

Hello to you all!

I have returned to my beloved Sikkim again after having been away for almost 6 months. It is difficult to describe how special, familiar and wonderful it is, time and time again to return to this unique little spot on our globe.

It has rained heavily over the last months and the jungle therefore seems even more abundantly green than it usually already is! The normal entry way into Sikkim has been blocked for a couple of weeks already due to a big landslide. That is why I have to make quite a big detour to get there with an extra overnight stay in Darjeeling. And also on these other mountain roads the earth lies high at places or trees have fallen over the road. It can be quite risky at times to travel during the monsoon.

Anyway, I arrive well and safe in the school and the scene on this Saturday afternoon is very familiar: playing children, children having a bath, clothes being washed, teachers who are supervising, knitting or listening to music. All together a very homely scene.

“Hello miss!”, “Good afternoon miss!” does it sound from different directions and some bigger children come running down to the road to help carry my bags. It is always such a warm and enthusiastic welcome home!

During the monsoon the days can be very grey, cloudy, dark and wet on an end...but it seems with all these joyful children in the school the sun is always shining! There is so much warmth and light!

It is nice to see all the progress the children have made on several levels over the last months. They speak more English, some show “new talents” in for example singing or dancing, they have more understanding of the several subjects etc. It is fantastic to witness all these developments.

Not even a week after my return there is a small cultural program with performances of traditional songs and dances on the occasion of a parents meeting in the school. The children take the opportunity to thank someone in their opening speech, read by Chezang....

“Dear Miss Hedwig, I on behalf of the staff and students of our very own Sikkim Himalayan Academy would like to recall the past 3,5 years which seems only like yesterday. You along with others started with nothing but a dream to help the very poor people of Sikkim. It is no mean achievement that we have come thus far. As one of the first to be accepted here I can proudly say that I have been extremely fortunate. I hope I can make it in life to continue this chain of helping others. You put in such a lot to enable this school to survive and we appreciate all that you are doing. Even if we do not say thank you every time please know that not a day passes when we do not think of you.....It is good to have you back and look forward to enjoying your presence. Thank you for all that you are doing and through you the others who are helping. To celebrate this occasion we will begin with a group song called: “Clementine”.....”



As always everyone and everything looks so colorful and beautiful in their traditional dresses and nice make-up. Even the 5-year old girls dance a Nepali dance! It is so

Zoals altijd ziet het spektakel er weer kleurrijk uit met prachtig opgemaakte gezichtjes en vrolijke kleding in diverse traditionele drachten. Zelfs de 5-jarige meisjes dansen een Nepalese dans.....het is aandoenlijk om die jonge, zeer serieuze gezichtjes te zien!





Lots of joyful and warmth greetings from us all! Hedwig