

Graduation
Ceremony

Dear friends,

The Akrampa School now has two exciting announcements that I'd like to share with everyone who supports our mission here. This article is going to speak about two events that have happened for the FIRST time since the school was established. And something the new head teacher has introduced, to publicize the school and make an impact in the community.

Event #1: This year the FIRST class of children will be graduating from the new Junior High School that is ON our school compound, since the inception of the school in Akrampa, about 18 years ago!

Previously, when the children would complete Grade 6, (at our mission school) they would go out into the main town, to continue their basic education, from Grade 7 through to Grade 9, in the various Junior High Schools in the town. That meant, they had to commute to and from Akrampa daily, a distance of three and a half miles, making a total of seven miles each day. The walk into the town for this continuing education is fraught with many challenges, primarily, the risk of being hit by speeding vehicles, as they walk along the highway. Two school children of Akrampa, have lost their lives with three others sustaining various degrees of injuries, as a result.

We give many thanks to the local education authorities that built a block of classrooms for Junior High School education on the Ak-rampa compound. This year the Junior High School has presented the FIRST group of students graduating from the Junior High School to write the BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION (popularly called BECE) of the Ministry of Education, Ghana.

This examination (the BECE) ended June 8, and the new head teacher and the school administration, with me, have designed the first ever graduation ceremony for them. Seven children were presented for the examination: *three boys and four girls*. The test results/scores, which will be the basis for them to enter Senior High School, will be released in late August, so those who pass and qualify will be admitted into Senior High Schools, which Akrampa does Not presently have.

Event #2: This year we will hold the FIRST 'graduation ceremony' for the children of KINDERGARTEN '2', to prepare them to begin Grade 1, when the new academic year (2017/2018) begins in September of this year. We have a total of seventeen little children: *nine boys and eight girls* - to be processed into Grade 1. The new head teacher has suggested that we do a 'graduation ceremony' for them, and I agreed.

It is Not a common practice to have Kindergarten children in the public school system do this kind of ceremony. But the 'private' schools (as we call them) do, and it's catching on fast, making the ceremonies seem special. There is a private school in the vicinity of the Akrampa village which 'graduates' its Kindergarten children, and it seems to attract parents & children into that school. The Akrampa school children see their friends graduating with gowns and they talk about it. This gave the head teacher the idea to do the same for our school, and I like the idea.

We are going to do the graduation ceremonies for both of these two classes, the Grade 9 pupils who have just written the BECE examinations, and the Kindergarten 2 pupils, on the same day: JULY 26, 2017.

I will write about the graduations fully in the next article, in addition to talking about the social activities such as sports, etc., that the school engages in.

Blessings, Pastor Ben