

# The big celebration

*Written by Mai-Linh Huyn & Faye Reichenheim (volunteers)*

On Monday there was a lot to celebrate! We had to say ‘Goodbye!’ to the second group of Chinese exchange students who spent 10 days at School for Life to get an insight into Thai culture and to improve their Thai language skills. In exchange 13 students of School for Life will spend 6 weeks on the Thai campus of *Today International Academy China* in San Sai, Thailand. These students will be part of an intensive English training program and improve their own skills.

Monday wasn’t only a farewell day but also we welcomed the five new volunteers of the WorkCamp and we celebrated the birthdays of the kids who were born in February. The Family Houses, the Chinese kids and the volunteers prepared each dishes to bring them to the event. The German volunteers baked marble cake for everyone. The Chinese students told us that they learned cooking in school and how to make a bonfire. They decided to prepare some delicious meals over a fire that they made all by themselves. Over the fire they cooked some fried rice with egg and vegetables, self-made typical Chinese dumplings filled with meat and cabbage and in garlic fried mashed potato. The Family Houses of School for Life prepared a huge bowl of tasty sticky rice with corn, cut tons of fruits for everyone and also boiled some dumplings filled with pork. On the side French fries and the typical Thai pork balls were served. Everybody came together in the cafeteria and joined the big buffet of the three different nations: the Thais, the Chinese and the German volunteers. After lunch Khun Siriporn (principal) and the School for Life students said goodbye to the students and the Chinese students thanked School for Life for the wonderful time that they had here. Afterwards, Khun Siriporn announced the arrival of the WorkCamp girls from Germany who will develop a 3 week project with a group of kids who have concentration issues. These five German girls are 19 – 26 years old and will help the students individually and focus on the improvement especially in English. Amira, Hannah, Luisa, Viona and Leonie are highly motivated to work with the kids until the school semester is over.

The celebration went on with the birthday children of February. The whole school sang for them a loud ‘Happy Birthday!’. A huge birthday cake with many candles was brought to the front and the kids blew them out to make a wish. The birthday kids got presents and every child got a piece of the tasty birthday cake. During the buffet the teachers sang songs and played guitar and after all the children had lunch the Karaoke contest started! At first the kids were shy to sing in front of everyone but after the Chinese kids sang the first song the others were cheering up and



wanted to sing songs after songs. It was a lovely atmosphere and everyone was singing along even the smallest kids from the kindergarten.

It was a beautiful celebration and everyone had a good time! Delicious food, a lot of music and many laughs – what else do you need for a fun afternoon? We especially want to thank the Chinese group who we hope had a time full of learning about the Thai culture and about School for Life. Many new friendships were made and we and of course the children hope to see them soon again! Furthermore, we are happy to welcome the WorkCamp who will help the students and we are excited to work as a team!











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