

# CHUMKRIEL LANGUAGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

#### **VOLUNTEERS AND VISITOR**

Dear firstname.

Over the past four months, CLS has been busy putting its best foot forward to numerous visitors and volunteers. Mr Thy was seen regularly speaking with visitors, telling the story of CLS and giving them a personal tour of the facilities and close community environs. The visitors heard about the school through donations, Chumkriel Supporters, Rotary Cairns Northern Beaches, word of mouth and Jasons Tours to name but a few. Everyone who came left impressed and many have committed to return to volunteer or donate funds.





### **CELEBRATIONS**

Many celebrations have been held since our last newsletter. They involved education, teachers, students and, of course, Khmer New Year.

These included the opening of the new school year in November which was a joint event with both Chumkriel government schools. In November, teachers from Angprey School, CLS and other Kampot NGOs came together at Angprey to learn about the Education Department's campaign to promote access to quality and

inclusive education among students with disabilities. December saw the top achieving students from CLS, Evening School and Reading Eggs recognized with certificates. Well done!

In March, Chumkriel primary and secondary students along with students from CLS participated in a reading event. The event was well supported by parents.

And who can forget Khmer New Year! On 2 April, the three schools again combined to receive blessings from the monks of Chumkriel Pagoda. CLS then celebrated family with a lunch for staff, volunteers and visitors. The afternoon was dedicated to entertainment, Khmer games and laughter which culminated in the traditional tug-of-war between boys and girls. And the result? The girls won again!





#### STUDENT'S STORY

There are 68 students in the learning center, divided into two full-time classes and one general class. The students come to school regularly and on time, and their studying has improved. One student, Chet Sreynet, has shown significant improvement in both her studies and behavior. She is 12 years old and is in Grade 5. Sreynet lives with her parents in Chumkriel Village, located in Chumkriel Commune. She was born in Chhouk District, but her family later moved to Kampot for work, residing in a house at the salt field provided by their employer, which makes it convenient for them.

Her parents work at the salt field, and she has two siblings; her younger brother is a kindergarten student. Sreynet began learning at the salt field in 2020 and started studying at the learning center in 2023. She missed school ten times a year, often claiming to be sick with stomach aches, dizziness, or headaches, and would ask to go home. On many occasions, she would sit outside the classroom. The teacher contacted her mother to discuss these issues, and her mother insisted that Sreynet was not actually sick and did not allow her to leave. Sreynet cried many times at school. However, after receiving encouragement from her teacher about the benefits of learning, and after the teacher met with her mother several times, Sreynet began attending school regularly.

Sreynet has become proficient in reading Khmer and, while her English skills were initially lacking at the beginning of the year, she showed remarkable improvement starting in July. She can now read, write, and understand what her teacher says. Last year, she ranked number 14 in her class, but this year she has improved to ranking between 3 and 7. Sreynet attends school regularly and puts in a lot of effort. She enjoys playing with her friends during break time and is always willing to help them when they struggle with reading or understanding lessons.

Sreynet consistently completes her homework and often asks the teacher for help when she encounters difficult words or concepts. At home, she assists her mother with household chores such as cooking rice, washing dishes, and cleaning the house. During her free time, she also helps her parents collect salt. Her mother is very happy and satisfied with the school.

Sreynet says, "Before, I didn't always come to school every day, but since I started coming every day, my learning has improved a lot."





## PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A REGULAR MONTHLY DONOR

Chumkriel Language School is 100% donor funded and has helped to change the lives of thousands of young Cambodians. Would you too like to become a regular giver to our school, for as little as \$10 per month or any amount that you can afford?

Susie from Tasmania, Australia, was introduced to CLS by a friend who had volunteered there. Susie became a regular donor in 2023. "I am very pleased that I became a monthly donor to CLS. It has inspired me to take an active interest in the school and I love seeing the positive impact of my giving in the newsletters I receive and on social media posts. I am very hopeful I may be able to visit the school and meet the students in the years to come."

Your contribution today, will make a difference tomorrow. Please click here to learn more. https://www.chumkrielsupporters.com/donate-now



# **THANK YOU!**

We are so grateful for the support of our donors which enables all of these activities, equipping our children with knowledge so vital to their future lives.

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