



Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Newsletter, Issue November 2017

Dear members, dear godparents and supporters,

The year goes by quickly and at our school and the student dormitories there is a lot things going on, but more about this later.

First of all, we would like to thank you for your support in 2017! Thanks to your donations, we were able to financially support around 370 school children from the villages Prek Tamek and Prek Dambang. In addition, we were able to award scholarships to a total of 16 students. A new record! We were most impressed by the speed with which you responded and how quickly all the scholarships were funded. In many cases, sponsors who are already sponsoring schoolchildren had contacted us and told us that they would now also like to help a student. We see this as a great recognition of our work and are very, very grateful for the trust you place in us.

From the children, the students and their families as well as the whole Kidshelp Team a huge thank you for the continued support!

But 2017 is not yet over. Let us now turn to the events of the last two months. So let's come to the story behind this picture:



The photo was taken during a lunch with four students who came to the English school in April and helped the children to create the designs for our Christmas cards. Many of our students have strong ties with their homeland and are happy to take part in such activities. Since going to the school and helping out takes at least half a day out of there already packed schedules, we had invited these students for lunch as a small token of our gratitude.



We think it's just the right time to stock up on our kids' greeting cards! Instructions how to order them can be found on our [homepage](#) and at the end of this newsletter. The entire proceeds will be donated to our local projects.

Visit of the theatre group "The Courageous Turtle"

Behind The Courageous Turtle is a theatre project funded by the German Foreign Office, which was created in cooperation between three Cambodian aid organisations and the Meta House in Phnom Penh.



At the heart of the project is a theatre performance, in which the two actors slip into different roles and play a story to the children, which could take place in every Cambodian village. The piece, or the message behind it, is not only intended to promote the generational dialogue on the subject of "Red Khmer", but also to convey important life lessons in general and to encourage the children to think.

The simple and important message of the play is: "Let's all learn from the mistakes of the past and build a better future together". The children were very impressed by the two truly talented actors and their performance. After the end of the play, the director joined the attendants for a little Q&A session on the whole experience. All in all a great afternoon at the school! Many thanks to Matthias, who initiated the campaign, to Khemara, Tom and everyone else who



was involved organising this. And of course to the whole team of [The Courageous Turtle!](#)

Cinema at the KKS



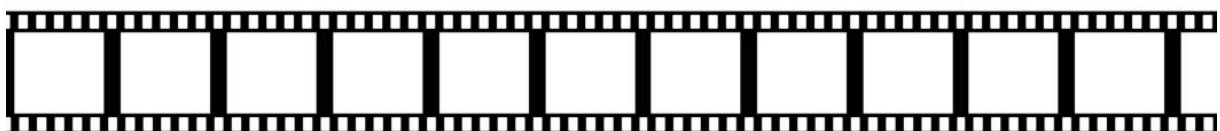
We proudly present

K.K.S.' first

Movie Night

Broadcasting:
"A secret cartoon movie"

Saturday 7th October
3 pm – 6 pm



One of the biggest challenges for Cambodian children is English listening comprehension. Even our students keep coming back to us and asking for ways to improve it. In addition to conversations with our volunteers and other "barangs" (Cambodian for foreigners), we also recommend watching English films and series with subtitles. This way they not only improve their listening comprehension, but can also read and understand the exact spelling of the different words in parallel.

After a conversation with our volunteers on this topic, Matthias and Tom had the idea of introducing a movie night at the English school. As the kids have little time during the week, the event was scheduled for a Saturday afternoon and advertised in the school using mouth-to-mouth propaganda and posters (see above). The big question was whether the children would accept such an offer on the weekend. Many of them have little free time during the week and help out in the household or in the family business on weekends. However, our



concerns proved to be unfounded. On the day of the event, the biggest room in the school was fully packed. Homemade popcorn and an animated film (Toy Story) did the rest. The moviegoers were in a good mood and our volunteers took this opportunity to announce that this movie night will become a monthly affair.

Change of staff at the school



At the beginning of November it was time to say goodbye to Matthias. Anyone who has observed this newsletter, the homepage and Facebook within the six months of his stay at the school will have noticed how much Matthias has achieved together with our other volunteers.

He had a lot of good ideas, he showed great initiative and acquired financial means to revive the guitar lessons he then held himself and also had a very good connection to the children, students and teachers at the school. Exactly how much he will be missed became must have become clear to him during the last weeks with us. In addition to innumerable farewell messages from the students in the form of letters or digital messages, the teachers had organized a joint karaoke evening for him.

