

Great success for Akany Avoko students!

It was a typical cold June winter's day when the 10 students sat their Primary Certificate exam. Students aged 10 to 17 all poised to take the most important exam of their life to date. Many children privileged with good families would struggle to pass this test. Then again these kids have survived far worse. In the end all are equal, just ordinary kids desperate to prove themselves, desperate to succeed.

Wrapped up in new winter clothes and fuelled by Malagasy chocolate, hands trembling slightly from cold or perhaps nerves, the 10 students began their test. The heart of Akany Avoko beat with them. Staff and girls prepared a special fish lunch to give them brain fuel. Those who could not help practically simply crossed their fingers or said a quiet prayer. The bell rang and Mme Fanja collected in the exam papers. "How did it go? Was it hard?" The weary students met with enthusiastic interrogation. The hubbub died and the waiting began.

After a long week of waiting it was time for the 10 girls to march down to the town hall to read the blackboard on which so many hopes were pinned. For young girls like Elysée, Maeva, Francine, Solo and Fenosoa a pass would be a much coveted entrance ticket to secondary school. For older girls like Tinah, Nomena and Eliane who were very late to start their schooling this is their last chance to get a school certificate, an essential passport to vocation training and employment. With tight throats they read:

Virginie	pass
Fenosoa	pass
Maeva	pass
Tinah	pass
Elysée	pass
Francine	pass
Solo	pass
Eliane	pass
Perline	pass
Nomena	pass

In disbelief the 10 triumphant students ran back to Akany Avoko to be met by the most rapturous applause. You did it girls! We are so proud of you!



**8 triumphant students with their teacher
outside the Akany Avoko School.**

(2 students were too busy celebrating and missed the photo!)