



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter



AUGUST 2017

New Miss Loreto Crowned— A highlight for the girls attending the secondary school is the Annual Miss Loreto—Rumbek Pageant which gives them a creative outlet and some fun competition. In addition to the traditional title of Miss Loreto (left), this year’s competition added 2 new categories: Miss Africa (middle) and Miss Creativity (right). The girls competed in 4 outfits: casual, formal, African, and home-made.



Some of the highlights of the competition included outfits made of ground nuts, biscuit wrappers, and dry storage sacks. For the girls, the pageant is an exercise in elegance and grace and provides them with a rare opportunity to be teenage girls in this context.



Hygiene Drama— The Loreto Primary School has always provided water for sanitation and hygiene purposes. Since the opening of the Loreto Primary Health Care Unit, there has been a much more overt effort at sensitizing young students at the school to issues of water, sanitation and hygiene. One of the new ways of disseminating information about these issues is through student produced dramas.

In August, the upper primary students presented a 3-part drama on hygiene which included hand washing, water filtering, the problem with sharing clothes, and the importance of covering one’s mouth and nose when sneezing. These dramas not only educate; they invigorate and mobilize the students themselves to support the sensitization of younger students to health and hygiene issues.



Children Teaching Parents— Each term the primary school hosts a Science Fair that allows the upper primary students who have been participating in the afternoon science club to exhibit their experiments and learning to the broader primary school. Through the Science Fair, the older students teach their younger peers about science and help to foster an interest in science experimentation in the youth. Parents are invited to attend the science fair to get a closer look at the topics their children have been learning in science and mathematics during the school term. It is a very joyful experience for the parents and students are always greeted with vigorous applause and shouts of encouragement during their presentations. After the presentations, the parents are treated to a light snack and joined by their children who guide them through some of the science club’s main activities. Undeniably, a highlight is the Primary School Tablet Program—connecting the generations through technology.

A Bountiful Harvest — Food security has been a major concern at the school and in South Sudan throughout this year. The school works with local community laborers and our secondary school girls to plant the school farm during each rainy season. This year we planted around 60 acres of ground nuts, maize, and sorghum! With around 40 acres planted in 2016, we harvested ~ 300 sacks of ground nuts—roughly a 1 year supply to support the primary school, secondary school, and Primary Health Care Unit.



In August, our secondary school girls started to harvest the ground nuts which will be dried and stored, then shelled, roasted, and finally incorporated into the school meals. This is a key part of the Loreto – Rumbek’s contribution towards sustainability in our community.



Loreto In the News — The partnership between the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) and Loreto—Rumbek has been widely publicized throughout Ireland and the story of our Mission was picked up by Catholic Ireland—read the full story [here](#). In addition to the story about the Loreto and MSC partnership, the Associated Press included a strong story about the increases of forced and child marriages in our region; and highlighted the good work being done at the secondary school as an outlet of hope—read more about this story [here](#).

A Special Thank You to all of the donors , advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek.

Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.