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# VLSSS

*founded in 2012*

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Kiwanis Club of Port Vila

## Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School's Quarterly Newsletter



### May 2018 – Edition 7

Welcome to the seventh edition of Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School's quarterly newsletter!

The last few months have been a busy period for the organisation, with the new committee hitting the ground running and making great progress. Applications to join the team of teachers at the next summer school have now closed, there's a new project underway and an application has been submitted for Charitable Association status to name but a few of the happenings of the last few months. Read on to find out more of those activities, and many more....

#### The Library Project

930 boxes, yes that's right, what is two shipping containers full of library books, will be heading to schools on Pentecost as part of our new Library Project. This has been possible thanks to the support of the Kiwanis Club of Port Vila, read on to find out more....

Turn to  
page....

3

8

4

#### Charitable Association

A new constitution and an application to become a registered Charitable Association, big steps really are being taken to take the organisation to the next level. Check out what has been happening, and don't forget to put 16<sup>th</sup> Match in your diary too....

#### Paradise Place

'Bwatnapni is a paradise place of summer school', those are the words of Tom Bule when thinking of his great time at VLSSS earlier this year. The summer school is hosted at Bwatnapni Primary & Junior Secondary School each year, hear what Tom and others loved about it....

Want to join the VLSSS quarterly newsletter mailing list? Just contact us at: [reachVLSSS@gmail.com](mailto:reachVLSSS@gmail.com)

## Director's Column



Halo Olgeta! Greetings from Port Vila,

I hope you are still as energised and excited as we are! Time seems to be elapsing very fast and it is crazy to think we are almost approaching the middle of 2018! In just a blink of an eye, VLSSS businesses for the first five months of the year have turned out to be very promising. It has indeed been a period of positive developments and good progress for our organisation.

The organisation has further strengthened its roots and extended its branches. We've had nine successful committee meetings since the month of February, with big discussions around further growth of the organisation, new project initiations and active preparations for the upcoming summer school in November/December 2018.

At present we are working very hard on improving our senior curriculum. These include developments in the faculties of Science, Arts and Commerce. With our aim of including a Senior Francophone Program for the first time, it will be a challenge for the team to be able to finalise the curriculum in both languages (English and French) prior to the commencing date of the upcoming summer school, but we are working hard to make this possible. Having drafted our 3 and 10-year plans combined with our passion and determination to realise these dreams, we are confident that a bright future is ahead of us!

Our Library Project is well underway, with around 930 cartons of library books to be shipped to Pentecost in June. Each primary school will be receiving approximately 30/31 boxes, with the secondary schools receiving a massive 69/70 boxes of books each! We believe our partner schools will greatly benefited from these library books and our wish is to see many students across Pentecost making use of these reading books. VLSSS really appreciates its partner organisations Kiwanis Club of Port Vila, as well

as the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV) in this project.

Following our Evaluation & Planning Workshops, we have no doubts that the next summer school will bring many successive stories for us to share! The applications for teachers have already closed and application forms are currently being processed to shortlist applicants for interview. With a good number of applicants received, the selection process this year will be very competitive.

Please enjoy the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter, and stay tuned to get further updates. I wish you all an inspiring journey in the coming months of 2018.

Jayford Sarial

Director

Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School

## Teacher Recruitment

As mentioned by our Director above, applications to join the team of teachers at the next summer school in November/December 2018 closed on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June. We hope that a strong contingent of the team from the last summer school will be back again this time around, and judging by applications, that will be the case. With an expanding team, there is plenty of opportunity for new faces though, and we have seen another great response to our call for applications again this year. We advertised at many institutions throughout Vanuatu, including schools, the University of the South Pacific (USP), Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education (VITE), Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and Computer & Network Services (CNS) to name a few, as well as seeking volunteers overseas.

We are currently reviewing all of the applications that we have received, and will be contacting shortlisted applicants once that process is complete for interviews. One things we can say already, is that it is sure to be another very strong and unique team again at the end of the year. We pride ourselves on the diverse team that we recruit each year, with teachers of very different backgrounds and experiences. We believe this variety really adds to what our students get out of the program, with such a range of skills sets and characters to learn from, not to mention the exchange of skills and experiences that goes on within the team itself. Exciting times are ahead!

