

CAMBODIAN SCHOOL PROJECT

Progress Reports, Spring, 2017

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This report covers visits to all of our schools in February and developments since. The schools continue to do well. We are now focusing more on developing organic school gardens: funding pipes to irrigate gardens at four of the grade schools and garden fences and supplies at two others. A poster at Poup Steung School says, in Khmer and English: “Good Food Makes Children Smart.” We want our students to be as smart as possible!

This year we asked the village leaders to join in our discussions with teachers about what improvements to fund. We got a clearer idea of what was needed, had good discussions and reached consensus at each school. Here you see the Kouy mayor and teachers talking with Sarith about pipe for irrigating their garden. We provided pipes as well as water filters from a local NGO to the Kouy and Sravi Pov schools. Teachers were trained in how to clean and maintain them. We hope these filters will help reduce the incidence of intestinal illnesses in our students.



At Poup Steung, we did roof, door and window repair and bathroom improvement. We gave them a printer for the school computer provided earlier and some new student desks. Tampoung got a refurbished computer and fan, and we added



another section to their concrete fence. Kok Chan got fan, some fence and teacher chairs. Kok Thmey got fence and a printer for their computer. The Kouy got a floor mat, water pipe and playground supplies. All schools got classroom supplies (\$1.00 worth for each student). Every student will get a school uniform as our sewing class at JHP finishes them. Based on our talks with village leaders and parents, and feedback from the teachers and principals, we are going in the right direction with our grade school

program. We will continue including village leaders in our planning meetings and we will continue providing support for school organic gardens and sanitation.



In February, these students had been at their new technical school for six weeks. Please look at this video report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEdxzkr186k> The song in it was composed by Sopheap, one of the new students, and sung at our first student party. She is on the left at the beginning of the song.

We went with these new students on their first out-of-school excursion, a visit to a large hotel in Siem Reap. The manager there described the demands of jobs in the hotel industry and what behaviors and attitudes it takes to succeed and get promoted. Our students made a striking and dignified appearance. Their shirts were sewed by our tailoring class, using materials funded by a Czech benefactor.

Our principal, Sophat, brought his son with us to the hotel. This nice little boy has become something of a school mascot. Most JHP students have younger siblings and are more than happy to play with him. As you can see here, he was particularly fascinated by the electric lights on the night tables in the hotel rooms. He is a bright and curious child.



We threw a party to help the new students get to know each other and celebrate our 100% graduation rate in 2016. We awarded a total of \$50 in cash prizes for the best one-minute speech on, "I am happy to be at JHP because..." Here you see the first place winner and the judges. She got the \$10 first prize. There were a number of happy \$5, \$3, and \$2 prize winners as well.

We just added a new student to this year's class. Poor and without stable parental protection, when her family fell apart she was in danger of being trafficked. Sarith and her mom agreed to admit her to JHP even though she is just 15. It had been difficult for her and she was struggling. Sarith, Roger, and her teachers met with her so she would know she was wanted and that she had a home with us. We assigned her a big sister (Sopheap, the girl who wrote the song) and a grandparent and uncle (Roger and Sarith). In the party speech contest, she apologized for her anger and promised to stop cussing everyone out. Her speech got hearty and welcoming applause. She is doing better (and has dropped no more f-bombs). Aukuhn Sharan for helping our project and this homeless girl. We hope to give her a chance in life.

