

While travelling in Madagascar for almost 1 month in 2016 I felt the wish of wanting to volunteer. Unfortunately it took quite a while until I was able to realize my wish. But on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 I started my first day as a volunteer at the Milele Education Centre. This time from a new and personal perspective and not as a member from Forever Kids Kenya as before.

Even though lacking a teaching background, I still wanted to do something meaningful for the school. Nadja and Mark have made some suggestions on how to involve me in the time table and so I had the chance to participate in all the classes. I was given the task to lead the "creative arts" lessons and I was also able to prove my French with some of the classes. My assistance during the sports and swimming lessons was also appreciated. Additionally I even had the chance of helping out with administrative works on my first day, for example the official registration of the class 8 students, who would do their final national exams by the end of this year. As a member of Forever Kids Kenya I was eager to get an overview of how the school is running and this was fulfilled, as I was involved in the daily time table of the students as well as some administrative works from the office of Nadja and Mark.

Working with the students has left positive feelings in me. Every creative art lesson was a highlight. Entering the class room for the first time, I was positive surprised as I never saw so many smiling faces at once. Before my first lesson I was a bit skeptical because I thought the children might find it boring to do something like folding paper into boats. But my concerns passed quickly. I noticed that the children were very happy about my presence alone. Astonishingly I have taught them something that they haven't done before. And they made me feel happy about teaching them something new. After my creative art lesson it seems like everyone was injected with the paper folding virus.

During my short stay I was able to learn a lot about Kenya and their culture. The mutual interest and the incredible warmth which I experienced in a very short time just made me feel overwhelmed. I will never forget the long lasting memories, the interesting conversations and on top of that all the smiling faces of the children. On my last day in school the children sang and performed for me, which was their way of showing their appreciation. They told me that I shall never forget them. The two intensive weeks at the Milele Education Centre passed by so quickly. I packed all the wonderful memories and unforgettable moments in my backpack and went back with it to Switzerland. It really was an unforgettable time and an educational experience. For me one thing is clear. I will come back again and I'm already thinking how I can contribute to the school's benefit for the next time.

