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STATISTICS

Total number of students and classes in SOLS 24/7 for the month of February.

No drop-outs for full-time students for the month of February.

The following is the students' statistic and the number of full-time and part-time classes for the month of February.

	Class	New Students	Drop Outs	Total no. of students (current and new)	Total no. of females	Total no. males
Full Time	1	0	0	36	18	18
Part Time	3	1	2	27	19	12

Students are adjusting well into the program. This reflects the confidence that we are getting from the students.

After having 15 students dropping out in January, we currently have 36 full time students. 2 students from the part-time class have dropped out.



Group photo

CURRENT SITUATION

Fighting between gangs has worsened situation in Timor Leste.

Burning of houses, fightings, home-made bombs and throwing of stones have alerted many.

SOLS 24/7 was not daunted by the current security pressure in the country but we are keeping focus on how to reach more youths in Timor Leste.

Fighting between gangs in East Timor has worsened but the UN police has tried to protect the security and prevented the situation from getting worse. An Australian restaurant was burnt down by groups of gangs and they claimed, "Out with the Australians in Timor Leste!" Many NGOs have evacuated from East Timor or have stopped their activities due to the instability of the current situation in the country.

Our students have gotten used to the situation and are reacting more calmly. However, there were some students who got upset and worried over the situation and the teachers had to

motivate them and make them realize that the only way they can help their country is by developing themselves so they can help the future of East Timor.

However on the 12th of February, loud shouting and screaming was heard in front of the school between rival gangs. These made many students fearful and some cried. The teachers were able to calm the situation down and they explained to the students how to best react in such situations so as not aggravate matters. During the next day, the students were not able to give their full concentration in class and it took about 2 days for their spirits to return to normal and for them to effectively continue their studies.

The school and the students have devotionals everyday for the situation to improve. So far, SOLS 24/7 has not been the direct target of any violence.

ENGLISH CLASS

Practicing more English formulas.

Making questions and sentences using "do, does and did" and understanding the usage of verb with "ing".

For the month of February", students learned to make sentences with and without W-H Questions using "do, does and did". They also learned how to make questions and answers using verbs with "ing." Below are examples of the sentences they made.

1. Q: **Do** you go to school everyday
A: **No, I do not** go to school everyday
2. Q: **Did** she go to work yesterday
A: **Yes, she went** to work yesterday.
3. Q: When **did** you buy the book?
A: I **bought** the book yesterday.
4. Q: Is she **going** to the hospital?
A: Yes, she is **going** to the hospital.



Studying English in class

The students have been making progress in their English but many are still weak and need to put in more effort. They have been encouraged to not waste time but put in extra effort and be disciplined towards studies. We were happy that many became more conscientious after the teachers talked to them.

SCIENCE OF LIFE CLASS

New Partner Program- Understanding the value of relationships.

Students were paired up to learn the value of relationship and good qualities of their partners.

To develop more love and unity between the students, every student has been paired up with a partner. Students had to work, study and eat together with their partners throughout the whole month. By having this program, students would be able to get closer to a new friend. This will help them in their socialization process in the future when they work and travel as they learn to mix around with those whom they've never met before and form relationships with them.



Students eating with their partners

To further add value to this program, students thought of the value of relationship and how does one build a good relationship? The students also needed to understand the good qualities of their partners and themselves thus exercises were done to list down the good qualities of their partners. By doing this, students were able to value the positive characteristics and strengths that their partners have.

The program was a success on the whole, even though we had to occasionally remind the students to be with their partners at all times. The students broke away from their cliques and were getting closer to the students they didn't know so well before.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM- TRADITIONAL AND MODERN TECHNIQUES

Experimenting with different agricultural solutions.

Coming up with creative ways to shade the vegetables and prevent birds from eating our vegetables.

Every attempt at growing vegetables was a learning process. As there was too much sunlight, our initial efforts at growing vegetables did not produce the results we expected. Thus the solution of making roofs out palm leaves were found to shade the sunlight from the vegetables. This was effective as the vegetables stopped drying out and started growing healthily.