## The Library Project

We've recently received funding for and kicked off the Library Project, with the anticipated project outcome 'to improve school library facilities and management at Anglophone schools on Pentecost'. This project is funded by the Kiwanis Club of Port Vila to a total of 598,3000VUV, and is expected to run from March to September 2018.

In the past couple of years we have been extremely fortunate to have built up a stock of good reading books for our students at VLSSS, although we do still have a significant gap in French language reading books, and so the resources for our Francophone students do lag behind those of their Anglophone friends. When we heard of a couple of containers of reading books, donated by Kiwanis Clubs in New Zealand, we submitted a proposal to the Kiwanis Club of Port Vila to distribute these across every Anglophone school on Pentecost. It seemed a great opportunity to support our partner schools with their own libraries, all starved of literature.

Following our successful proposal, a total of 930 boxes of reading books were sorted and packaged by a team of volunteers in Port Vila ready to be shipped to Pentecost. This was no light task and was performed by a team of 10-15 volunteers across a few weekends. The volunteers were a mixture of students from Tebakor College, Malapoa College and the University of the South Pacific, supported by our committee. The books are now ready to be shipped to Pentecost in the coming weeks.

Not only will the schools receive the reading books, but we will be contracting a Library Advisor who will run a series of workshops on library establishment and management with teachers from the recipient schools. They will be trained on how to properly set-up their libraries with their new books, and will receive the appropriate materials to categorise and label them all. This will ensure that not only will the schools receive the resources they need, but will be able to make proper use of them, to the benefit of all of their students and teachers! The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV) is supporting with training materials from their own library management workshops, for which we are very grateful.

We've established a sub-committee to manage this project, led by our Director Jayford Sarial and supported by our Academic Manager Audrey Tamtam and Management Advisor James David Roberts. They've hit the ground running and we expect the books to make it to Pentecost during the month of June, if the logistics of shipping go as planned.

## Kiwanis Charity Golf Day

To support the funding of the Library Project, the Kiwanis Club of Port Vila decided that their annual golf day this year would have Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School as its beneficiary, with all proceeds going towards the project. On 1<sup>st</sup> May, the public holiday Labour Day in Vanuatu, the golf day went ahead and was a great success. There was an entry fee, raffle and a sausage sizzle to bring in the proceeds, with the event hosted at Port Vila Golf & Country Club. There was a total of 57 golfers that formed 19 different teams. Perhaps the biggest surprise of the day was that Management Advisor James David Roberts was in the winning team despite not having played golf in over 10 years! Kiwanis Club of Port Vila President Maxwell Macgill and Daniel Mansale made up the three man team.



*Above left: Volunteers working hard to sort and package the library books.  
Above middle: Volunteers receiving their certificates for supporting with the project.  
Above right: Management Advisor James David Roberts on the golf course!*



## VLSSS is the Best

*Emily Lingkon was a senior student at the most recent summer school in January 2018. She attended the first ever program back in January 2013 when year 5 students were part of the student selection, and again the following year as a year 6 for what is now our junior program. Here's what she has to say about VLSSS....*



As one of the students at Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School (VLSSS) I really enjoy my time here at VLSSS and also very happy to be selected to attend the VLSSS course. While spending my time here it is very exciting, I meet lots of new friends and learn lots of things which I had never had them before.

We do lots of things together for example in drama is one of my interesting activities that I really enjoy watching it. So for my personal experience it helps me a lot with my skills. Firstly it makes me feel confident to stand in front of many people and do a presentation. Usually, standing in front of people and do a presentation was one of the hardest things I have ever done but with the help of the teachers at VLSSS I can able to do it.

The activities here at VLSSS are really good and it is fun doing it as they are very interesting. VLSSS is a very brilliant school as we do lots of imaginary thinking which is very exciting and very funny. So as for my favourite subject, I prefer general studies the most as my interest is in nature and I like learning things about the world and what is happening around the world. Being here is a chance that I don't want to miss out anything as it helps me think widely on things.

Also at VLSSS we learn how to speak in French so as an English speaker I am fortunate to learn or to have a conversation in French.

About the meals, the cooks make delicious meals and it tastes really good. So everything here is just perfect and lastly I would like to state clearly that: Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School is the best!!!

