



Kids and Curriculum

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Brigita



Peter



Meli



Sharon



Max

Dear Family and Friends-

Last year I was asked by the Onobasulu to extend my stay in PNG. The literacy team wanted help with the curriculum for the new Elementary schools and I was not ready to leave yet. So I said yes to the task but could never have dreamed how challenging yet fulfilling it would be.

When I took on the task, I promised myself that I would stick to the role of compiler and advisor. I was determined (and still am!) to have the finished product be primarily from the Onobasulu. This is a great goal but it has proved to be one of the biggest blessings and biggest challenges.

It is a blessing because when I look at the teacher's work, I see their worldview, culture and history. The essence of who the Onobasulu are comes through in what the teachers choose as activities. As I have compiled their work, I continue to learn and am impressed with what the teachers are choosing to include. They have taken a generic government syllabus and made it their own. This would have never happened if they had not been so intricately involved in the work.

Yet the most challenging times also happen because the teachers are so intricately involved. There were weeks when I could not continue because we were backed into a corner and the only work that needed to be done, had to be done by the Onobasulu. While this is not necessarily a bad problem, it is nevertheless a very frustrating problem.

But when I was most discouraged, there were always kids nearby to help remind me of my purpose. Ultimately this curriculum is for the kids. Each sweet face and runny nose deserves a chance at a good education. One year of work for me will hopefully turn into education for hundreds of Onobasulu children. It is well worth the frustration.

There has been a lot of work accomplished this year but the work is not complete yet. So these next few months I will be very busy trying to finish up well. There is still a lot of Onobasulu work left to put into the computer, books to be formatted, printed and other projects as well.

On behalf of all the Onobasulu children, thank you for your continued support.

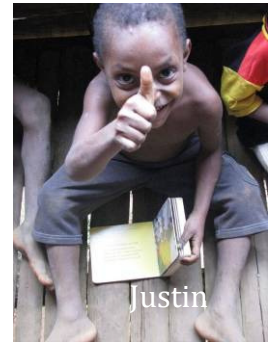
Happily Persevering- *Joy Candee :-)*

Here are some fun facts and cultural insights that I have learned from working with the theme webs and other parts of the curriculum.



Sharon

Nancy



Justin



Andy

Dosale

The Onobasulu have many different food taboos. Most of the them pertain to orphans and children. For example: children should not eat fish and eggs together. And no one should eat fish and mushrooms at the same time. There are various explanations why but the most common reasons are that it will make you sick or cause children not to grow well.



Terinda

The word for zero in Onobasulu is 'hagaiso' which literally means bird egg.



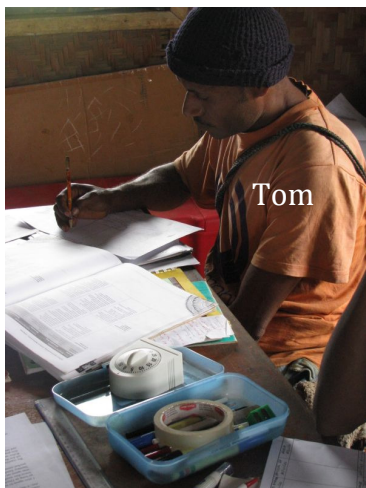
Hauwo

Jeffery

The teachers with me, Hauwo and Jeffery



Maliono



Tom

There are many different cultural stories that have to do with creation and how mountains or lakes began. Stories about a nearby mountain range being a sleeping snake, etc. There are also stories about how the different clans began but those are not to be shared with outsiders.



Liz



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