

www.stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl
secretaris@stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl

Simon Vestdijklaan 27
4481 DM Kloetinge The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 113 212290
Chamber of Commerce: 22058464
ANBI Tax-id no.: 8147.79.979

IBAN: NL83RABO 0 111 799 112
BIC: RABONL2U
Account holder name:
Stichting Netherlands Sri Lanka location Goes

NEWSLETTER

impressions of the working visit in january 2017

WHAT A LOVELY, MOVING EXPERIENCE SEEING THE CHILDREN AGAIN



After a comfortable journey, we arrived around 4 o' clock in the morning in Colombo. Sister Michelle was there to greet us. Needless to say we quickly took to our beds for a couple of hours!



Following a meal together, the children showed us their bedrooms – they really wanted to show us everything! So sweet! In each room four girls sleep together and there is a chest with four drawers – each girl has her own. It caused a great deal of laughter and giggling when we asked to see what was in the drawers! Once the elder girls had completed their homework, we went outside to water the plants. In the evening they wanted to dance for us... and of course, we had to join in!
Lots of laughter and giggling again!



KATUPOTHA



Early on Saturday morning, we left for Katupotha. There, we were welcomed with pretty flower garlands. Not all the children were there, as a number of them were on a music camp organized by the school. After tea, we walked to their school with two of the girls, Lanka and Tharashi. The school is located in very pretty natural surroundings. At home, the children enjoy playing in the garden on the see-saws and swings. We then all enjoyed a special party meal, as Tharashi was celebrating her birthday. It was so nice to experience this. After everyone had sung for her, Tharashi received her birthday presents – a new dress and some personal care items. We also sang a couple of Dutch 'birthday songs' which everyone found highly amusing!



TO CHURCH BY BUS



On Sunday we went to church in a nearby village with the children. By bus! The bus ride itself was quite an experience! At the church, they were celebrating the feast of the holy Saint Sebastian, and because there were so many people, the service was held outdoors. Together with all the other members of the congregation, we remained there for lunch. We were served a plate of rice and curries which we ate with our fingers as everyone else did. It was so nice to be able to enjoy this with the sisters and the children.



PREPARATIONS FOR THE DAILY MEAL!

The girls all take turns in helping to prepare the meals and to wash their clothes! Not so much fun maybe... but it has to be done too.

In the garden we have jack trees bursting with jackfruit (Nangka) and we saw how the children cleaned and cooked the fruit. Needless to say we also tasted it... delicious!



THE ORPHANAGE IN PAMUNUGAMA

Happily, we were also able to pay a visit to the orphanage in Pamunugama, where we received a warm welcome from the children and Sister Sara. This is where the older girls live – one of them is studying to be a journalist and another had just completed her exams to become a nursery school teacher. A good education is very important for the girls so that they can look after themselves later in life and hopefully can have a good future ahead.



A WEDDING PARTY!



On Saturday morning we were invited to a wedding party. One of the teachers that we had met last year was getting married. The church service was at 8 o'clock in the morning! We received a very warm welcome and it was quite exciting to be allowed to experience this.



FAREWELL PARTY

For our farewell party, a Dutch flag was hoisted and everything was decorated with red, white and blue balloons! It looked so festive, and once we had lit all the candles the party started! Dressed in their prettiest clothes the girls all danced for us and it was very moving to see how much they enjoyed it and how happy they all are. For us, it was truly memorable and we enjoyed it immensely.



THE TEMPLE OF THE TOOTH!

On Sunday we took the bus to Kandy with all the children to visit to the beautiful "Temple of the Tooth". Although it was only 110 kilometres, it took us nearly 5 hours to get there! The children were amazed by the Temple as there was so much to see. Following the visit we all enjoyed a picnic in the beautiful park. *What a wonderful way to spend our final day with the children!*



We stayed two weeks at the orphanages and it was very moving to see so much loving care, and also how happy the children are and how much fun they have together and with the sisters. It was very special to be able to share in this experience.

If you would like to find out more and see more photographs... simply go to our website: www.stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl

With kind regards,



Sjaak de Looft,
Chairman
0113-223373

voorzitter@stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl



Tanja Uitterhoeve-
Geene
Secretary
0113-212290

secretaris@stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl



Theo
Schouwenaar,
Treasurer
0113-221725

penningmeester@stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl



Elsbeth Sanderse,
Committee
Member
0113-214816

bestuurslid@stichtingnetherlandssrilanka.nl