## Paradise Place

*Tom Bule joined the junior program this year. Tom is from Ranwas in South-East Pentecost. Like most of the students, he arrived in Bwatnapni shy, but left with a newfound self-confidence and lots of new friends....*



I felt shy when we arrived at Bwatnapni. A few days later I felt as if a big bag of copra has been lifted off my back. The shyness left me. I had some new friends that time until now I have some more new friends. I was very happy to have some new friends. Our (former) Director is Mr James from England, in the far-away countries.

I enjoyed playing football with some of my new friends. I enjoyed swimming in the sea and in the river. I enjoyed eating in the dinning hall and I enjoyed playing with my new friends. I enjoyed having fun with my new friends at Bwatnapni. Bwatnapni is a paradise place of summer school.

## Postman

Our Management Advisor James David Roberts visited Pentecost in late April. Whilst the visit was mostly social, it was a good opportunity to touch base with our partners, including the principals of our host schools Bwatnapni Primary School Mr Balmasen Hyalinth and Bwatnapni Junior Secondary School Mr Jim Tabi. Whilst there, our Management Advisor also played postman, delivering our annual report and newsletter to our partner schools and supporters!



## Funding

### British Friends of Vanuatu – VLSSS 2018/19 Sponsorship

British Friends of Vanuatu (BFoV) have been a sponsor of the summer school program for many years now, and their support has been essential. Without it, we would have failed to meet our costs the last few years, which would have meant an inevitable scaling back in our activities. Thankfully, with their support, we have been able to go from strength to strength.

With that in mind, we are very glad to announce that following a recent meeting of their committee and trustees, they have confirmed their commitment to supporting the program for the next summer school, with a contribution of a huge 450,000VUV! This is their largest contribution to the program to date, and the largest donation we have ever received to the summer school (except that towards the Library Project, see page 3). With our anticipated expenses for the year currently standing at 5,295,053VUV, twice that of last year, this support is as critical as ever.

BFoV Chairman Gordon Dickinson and wife Pat recently visited Vanuatu in March this year and had the opportunity to meet with our committee for the first time. Director Jayford Sarial shared words of thanks on behalf of the organisation and it was a great opportunity to not only talk of what we are up to at present and what is in the pipeline, but to get to know each other on a more personal level given our strong partnership. A massive thank you to British Friends of Vanuatu for your continued support.



*Above left: BFoV Chairman Gordon Dickinson and wife Pat meet our committee.*

*Above right: Our committee attends a social function hosted by BFoV for their in-country networks during their visit.*

### Fundraising

On 12<sup>th</sup> May we held our first ever fundraising in Port Vila to support the program, with a sale of kakae (food) and kava in the Ohlen area of the capital. Our Local Teacher Program Manager Hancy Tabi was in charge of the event, supported by Director Jayford Sarial and other committee members. On the night 40,240VUV was raised towards this year's budget, with a good turnout of support. We hope this won't be the last of our fundraisers this year as we aim to meet our large anticipated expenses for this year to allow the biggest and best summer school yet to go ahead at the end of the year.

We'd like to extend a massive thank you to Richard Tabi and Korine Molkis, our Management Advisor James David Roberts' adopted parents on Pentecost, for their support of contributing kava and taro for the event to be the success that it was. Also making a big contribution was Ephraim Bule and David Tanol for allowing the use of their yard in Ohlen to host the fundraiser. Of course, last but by no means least, those who came to support by eating the good fresh produce and drinking kava, you're amazing!

