

Fraternal Relationship Among Community Schools

Dear Friends,

At the end of my May 2023 article, I promised to tell you more about the District Cultural Festival that our Akrampa school participated in recently. This is one major activity that brings the schools together in the Community. On my first visit to Lorain (1993), I was taken to a similar event where schools were brought together to compete in basketball, an event that I still relish. There I saw how the cheerleaders of competing schools also competed among themselves, demonstrating their ability to cheer, with choreography. We don't have cheerleaders, but the *Learners* (as students are now described no matter the level) stand around and do similar things with the beating of drums, slogans and singing to motivate their teams.

Community/District Schools Cultural Festival

This year the schools in the Community came together to participate and compete among themselves in various activities. The theme for this year's event was dubbed: 'The Relevance of Cultural Education To The Ghanaian Economy.'

Under this theme, competition took place in the following disciplines/events:

Choral Music, Dance, Drama in English, Poetry performance, Sewing, Drum Appellation, Sight Reading, Cook Art, Still Life Drawing, **Ampe**, Figure Drawing, Talent Display, Exhibition of Visual Arts & Creative Arts

Ampe is a simple but energy-driven game played by school-age children. It originated from Ghana and is also played in other neighboring countries. It is played by two or more people and requires no equipment. The leader and another player jump up at the same time, clap, and thrust one foot forward when they jump up. If the leader and the other player have the same foot forward, the leader wins a point. If they are different then the other player becomes "it" and plays against the remaining players. If the players are in a circle, the leader moves along the inside of the circle, playing against others in turn. If they are in a line, the leader moves on down the line. If only two players are playing, they keep score until a certain number of points determines a winner. The game has become so popular across parts of Africa, that now large tournaments are held between different countries.

Participating Schools:

The following schools in the enclave/territory participated in the Cultural Festival.

1. Akrampa St. Stephens Basic School - our mission school
2. S S Peter & Paul Anglican Basic School
3. St. Kilian Catholic Basic School
4. St. Mark's Girls Model Junior High School
5. Awutu D/A 'A' Basic
6. Awutu D/A 'B' Basic
7. Awutu A.M.E. Zion Basic
8. Botoku D/V Basic
9. Small London D/V Basic
10. Ahentia D/A Basic
11. Choehoe St. John Basic
12. Darko Yaw Bentum D/A Basic

These twelve schools form a Circuit. The objective of the District Cultural Festival was for the Circuit to choose the best performing schools to represent the Circuit in the *Inter-Circuit Festival* which will be held in July.

**Our mission school, Akrampa St. Stephen Basic School, participated in the following disciplines:

- Dance, -Drama in English, -Poetry Performance, -Sewing, -Figure Drawing, -Still Life Drawing, -Talent Display, -Ampe, -Exhibition of Art Works

Our School (Akrampa St. Stephen Basic) hoped to win the first position in all the disciplines they participated in. Though that wasn't achieved, I am very pleased with our students and I think we did quite well! We finished 1st in two events.

Our Akrampa Students placed in these positions for the competition:

*Figure Drawing - 1st position

*Ampe - 1st position

Drama in English - 2nd position

Poetry Performance - 4th position

Talent Display - 5th position

Exhibition of Art Works - 7th position

For this year's District Cultural Festival, our Akrampa School was chosen as the host venue! The main reason it was chosen is our new Kitchen Building, which provided the perfect environment for the competition of the disciplines of *Sewing* and *Cook Art*. This is one more blessing that the new Kitchen Building has brought to Akrampa.

In addition, our school, the Akrampa St. Stephen Basic School was chosen to represent the whole Circuit in the disciplines of *Ampe and Figure Drawing* in the forthcoming *Inter-Circuit Competition Festival* to be held in July, 2023. The location of this festival has not yet been chosen. But it is a great honor for our Akrampa students to be chosen to compete in this festival in two events. We are all looking forward to it!

Blessings, Pastor Ben