Despite this success, transitioning from the Language School to my Engineering program was one of the toughest challenges I faced in China. However, by the grace of God, I persevered and successfully completed my master's program, which was taught entirely in Chinese. Once again, my hard work was recognized when Shanghai Jiao Tong University awarded me two accolades for academic excellence.

Since then, I have taught Chinese at Discovery Chinese Training Center and several primary schools in Nairobi, including NJS Christian School, MGA, and Tahilla Preparatory School. Additionally, I provide consultancy services as a freelance translator and interpreter. Beyond that, I have also served as a Certified Siri Educator at the Soma Siri Innovation Hub, where I mentor gifted young individuals, equipping them with problem-solving skills to contribute to Africa's development.