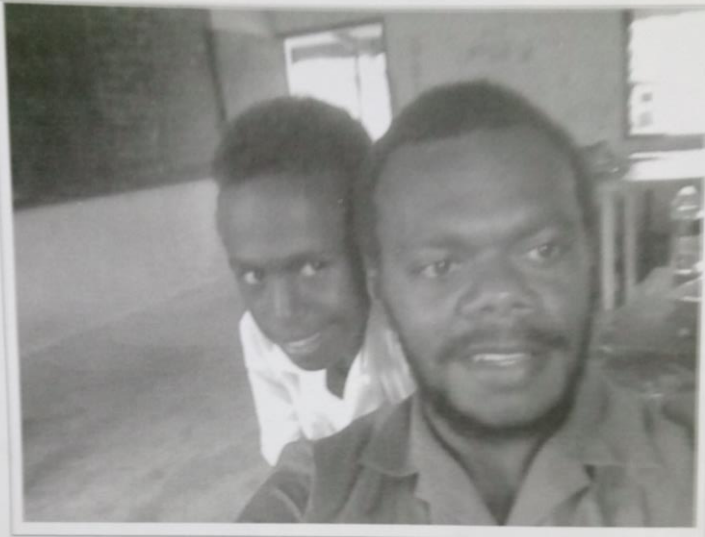
### Catholic Women's League

Just before going to press, Management Advisor James David Roberts met with the Hoon Hay, Halswel and Addington branches of the Catholic Women's League, including Jenny Muschamp and Jacqui Ibell among many others, to discuss VLSSS, and also kiwi Linda Cory, who have all supported our Sponsor-A-Star program in recent years. It was really great to meet you all in person, we are so grateful for your continued support!

## A Day in My Life at Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School

We have two more photo diaries to share with you this time around (see page 10 for the second one). First up is Branden, who was the Assistant Head Boy in the Junior Francophone stream, and loved his teachers so much he made sure to get plenty of snaps of them! You will notice that despite being a French speaking student, he has also given English a go here too, great effort Branden! We hope that you enjoy VLSSS through Branden's eyes....

**Name:** Branden Bule



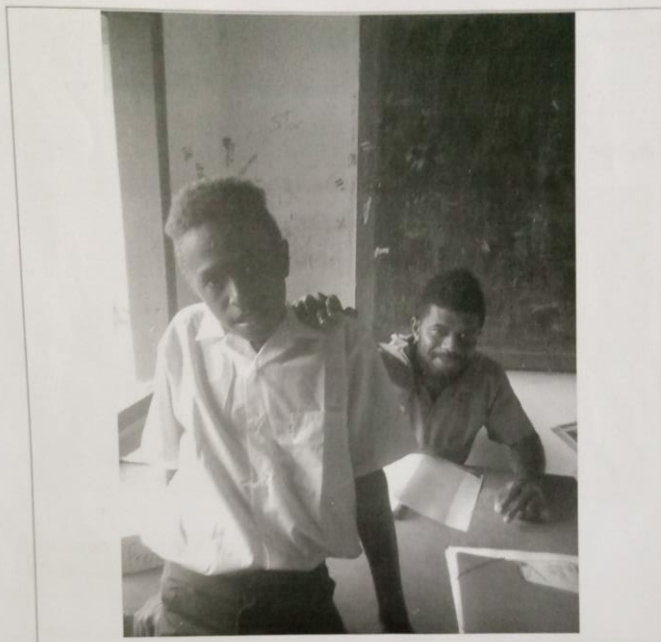
This is a photo of me and my teacher his name is Morris.

I chose it because I love him



This is a photo of my three teachers; Miss Cindy, Miss Danielle and Miss Elvira.

I chose it because I enjoy studying with them during in classroom and they are very friendly and caring.



This is a photo of me and my <sup>teacher</sup> teacher his name is Glen.

I chose it because I love my teacher and this is my teacher in Francophone school.



This is a photo of me and mister James.

I chose it because I like mister James and this is the teacher of anglophone school.



## Une Bonne Expérience Pour Moi

*Time to dust off your French again! M. Glen Molvido joined the team of teachers for the first time this year, here's what he had to say about VLSSS....*



Salut, je suis Glen Molvido de la première année master en science économique et sociale à l'AUF. Cette année 2018, j'ai participé au VLSSS pour enseigner le Français.

VLSSS au Vanuatu est unique qu'en Pentecôte dont les Anglophone et les Francophones viennent pour étudier ensemble. Donc on a une vision de fonder des leaders dynamiques pour la future.

Pour mon expérience, le directeur du summer school, monsieur James a bien eu cette idée pour mettre en place ce system.

C'est une bonne expérience pour moi, en rencontrant différent enseignant. Sachant qu'il y a plusieurs enseignants sort des universités donc c'est un vrai moment de rencontre pour moi.

Jamais de ma vie je ne jouais le rôle de l'enseignant donc je suis très content de mon expérience en tant qu'enseignant en trois semaines. Je suis aussi content car j'aurai une référence afin de compléter mon curriculum vitae.