He couldn't really let go, either. Matthias is currently on a backpacking journey through Southeast Asia and plans to visit the school again in January for Graduation Day 2018. We hope that he and his guitar class will then also perform some of their greatest hits.

We would like to thank Matthias and wish him all the best for the future!



It went at school as usual, and almost parallel to Matthias's departure Siglinde Müller has already landed in Phnom Penh. Siglinde is our first so-called "Granny" and became aware of our work through the Hamburg-based organisation "Granny AuPair". Granny AuPair places women 50 years or older across the whole world. Originally as au pair in the classical sense of the term, but now also increasingly as volunteers in social projects. They had contacted Kidshelp in the spring of 2017 and asked whether we would be interested in accepting older volunteers.

Just as in the case of Anastasia (our first volunteer, who didn't come from a German-speaking country), we immediately replied that age, nationality or gender play no role in our selection process. On the contrary. If such a collaboration allows us to get volunteers who have several decades of experience in the education sector, we consider this as a very exciting opportunity. This is why we agreed that Granny AuPair can start passing applications to us and that we will treat them in exactly the same way as all other applications we receive.

Siglinde is the first of two "Grannys" who will move into the school one after the other. She is a teacher and has almost 40 years of experience in teaching, developing curricula and producing working materials. Since she was already familiar with the climate and local conditions from previous travels in Southeast Asia, it was very easy for us to give her the ok. She has been at school since the water festival and is already fully involved in the lessons.

Herzlich Willkommen bei Kidshelp, Siglinde!





Anecdotes about country and people - ghosts and Cambodian first names

Many of you have already travelled the region or Cambodia in person or have volunteered at Kidshelp or another local organization. But even for people who have been living here for years, there are many things that are difficult to understand or only become apparent after a while. In our new section "Anecdotes about country and people" we want to explain the different things in irregular intervals.

Let's start with a series of theories on Cambodian first names. Better said, theories about why these change regularly. If you have been supporting a child for years, you may have noticed it already. While the family name always remains the same, the spelling of first names changes from time to time. So far we thought that this is because their English names are translated from the Khmer script and that a "Reaksmey" can also be translated as "Reaksmay" or that a Thim sometimes spells his name Tim and next time again Thim. From time to time it seems as if only a shortened nickname is given instead of the whole first name (e. g. Ranna instead of Rannariddh). Recently, however, we were told that the whole thing could have another reason.

Faith in spirits and ghosts is still widespread in Cambodia and is closely integrated into the culture and belief system. For example, if a restaurant is haunted by an evil spirit, many Cambodians may avoid this place until a priest has been there to conduct a special expulsion ceremony.

If someone personally experiences a lot of misfortune in a short amount of time, this bad luck is often attributed to evil spirits as well. Allegedly, there is a belief that someone who suffers a lot of misfortune, is on some sort of list of evil spirits. The idea behind changing the first name is that this would make it impossible to be found on the "evil spirit list".

Whether this is really true, we cannot say for certain. Over the next few weeks we want to ask various Cambodian colleagues and friends about it. It is a beautiful and interesting story in any case.

More news about Kidshelp and pictures from our recent activities can be found at [Facebook](#) and our [Blog](#).

– Your Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V. Team in Cambodia and Germany –



Please allow us to end this newsletter with a little advertisement:

If you follow us on Facebook, you will have noticed that earlier in the year our children were busy creating their own Christmas designs. These drawings serve as the basis for the very first edition of Kidshelp Christmas Cards, that you can order NOW via info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org. Cards are selling fast so please do not wait too long or you may be disappointed.



Each set contains 12 cards with the different designs you can see on the poster on the next page and comes with matching envelopes. The cost for these sets (including post and package – if ordered to an address in Germany) are:

- 1 Set €12
- 2 Sets €23
- 3 Sets €33
- 4 Sets €43

If you order 5 packs or more we will charge €10 per pack and Kidshelp will cover the cost for post and package. Cards collected from Nanette will also only cost €10 per set. All profits will be used for our projects in Cambodia!
You might also consider ordering cards to sell on to your friends and family.

*Frohe Weihnachten
und ein
Glückliches Neues Jahr*

Der Erlös aus dem
Verkauf der Karten geht an



www.kidshelp-kambodscha.org

Alle Karten wurden von Schülern der Khemara Kidshelp School entworfen.