



## “I’ve Lost my Sight, but not my Vision”

by Shirley Gamble Seiverling

The biggest marathon in Thailand, and one of the largest running events in the region, Standard Chartered Bangkok Marathon was once again a stunning success, attracting some 50,000 participants ranging from world class athletes from as far as Europe, America and Africa to a mixture of enthusiastic international and local runners and leisure joggers and walkers of all ages.

Sixteen students and four teachers from RIS ran in the 22nd Bangkok Marathon on Sunday, November 22. Part of the proceeds of the marathon will go towards The Chaipattana Foundation under the patronage of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and towards ‘Seeing is Believing,’ Standard Chartered’s global eyesight restoration initiative that aims to eradicate avoidable blindness.

Mr. Henry Wanyoike is not only an amazing Kenyan Paralympics Gold Medalist and world record holder of the 5,000 and 10,000 meter running events in Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004, but he is also Standard Chartered Bank’s blind global brand ambassador. The theme of this year’s Marathon is ‘Run for the Future,’ encouraging the youth to develop a ‘can do’ attitude by inspiring children from across the country.

RIS had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Henry to speak at our school on Friday, November 20, to inspire and provide motivation to the young minds of our students as they aspire towards their goals and objectives in life. Mr. Henry, along with his trusted guide, Mr. Joseph Kibunja, spoke twice at the PAC - one session for the High School

and one session for the Middle School students. In between the two sessions we had an outdoor activity at Godbout Hall soccer field. Mr. Henry and Mr. Joseph led blind students from the Home for M H Blind Children, Ramindra Soi 34, who were paired up with RIS students as their guides to do a mini “Run for the Future” on the field. A big thank you goes to Mr. Bob Kovach and Student Council’s People to People Committee for helping with the visiting blind students.

We believe that this was a great opportunity to embed the ‘can do’ attitude in our youth here at RIS and provide a unique occasion for our students to meet someone like Mr. Henry, who “has lost his sight, but not his vision!”



Some comments from students after they listened to Mr. Henry's presentation made us believe we met our goal.

*"He inspired me to never give up."* - Tam S. 12-8

*"Interacting with the blind students who visited us helped me realize how much I can do for other people."*  
- Mint K. 12-7

*"Mr. Henry really opened up my eyes to the importance and power of teamwork."*  
- Natascha Y. 12-4

*"Mr. Henry was very motivational. He inspired me to believe that nothing is impossible with the help of true friends."* - Win S. 10-2

*"He made me feel confident and that we can be kind to each other, no matter what."*  
- Soraviya C. 7-2

*"Mr. Henry inspired me to believe that nothing is impossible if you give it your best."*  
- Mudmee 8-6



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