Personnellement et je suis sûr que même les autres collègues diront que ce moment à summer school est très essentiel pour le développement de notre pays.

Il faut dire que summer school prouve l'unité entre les Anglophones et les Francophones dont c'est la base, le fondement même qu'on est en train de semer au VLSSS.

Comme l'a dit le grand économiste Vile Fredo de Pareto << dans n'importe quel aspect de la vie, il faut toujours trouver le point optimum >>. C'est-à-dire on doit toujours chercher à équilibrer les choses en tout aspect de la vie. Donc les Anglophones et les Francophones doivent travailler ensemble.

## Shine Bright Like Our Stars

*Next up is Miss Marie-Teres Malangos. It was also her first year at VLSSS, and her family set a new record too!*

*With her brother Wilkins (junior) and her sister Annies (senior), it was our first time to have siblings as a teacher, senior student and junior student! There are some very proud parents on Pentecost....*



Hello everyone!

Welcome to Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School (VLSSS) for 2018! I'm so fortunate to be part of the fantastic summer school offered at Bwatnapni this year. It's been my first ever work experience as a teacher within this two and a half weeks of time. We really enjoyed our time here with students, staff and community members in Bwatnapni.

Teaching is one of the most fantastic job where I first enjoyed here with the kids from VLSSS. We really appreciate the way activities are being carried out by all of us at VLSSS, both academically and socially. It's been an exciting moment where students and teachers enjoyed learning in classrooms, sport activities, drama practices and drama nights every Wednesday and Saturday night. Students also enjoy bilingual learning here at VLSSS.

From this VLSSS training I experience most of new things here, mostly confidence building and leadership skills both by students and myself. One of the skills I identified from the summer school is what encourages them to become more eager in learning was giving them start points. Praising students also encourages them to work hard and maintain their potential learning. What I hoped for from this experience teaching that will help me a lot is especially improving the confidence skills, ideas and exploring new skills of teaching that I can utilise in the near future.

Our hope for students attending VLSSS is to shine bright like our stars to widen the skills gained here for a better Vanuatu in the future.

## Charitable Association

In the last few weeks Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School (VLSSS) has submitted an application to register as a Charitable Association in Vanuatu. As we continue to further formalise what we do and how we operate, this is a natural step.

Our committee has set about meeting the various criteria over the past few months to make this possible. Most of what is required are things that we already do, for example, producing an annual report. Our main task has been to draft a constitution. Whilst we didn't already have a written constitution, we already have different processes and procedures that we follow within the organization. This meant that drafting our constitution was basically a case of bringing this all together and putting it in writing, in a suitable language and format.

We were fortunate to be able to meet with lawyer John Steven Huri from North Pentecost, who offered to review our application before we submitted, and once we were all happy, put in the application. As this newsletter is sent out, we are awaiting a positive response from the Vanuatu Financial Service Commission (VFSC), and hope to be able to bring positive news soon.



*Above: Our Director Jayford Sarial and Management Advisor James David Roberts meet with lawyer John Steven Huri (the beautiful sunset in the background making the figures a little dark!).*

## Constitution Day

Our constitution was signed by all of our committee members on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018, and it was decided by the committee that this date each year will now be the VLSSS Constitution Day. This will be an opportunity for a social gathering of summer school teachers, students and friends each year to celebrate the program. What a great day to commemorate!

## Anthem

We might now have our own constitution, but just as excitingly, we also recently developed a VLSSS anthem! We shared ideas with Michael Tevial and Charles Tabi (both parents to summer school graduates), and with the support of their families, our anthem was born, and was presented for the first time at graduation day at the end of VLSSS 2018.

Here it is, and if you want to check out the chorus, visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IPvr40RmaE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IPvr40RmaE)

### Verse 1

VL triple S was founded in 2012,  
On Pentecost Island,  
Gathering junior and senior students from Vanuatu,  
With local teachers and overseas volunteers,  
A unique learning experience for us all,  
We are an inspired teaching team,  
And highly motivated students with great potential,  
Shaping leaders for a brighter tomorrow.

### Chorus

Oh summer school, the school we love,  
Our horizons will be expanded through your teachings,  
We will develop the islands of Vanuatu,  
Stars shining bright for everyone to see,  
VL triple S it's our Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School.

