



Newsletter Hilde van der Draai

November 2013

Party!



Our first students graduated!

On the 22nd of November we celebrated a big graduation party in Emmanuel Christian College! 82 students from various programs received a certificate or diploma. 14 students from our teacher training program received a diploma and 5 students received a certificate, all given by Mount Meru Universiteit in Tanzania.

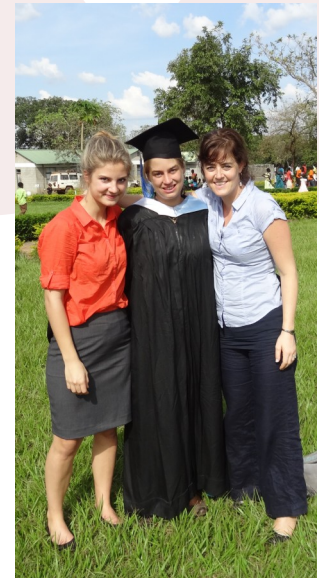
One of the students wrote in his evaluation:

"When I came I had a list of enemies I wanted to deal with, but now I realise that they did not know what they were doing so I have decided to forgive them."

From the 19 students, 7 students graduated with a distinction!

One of the graduating students summarized what he had learned during his studies as follows:

"I have learned that education is on it's highest peak when it transforms people, evidenced by their moral behaviour."



The party became even more special, because Femke (my sister) and Joke (a friend of mine) came to South Sudan to join the celebration!

New students in 2014

While I was observing students in Yei, I met David. He was driving me on his motorcycle from school to school. (see picture).

I was immediately impressed by his character, he was helpful and drove very carefully. His English was good and he told me that he had done 6 years secondary education. I was surprised that he had not used his good foundation for further studies. He explained to me that he is using his money to pay the medicine for his father in hospital. I was touched and shared his story with my colleague. We decided to accept him as a student for the diploma program 2014 and we will help him to raise his schoolfees. On the day that we gave him his official admission letter, his father was released from the hospital. This was surely a day for him to celebrate!

40 students applied for the diploma program in 2014 and we expect 15 students for the certificate program. We are looking forward to start a new journey with the new students in 2014!



Breakthrough in Pre-primary class!

The pre-primary school teacher on the picture above, surprised me this month! At the beginning of this year all this Young children sat passive in her class and only repeated what the teacher had said. But in November the teacher showed me a great lesson about the theme 'water'. She went with the children to the borehole, played games and made the children busy with various activities related to 'water'. It was very special to discover that she was able to apply what she had learned in her training. A real breakthrough!

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Teams**

International Teams (Ermelo)
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