Digging land

We also faced problems with ants and other insects that ate our vegetables. Thus a self-made natural solution was made to

kill

the insects. Furthermore, small birds would come to our field to eat our Chinese Kale or sawi. To stop this, a scarecrow was put up and it has reduced the number of birds coming to feed on our vegetables.

To help our vegetables grow better, a home-made non-chemical agricultural fertilizer called EM was created. It was made out of food waste from the kitchen and after putting it on the vegetables, they are growing much faster.

Since this the school's first agricultural program, we are experimenting with many different techniques and ideas. Any failures or mistakes during our experiments became learning opportunities for everybody.

LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Renovations and work continues.

Linoleum covers, re-concreting the cooking area and connecting the water pipe to the kitchen.



Renovation and works

To lengthen the usage of the tables, linoleum covers were put on all 60 over tables we have in the school. As the flooring of the kitchen was getting too dirty, it was re-concreted and for two days, cooking had to be done on make shift stoves created out of stones. After the renovation, the flooring has become much smoother. The water pipe was also connected to the kitchen and this made it easier for everyone to do their dish washing.

We will still continue to make whatever changes needed to improve the school as everyone benefits in the end.

PART-TIME ENGLISH PROGRAM

Learning English step-by-step.

Students learn about W.H. questions, possessive pronouns, possessive adjective pronouns and making questions and answers using "do and does".

Part-time students only have 5 hours of English every week and step-by-step, they are improving on their English. Students have learned how to use; why, what, when, who, which and how. They have also started to use pronouns such as my, mine, your, yours, his, hers and

theirs in their sentences. They were also able to make more sentences after learning to make questions and answers using “do or does.”



Teacher Saron and part time students

Since they part-time students have only 5 hours of English classes a day, all of them have to constantly practice on their own. We are still not satisfied with the progress that our part-time students are making and thus we are looking at ways on how to make them learn faster.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

More effort means more results

New lorry, canvas, generator and sewing machine for SOLS 24/7.

On the 2nd of February, we processed documents in accordance to our MOU for the Free Tax exemption approval for the import of our lorry, generator, sewing machine and other materials bought for the extension of SOLS 24/7's activities in ULMERA, Liquica district. There were many documents that had to be processed to get the Free Tax exemption, and we met many different people in the various ministries. Due to all the hard work, we got our results as we were able to get the free tax exemption for our imported goods.



SOLS 24/7 lorry

On the 28th of February, we finally released our goods from the port. But we were not able to use our vehicle because the customs registration computer system was down. We hope that everything will be processed by the early month of March.

STUDENT AND VOLUNTEER AFFAIRS

Fasting month begins.

Students and teachers start their first fast in Timor Leste.



Dinner

The blessed fasting month has returned and we started fasting on the 2nd of March 2007. The school reduced the number of study and work hours. Extra time was used to reflect on individual's weaknesses and how to improve on them. Some students chose to fast while others took a longer time to get used to fasting. For the early breakfast, food had to be prepared as early as 4am every morning and even though we could not eat in the day, the extra serving of desert every night compensated it.

New co-op store.

A co-op store to give more service to students.



Selling donuts at store

SOLS 24/7 now has a new store selling basic products such as food, toothpaste, soap, pen and notebooks. All of the products have been sold at very minimum price as we are not seeking to make large profits but to give a service to the school. Donuts and biscuits have been the most sellable items and everyone was happy that they could eat a wider variety of food. We have been making humble profits which will go back to support other activities in the school.

ADMINISTRATION

Weekly reports

Teachers adopting new reporting methods

A new reporting method has been adopted to give a clearer and more systematic update on the developments of the school during the week. Teachers have to be responsible for noting down their own development and development of the



Board Meeting

school. Together with the follow-up of the week, the developments are reported during the board meeting.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Monitoring, evaluation and communication skills.

Project to improve on monitoring and evaluation skills, letter-writing and telephone skills.

A two-week communication skills project was started to improve the essential letter-writing and telephone skills. This training has allowed our volunteers and teachers to sharpen their communication skills. An important component of the project was preparation and training in monitoring and evaluation reports. This is essential as the organization needs to have personnels who are equipped with skills to analyse developments of the organisations' work.

A manual was also put together as reference for future training in any of our schools in East Timor, Malaysia and Cambodia.