

Eveline Hotz Gamonez

From: Eveline Hotz Gamonez <family.in.action@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2017 9:56 AM
To: Eveline Hotz Gamonez
Subject: STEPS graduation & organic gardening

Dear friends,

Last week was an exciting week! After many days of preparation we celebrated the graduation of our STEPS preschool students; lots is happening in the garden and we have a volunteer from Germany.

STEPS Preschool Graduation

The 4- and 5-year-old preschoolers were well prepared for their graduation on March 31st, 2017. 22 girls and 10 boys mastered their first step into the school system successfully, and most are well prepared for their next step into kindergarten. Mrs. Regina Sumaylo, the principal of the nearby Elementary School, told us that her school has the best students in Panglao, because of the preparation they get here at the STEPS preschool! What a joy to hear!



Our STEPS students are singing their graduation song



Left to right: Teachers Joy, Ellen, Eveline, Mrs. Regina Sumaylo (Principal of Doljo Elementary school), Sir Johnny Chan (Chairman of Bellevue Resort), Stefan: Each of the children received a graduation certificate and many received medals for good performance



The parents of the STEPS students are making a pledge to continue to give their best to their sons & daughters



Parents also receive a certificate of recognition; they have contributed their part to the success of their children!

Biochar

Manny has recently gotten involved into making biochar. Biochar is charcoal produced from plant matter and stored in the soil as a means of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It is also used as a soil amendment and enhances the soil. Manny has built several Kontiki ovens to burn biomass via pyrolysis into biochar, and is experimenting now the many uses of it. Benedikt from Germany is helping him, and it looks like he might be able to help the community with their waste problem.



Here at the Bellevue Mission garden: Benedikt, Manny and Loloy are making biochar in their new and smaller Kontiki oven.

We thank you for your continued support and interest in the mission work here! May God bless and keep you always,

Manny, Eveline and team