



During halftime of a soccer game, the coach reminds all of the students of the importance of teamwork.



ABUKLOI FOUNDATION

FALL NEWSLETTER

DAILY JOYS AND STRUGGLES

Dear Friends of Abukloi,

The School has now completed two academic terms of 2026. Currently, the students are on holiday at the end of term two and will resume studies on September 21st. The school currently has 707 students, 534 boys and 173 girls.

Our joys so far this year are many and the following are outstanding:

- Our students and teachers are in good health and ready for studies every day.
- We have had many co-curricular activities this term, namely; interclass football and volleyball competitions, debate competitions and the spelling bee.
- The local community in Lakes State has continued to take pride in the impact the school has on the youth in terms of discipline and focus for the future.
- The school feeding program has gone on smoothly leading to improvement in students' health and daily school attendance.
- The school clinic has helped many students and teachers in handling health problems that would have affected the school operations.

At the community and national level, the announcement that presidential and parliamentary elections are to take place in December of this year has excited the public. This will be a

great step in the democratization process of South Sudan since her independence. Young people above 18 years are anxious to vote for their leaders.

Despite the joys, there are various struggles and challenges:

- There is a prolonged dry season in south Sudan especially in Lakes State. This has caused death of crops in the gardens and may lead to famine, food shortages and high food prices next year.
- Some of our students continue to cover long distances on foot to and from school. This leads to late coming and tiredness among the students which impacts their learning.
- The female students still face discrimination in education opportunities as compared to male students with forced marriages and early pregnancies. Chances for education are given to males over females at family level.
- Tragedy struck one of our teachers (Mr. Francis Machar) when two of his foster children were struck by lightning and died instantly in the month of August.

Through all of these happy times and hardships we continue thanking God and trusting Him that the future will be better. Together we can do it.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Isaiah Mutalemwa Lutashobya
Principal – Abukloi Secondary School

Update on UniPod

The beginning of September the UniPod Centre, held its first class orientation session and began classes officially on Real-Time Digital Skills Training.

Training Includes:

- Basic Computer Skills
- Data Analysis
- AI Management System
- Advanced Computer Systems

With 14 students enrolled it has made the program self-reliant, providing enough funds to cover pay for the instructors and all of the materials.



Students receiving an introduction to Digital Skills Training class.

Debate Competition Promotes Critical Thinking

An exciting Interclass Debate Competition was held on at the secondary school. The debate event brought together students from different classes to demonstrate their ability to speak confidently, think critically, and express their ideas clearly.

The debate over the use of social media in secondary school was very interesting and attracted a good deal of interest as the audience listened carefully and showed their appreciation for the well-made points with applause.

After all the speakers had presented their arguments, the judges selected by the English Department carefully assessed the teams according to their content, organization, confidence, fluency, relevance, and ability to respond to opposing arguments.

At the end of the competition, Senior Two emerged as the winning class. The best speaker was **Madiak Malai Makuer** (sponsored by the *Williamsburg Sorooptimist Club*) from Senior Four. The second-best speaker was Martin Makur Wade from Senior Two, while the third-best speaker was William Madom Gum.



The winners were awarded with tokens, while certificates/prizes were presented to all the best speakers. The principal and the judges congratulated all the participants for their excellent performance and encouraged them to continue developing their communication and public-speaking skills.



The entire school listens intently to the Debate Competition.

Sports Foster a Sense of Belonging and Trust

Classroom learning is augmented by engaging learners in football and volleyball competitions. These competitive activities build interpersonal skills and promote physical fitness.

Eight teams participated with representation from Senior One to Senior Four. Each team had a student coach responsible for teaching skills, organizing the team, and disciplining the team members. The class teachers came in to guide the coaches, but student coaches and their assistants elected by classmates did the actual coaching.

Senior Two B (S2B) were the winners/champions of the interclass football competitions while Senior One students were the winners/champions of the girls interclass volleyball games. Those students who were identified as the best will represent the school in external competitions that bring players from diverse backgrounds together.

However, it is never just about winning. These games teach life-long skills, create friendships, and relieve stress, anxiety, and depression resulting from trauma.

BEST PARTICIPANTS IN FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

Best Goal Keeper Salam Malok Pat S2B
 Top in Assist Nichodemus Bak Matur S3A
 Best Midfielder Nichodemus Bak Matur S3A
 Best Defender Emmanuel Mawat Mayom S2B
 Best Goal Jacob Bol Mapuor S3B
 Top Scorer John Matur Chol (three goals) S3A
 Best Player Moses Marial Marial S2B
 Best Coach Wilson John Deng S3A (Sponsored by Bill Herman)
 First Goal Scorer Mario Bith Chol S1C
 Last Goal Scorer Moses Marial Marial S2B

BEST PARTICIPANTS IN VOLLEYBALL MATCH

Best Scorer Elizabeth Panda Dut S1A
 Second Best Scorer Rebecca Awel Chol (Sponsored by Covington First) S3A
 Best Setter Magret Achieng Madol S1A
 Best Player Monica Ayen Mapuor S1A
 Best Coach Deng Paul S1



A Memorable Spelling Bee

Intellectual rigor, exceptional focus, and deep appreciation for the nuances of the English language took center stage at this year's Spelling Bee. The competition brought together students from different classes to test their spelling abilities, vocabulary, confidence, and general knowledge.

The competition began with an introductory round in which participants were given simple words to spell. As the competition progressed, the words became more challenging. It became very exciting as some students managed to spell more difficult words correctly, while others were eliminated. The audience encouraged

the participants with loud cheers and applause throughout the competition.

In an unexpected turn of events, the Senior One C cohort demonstrated remarkable academic excellence, defying expectation to claim the first place against the upper classmen. The final rounds saw intense cognitive pressure, but Senior One C representative Gabriel Deng Malual

maintained exceptional composure and won spelling the word **conscientiousness**. The second place speller was Daniel Malual Mangar, with Martha Akolde William taking third place, both from Senior Four A.



Sustaining Students During the Drought

South Sudan constantly experiences a level 3 food emergency, which is characterized as chronic malnutrition. With drought conditions increasing, many areas of the country are now at a level 4. People can only survive with emergency aid from outside resources and many families are facing impossible choices. Failed harvests, rising food prices, and limited employment opportunities have left households struggling to provide even the most basic necessities. For families under financial strain, the knowledge that their



Drought has devastated the sorghum crop in Rumbek.

children will receive a meal at school eases some of the burden on already stretched household budgets.

The daily feeding program at Abukloi Secondary School has become a lifeline. Every school day, the school serves over 700 meals to students and staff at a cost of 15 cents per meal. Providing reliable nourishment in a community where food insecurity is an ever-present reality is vital.

The meal Abukloi provides at school is likely to be their only one each day.



The impact of this program extends far beyond this one meal. The nutrition provided helps students stay focused in class, improves attendance, and gives young people the energy they need to learn and succeed. In a region where hunger can often stand in the way of education, each meal represents an opportunity.

Want to donate? Want to become a partner?

We are grateful to all the individuals, businesses, churches, and other NGOs that have supported our efforts over the years.

If you or your organization would like to learn more about investing in Abukloi programs and projects, please contact Mary@Abukloi.org or Beth@Abukloi.org.

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