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NEWSLETTER APRIL

IMPRESSION OF THE WORKING VISIT FROM 26TH JANUARY-7TH FEBRUARY 2025

After a pleasant flight we arrived in Sri Lanka. Sister Amatha was waiting for us. What a wonderful reunion!

THE HOMES:

We were welcomed with open arms in all homes. At first the girls were a bit shy, but the ice was quickly broken when we asked their names with gestures, and tried to repeat them. Then they all had to laugh.

We had brought Domino, Memory and Ludo games, coloured pencils and colouring books with mandalas.

They love playing games, and singing and dancing together. We also enjoy it immensely. It is so nice to see the children playing happily in the garden.

At tea-time, the children fetch their plate from the kitchen and walk to their own seat. They also tidy up everything together and wash the dishes. We often helped with hanging up the laundry, tidying up, watering the plants and putting the children to bed. We helped the oldest girls with their sewing assignment, by cutting the excess threads. Quite enjoyable it was, with some nice music in the background. We also helped with grating coconuts, but that is rather heavy work.



BIRTHDAY:

We experienced the birthday of a pair of twins, who had turned 8 years old. They had hung up balloons and streamers. The children had made beautiful drawings and cards for them. They were really beaming with pleasure. After singing party songs, we all enjoyed a piece of the delicious birthday cake.



EXCURSION:

We took a trip to a dam and reservoir with a group of children and Sister Giovanna. It was just like a school trip. The children were excited and sang all kinds of songs loudly. We enjoyed the beautiful nature! At the lake we drank lemonade and ate the syrup waffles we had brought with us! They really loved them. We took a walk along the lake and the dam. Then we drove to the older, smaller dam. There were many monkeys walking and climbing there, which was very nice to see.



SCHOOLS:

In Katupotha, for one of the girls it was her very first school day, and we were allowed to come along to experience this festive morning. We drove to school in the tuk-tuk, and were warmly welcomed. Together with the new children, we walked behind the drum band to the large hall. The children were addressed by the Buddhist monk and the school principal. The older children sang songs and performed all kinds of dances. Then we took the children to their classroom, where the principal cut the ribbon and officially "opened" the classroom. They all got a plate with a ball of milk rice, a banana and a traditional dish, a kind of doughnut. We went to the teachers' lounge and had tea with all kinds of goodies. How wonderful it is to experience this all.



This week was sports week at all schools. The start of the new school year. Normally they start at the beginning of January, but since corona they are behind with the exams and can only start the new school year in mid-February. Sister Amatha indicated that they need 2 laptops for the older girls in Kelaniya. We will see if we can purchase them.

POWER POINT PRESENTATION:

Would you like to know more about our homes and the beautiful Sri Lanka?

Please contact us. We would be happy to tell you all about it.

With kind regards. the board:

Chairman
Elsbeth Sanderse- van den Berg

NATIONAL HOLIDAY:

On February 4th Independence Day is celebrated, a national holiday. All together we hoisted the flag of Sri Lanka, after which the national anthem was sung. Then we all had breakfast with a traditional rice dish of milk rice, in the shape of a tower or roll with on the inside sugar and coconut. Really delicious!

The children had this day off and enjoyed playing in the garden. A few girls decided to cut coconuts out of the tree. They placed a ladder against the tree, climbed it and "turned" the coconuts out. We both were given one to drink up. The children got an ice cream, because of the holiday. In the afternoon they made huts in the garden. They used banana leaves and they wove palm leaves. It was great to see how enthusiastic the children were. Everyone helps each other, from the big girls to the small ones.



FAREWELL PARTY:

The girls put on their prettiest dresses, bracelets and necklaces, and lots of hairpins in their hair. They danced and sang for us.

Then they played all kinds of games, such as sack races and a balloon dance. We joined in with the tug-of-war game, much to the hilarity of the children. They even gave us farewell speeches in English. Really touching! Saying goodbye is always difficult, but hopefully we will be able to come back next year. We really enjoyed being with the children and the sisters. It was very special and wonderful to be part of their daily lives, and to see with our own eyes, how happy and joyful the children are!



WISH TO READ MORE?

On our site you may find an extensive report of our visit, with lots of photos and videos.

www.stichtingnederlandssrilanka.nl

Our four children's homes in
Sri Lanka are situated in:

 Pamunugama

 Katupotha

 Kelaniya

 Ja Ela