As another school year ends and summer begins, we want to say "Thank you" for all your support and encouragement during a very strange season for all of us. As I'm sure you have all experienced, we are learning new patterns of life as we adjust to all of the ways in which the coronavirus pandemic has changed the world. Yet, above all of these uncertainties and changes, God remains faithful and unchanging. We've seen his hand of care and provision in these past months and over the course of this whole school year. We have known God's love through your encouraging emails, prayers, and support and we are so grateful.

Our original plan before COVID-19 was to return to the US this summer to visit family and friends. Like many of you, we've come to make peace with the need to change our plans. Since Nairobi still remains under a travel lockdown and international flights have not yet resumed (there are a few repatriation flights...
each month) we are making the most of being around the house and visiting the local grocery store. We continue to be so thankful that we live on the school's campus that has ample space to run, play, and get out of the house in a safe way. We hope to be able to visit the US next summer.

Our school will open again for classes in September. Depending on the restrictions in place by the Kenyan government, we are hoping for on-campus classes but realize that we may need to run online classes for more weeks or months. The number of cases in Kenya is projected to peak in August or September but currently, our overall numbers, particularly the morbidity rates, remain relatively low. On the whole, Kenya has a young population that spends a lot of time outside in this tropical climate which are both factors that must be helping.

My work over the past four months has been made up of providing pastoral care and leadership in a time of great uncertainty. The end of the school year in this international setting is always full of transitions as families prepare to move around the world. This year things were greatly complicated by COVID-19 with some having to leave months before they were expecting and others being stuck here beyond what they were planning. Disruption in plans, anxiety over illness, and uncertainty about the school's ability to stay open have given me a lot of time to spend with people in prayer and pastoral counseling. The protests in American have also opened up important discussions in our community as we continue to strive to make our school a welcoming place for all our students and staff. It has been a good but tiring season of ministry and I am looking forward to taking a few weeks off this summer to rest and recover.

One of our biggest blessings in the past few weeks was getting to see Isaac graduate from HS in a modified ceremony. It is evidence of God's work in Isaac's life that he was awarded the Eagle Award by his teachers. This honor is given to one student who exemplifies a Christ-like character, is a strong student, and leads others in a positive way. We will be sad to see this amazing young man leave our home in a few weeks for Wheaton College but are so happy for him and eager to keep watching him grow.

Our other boys have had a good year and are so thankful to be done with online school. They have a few friends living on campus which has helped pass the time. We've also had fun as a family playing a lot of board games and trying out new recipes in the kitchen. Carrie continues to keep our whole family sane and moving forward in strength. She's been a positive encouragement beyond our family to a number of other families here that are walking through various challenges and struggles.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do as we work together to further God's kingdom.

As the next month approaches, please join us in prayer for the following things:

Rest: that June and July would be a time of refreshing rest.

Travel: We are trying to get Isaac on a flight to the US in early July for his start at Wheaton College in August.

If you would like to contribute financially to our ministry, please visit our sending agency Resourcing Christian Education International.

https://www.rce-international.org/donate/support-a-u-s-missionary/
We continue to hold all of you in our prayers. Please don’t hesitate to share any specific requests that we can be praying about for you.

God bless you,
Dave (for the whole Matlak family)

Here are a few pictures of our family from the past few months.
(Easter morning, Peter making his own lasagna noodles, and more pics from Isaac's graduation.)