### Verse 2

We enjoy speaking French and English every day,  
And sharing our dramas at night,  
With lots of clapping, smiles and laughter,  
We join to learn respect and healthy living,  
Oh bright students from north, east, south and west,  
Vanuatu is proud of you,  
Caring for our environment, sustaining our green islands,  
For the future of our country Vanuatu.

### Verse 3

Vanuatu is excited for a greater tomorrow,  
A bright future for us all,  
Developing good character and positive values,  
And encouraging each other with star points,  
We'd like to thank our friends and families,  
For your guidance and kindness,  
Vanuatu is our home and untouched paradise,  
You will shine bright like our little stars.



## Progress Pikinini Donation

We recently met with Progress Pikinini Director Tracey Farnsworth and Local Program Manager Melanie Garae to discuss both of our organisations, and any potential ways we could support each other in the future.

Soon after this positive meeting, Progress Pikinini had a container of goods arrive in country which were distributed to various schools. They kindly donated a set of 21 refurbished laptops to VLSSS. These were requested to support the re-establishment of our computing program at the summer school. In our first couple of years we ran introductory computing classes at the summer school, which the students absolutely loved! Unfortunately, as the program has grown, we just didn't have the resources in terms of a decent quantity of laptops to continue this.

Our committee had already decided to reintroduce this program at the next summer school, as well as introducing introductory Development Studies, Geography, History and Accounting & Economics amongst other topics. This donation has solved our problem on lack of equipment. As well as the laptops, Progress Pikinini donated some other useful items too, including brand new reading books!



*Top: VLSSS Director Jayford Sarial and Management Advisor James David Roberts meet with Progress Pikinini Director Tracey Farnsworth and Local Program Manager Melanie Garae.*

*Bottom: A truckload of goods are handed over to VLSSS by Progress Pikinini.*

## Evaluation & Planning Workshops

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March we held our first ever Evaluation Workshop. This two-part workshop was to reflect on our past 12 months, and particularly the most recent summer school. It involved all of committee members, but took into account feedback from our key stakeholders, our students and teachers. We collated the information from their feedback forms that they completed at the end of the program, one of our monitoring mechanisms, and collectively analysed what we found.

This then informed the Planning Workshop that we held a couple of weeks later on 28<sup>th</sup> March. We used this feedback to set short, medium and long terms goals, with this in turn informing our 12-month calendar for 2018/19 (short term), our three-year plan (medium term) and our ten-year plan (long term).

These workshops were facilitated by our Monitoring & Evaluation Officer Claire Ibell. These workshops will be annual events to support further improving the summer school program and organisation as a whole as we move forward.



*Above: Evaluation workshop facilitated by Monitoring & Evaluation Officer Claire Ibell.*

## Happy Birthday

Since our last edition we have celebrated some very important birthday! Our Deputy Director Graham Hinge turned 25 on Lini Day, 21<sup>st</sup> February, as did our Academic Manager Audrey Tamtam on 16<sup>th</sup> April. The youngest member of our committee, Sabrina Tabi, turned just 16 on 15<sup>th</sup> May! We are all extremely proud of everything that the three of you are achieving, and the inspirational young men and women that you have become. We wish you many years of happiness and success ahead! Happy birthday all!

## A Day in My Life at Vanuatu's Little Stars Summer School

To finish up this quarter's edition, here is your second photo diary from VLSSS 2018. You've already heard from Branden, the Assistant Head Boy for the Junior Francophone stream, well here is Julie-Marie, his classmate and colleague, the Assistant Head Girl for the French students. They both did a great job in leading their class. Here's a look into a day in the life of VLSSS for Julie-Marie, who liked taking snaps of lots of her new friends at the school....

**Name:** Julie-Marie Taviri



This is a photo of C'est la photo de Angeline.

I chose it because j'ai pris ma photo parce que je l'aime



This is a photo of C'est la photo de marie-Rose.

I chose it because j'ai pris sa photo parce que c'est mon amie préférée



This is a photo of C'est la photo de Jenny Tasal

I chose it because j'ai pris sa photo parce qu'elle est jolie



This is a photo of C'est la photo de mon amie préférée qui s'appelle Catherine.

I chose it because j'ai pris sa photo parce que je l'aime