



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter



March 2018

Primary School Leaving Exam Results Celebration —

2017 was the first year that the Loreto Primary School in Maker Kuei had students who sat for this critical examination. This standardized examination is held by the government each year and qualifies students to continue on to secondary school. It is the most common education certification among South Sudanese. The exam challenges the students' learning and requires an overall mark of at least 50% in order to pass. Nationally, only 9 out of 10 students will achieve this score and attain their Primary School Leaving Certificate.

The Loreto Primary School students distinguished themselves with a 100% pass rate; all students scored over 72% with one of our students receiving particular attention. Abraham Kenya (pictured right) was one of the top 10 students in the Western Lakes State region. The school hosted a special celebration for this precedent setting achievement. Many of the boys have elected to join the new De La Salle Secondary School in Maker Kuei, while many of the girls enrolled with Loreto and started as part of our new Senior 1 class this month.



Learning Through Play —

In late 2017, Loreto started the construction of dedicated Kindergarten classrooms, which will provide much needed class space for the schools' youngest children to play, learn, and grow. A unique and key feature of Loreto's approach in the primary school has been the creation of child-friendly spaces and the introduction of learning through play. A donation of toys has provided this much loved playtime activity, which helps to teach cooperative play, builds language and fine motor skills, and reduces stress. The playtime is combined with a new peace education program for the young children through which they learn how to skills for anger management and self-regulation.



Oh, The Places You Will Go —

Two Loreto graduates were selected to apply to the Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network (YAMEN) through Mennonite Central Committee. This prestigious program recruits volunteers from around the world. Priscilla Puonyum (left) and Martha Puor (right) recently interviewed placements in Zimbabwe and Northern Ireland respectively.

Priscilla and Martha graduated from Loreto in 2016 and have been participating in the Professional Internship Program that targets at-risk young women and provides capacity building, and professional experience. Priscilla has been working for the last year within the Loreto Finance Office, while Martha works with the school administration and teaches in the secondary school.

The YAMEN program is a yearlong work and cultural exchange opportunity for young, Christian adults. Every year 60 young adults from more than 25 countries are selected to participate. This is the first year that Loreto has been

asked to recommend candidates and it is also the first year that South Sudan has been among the countries offered placements. We wish Priscilla and Martha the best as they take the next steps on this journey.

A Special Thank You to all of the donors , advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek.

Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.

For more information about the programs, our students, and how you can help, please visit our website: Loretorumbek.ie