

Best in the state

The results of last year's examinations are clear – St. Thomas Primary School in Kuron is best in the state. The best two students are also found in our primary school.



Head Teacher Daniel Dewamoi is proud to announce that St. Thomas Primary School in Kuron was best in the whole of Eastern Equatoria state last year. On the left side is James Longokuo Nakuye, who was the best student in the state, and on the right side is the second best student in the state, Mark Losike Lomuria.

Text and photo: Miriam Hagen

“I am very happy. This is a big encouragement. We also feel encouraged by our friends and donors. It is good to know that someone care about us,” said Head Teacher Daniel Dewamoi at St. Thomas Primary School. The school is funded by Norwegian Strømme Foundation and Friends of Sister Emmanuelle from Belgium.

Last year the school was ranked as best in the county and second best in the state. This year the final exams of primary 8 placed them at the very top in Eastern Equatoria state in South Sudan. In the four core subjects; English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, the school achieved 2 students in Division 1 (top level), 6 students in Division 2, 10 students in Division 3 and 4 students in Division 4. 2 students failed, but they were both expelled for a longer period of time because of indiscipline.

“Why does St. Thomas Primary School perform so well?”

“Because of commitment from the teachers and also the environment. In towns there are many things to do; like video, sports and other activities that can distract,” the Head Teacher said.

Better books

“How will you keep the same level next year?”

“We will buy text books from Uganda to use as reference books. The books here in South Sudan are a bit shallow,” he said and the students nodded.

“Through the budget from Strømme Foundation we will buy 20 books per class in the all of the four core subjects. This will be done from Primary 4 to Primary 7, so it will be 320 books all together,” the Head Teacher explained and added that he believes that the students can perform even better next year.

“The books will help a lot and the current P8 class are going to do better. They are very disciplined,” he said.

Not appreciated

James Longokuo Nakuye (18 years) got the top grade 1 in all of the core subjects.

“I was very happy about it. If I find a scholarship I want to be a medical doctor. I love people and I want to serve the community,” the top student said.

“How did your family receive the news that you are the best student in the whole state?”

“They did not understand it. I am just from the village,” Nakuye said and the Head Teacher added on saying.

“The Toposa parents will not see the value of this because they have not seen the fruits of education. If someone has raided cows, they will be happy and say that he is a real man.”

Need school fees

Mark Losike Lomuria told that he has not received any encouragement from his parents either.

“Since I started primary, I have struggled for myself. I am now looking for a job or something that can push me for the years ahead of me.”

Lomuria wants to be an engineer, and he is determined to continue his education even though the parents refuse to support him financially. Both of the top students want to attend Loa secondary School in Pageri, South Sudan. This is a boarding school which costs 1800 South Sudanese Pounds every year.

Of the 22 students who passed the final exam after P8, only 4 had the means to continue up to secondary level. The other 18 students are trying their best to raise the funds, but have not yet succeeded.