



Dear friends,

As I'm sure you already know, providing the best possible education to the children and young people in our care is one of Akany Avoko's top priorities. Three years ago we constructed an on-site primary school in order to take control of the quality of our children's education and to provide a purpose built learning environment.

At our primary school, our goal is for every child to pass their primary school entrance examination (or "C.E.P.E.") which provides them with their first ever academic qualification and is essential if they wish to enter secondary education.

In early June this year six candidates from our "T5" junior class sat the C.E.P.E. exams: Lalao Kely, Sarindra, Angelot, Tafita, Krissy and Tsilavina. Everyone at Akany Avoko chipped in to help them do the best that they could – giving them gifts of hats and scarves to keep them warm in chilly exam rooms (it is winter in Madagascar at present), buying them chocolate to keep them alert and preparing them a special lunch of "brain food" (lots of fish and rice) on the day of the exam.

For the younger children it was their first experience of an official examination and the first critical step into secondary education. For the children too old to start secondary education it was their opportunity to gain an important qualification and official recognition for all their incredible hard work since they arrived at Akany Avoko. Several of the children who sat the exam had missed out on years of education before coming to Akany Avoko. In some cases their families had been unable to pay school fees and in others the children had been forced to work from an early age.

All of us were very nervous whilst waiting for the exam results but when they arrived on the 23rd of June they were better than we dared imagine. Of the six children who sat the examination every single one of them passed. This is the third successive year where our primary school examination candidates

have achieved a 100% pass rate and is a breathtaking achievement by children from the most harrowing backgrounds imaginable.

This incredible achievement could not have happened without the hard work of our headmistress Mme Fanja and her team of teachers, the amazing commitment and dedication of our children and of course the love that you, our supporters have shown for them by supporting Akany Avoko.

Of course it is not just the CEPE candidates who should be congratulated , on the 25th of June, the results from all the classes in Akany Avoko's pre-school and primary school programme were read out and a big celebration held in the dining hall. Each class performed songs and dances before being given their grades, certificates and prizes.

Finally, to celebrate another happy and successful school year we took all the children for an excursion to the Zoo in Tana. Despite seeing crocodiles, lemurs, chameleons and ostriches, it was the playground slide and the football pitch that the kids talked about all the way home!

None of this would be possible without your continued support. On behalf of all the staff and children at Akany Avoko let me thank you. Running our own primary school is expensive but for the third successive year your support has made it possible. Should you wish to contribute towards the continued success of our education programme in 2008-2009 then please contact me at akany.avoko@moov.mg.

Getting to share such happy and inspiring experiences with the children is a privilege for all of us working here at Akany Avoko. We wish we could bottle the feeling of results day and send it to each and every one of you that has contributed to rescuing these children from lives of poverty and destitution.

I hope that the attached photos help you share in the achievements and celebrations of our children. We are still awaiting the results of the kids sitting their final secondary school and Baccalauréat exams. Please keep your fingers crossed for them!!!

With love and thanks from all of us here,

Simon Kirby

Project Development Manager
Akany Avoko Children's Home
Madagascar

www.akanyavoko.com





End of term prizegiving - the first year primary class perform a dance



Akany Avoko's Director Mme Lalasoa and Headmistress Mme Fanja present a certificate to Rollande



Successful CEPE students Angelot, Sarindra, Tsilavina, Tafita, Krissy and Lalao receive their certificates



Mme Hary and her second year primary school class celebrate a hard year's work



Including many newly-arrived street children, the first year primary class have worked incredibly hard in 2007 and 2008



« The Class of 2008 » - Having passed their CEPE examinations all of these children will be studying outside of Akany Avoko next year.

End of Term Celebrations - Akany Avoko 2008
Thank you for your support!!!



Akany Avoko's primary school prepares for its end of term excursion



Haingotiana, Ravaka and an ostrich at Tsimbazaza botanical gardens and zoo



Hanitra leads the rest of the children in a dancing game



The primary school teachers serve a picnic lunch to the kids



Akany Avoko's primary school Headmistress Mme Fanja and the kids celebrating the end of the academic year



Goodbye and **thank you** from all the staff and children of Akany Avoko's primary school

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