

## Not flawless but perfect

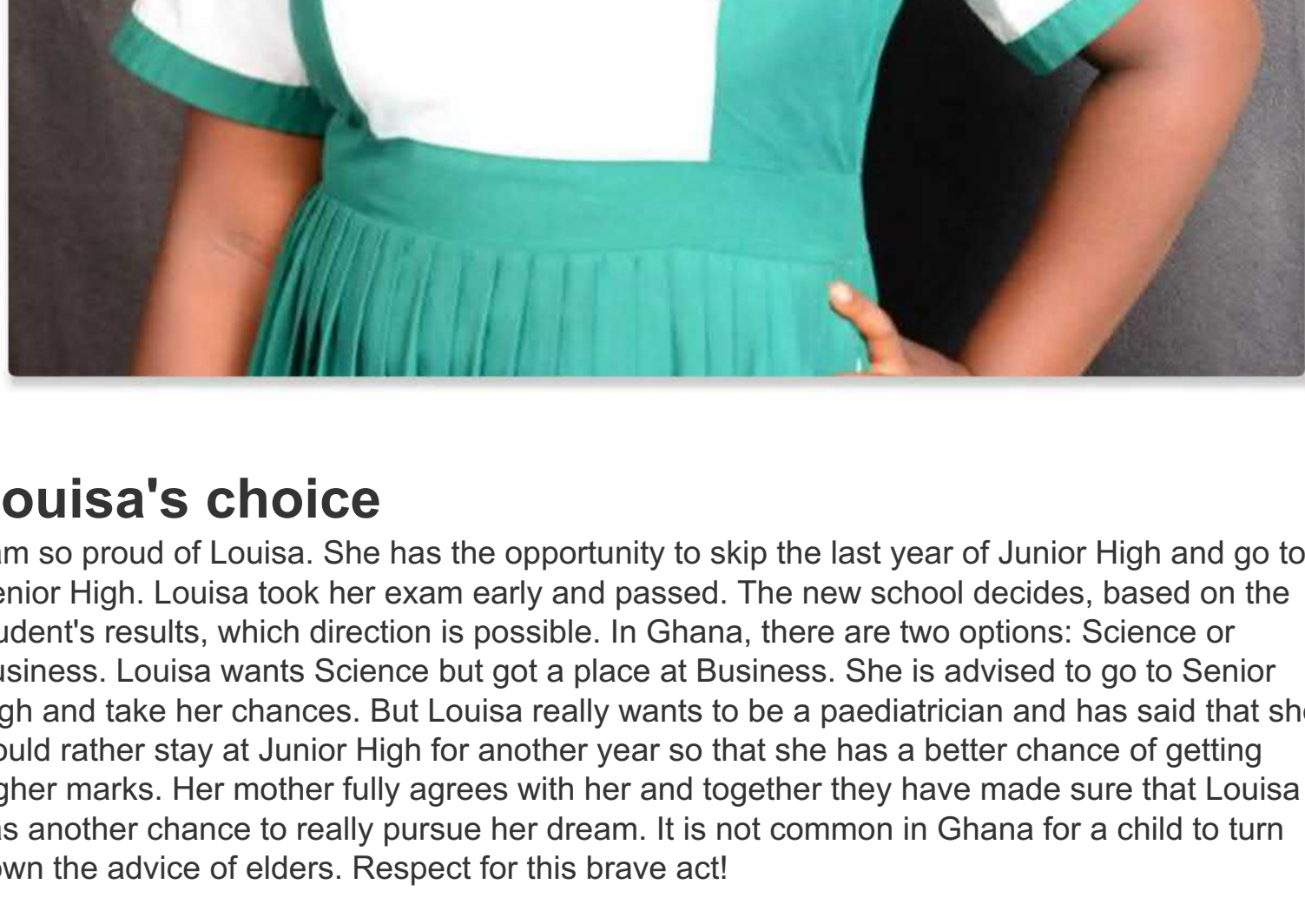
Hi,  
I am lighting a candle before I start the sister-sister meeting with my sisters. I am in a good mood because I have good news to share. After the first round of "how are you" and the familiar answer "I'm fine", the next question is: How is Homeland? Homeland is the name we have given to our plot in Ghana, where we are going to build a guesthouse. This is a large project which is being executed and supervised by former and current pupils of the Quashie School Project. The question has barely been asked or there come the emotions, especially anger which causes things to be said that hurt the other person. I was completely unaware of this because I had a very different wish when I lit the candle. It is clear that the task the girls have been given is very heavy for them. It is also clear to me that the heaviness is mainly because there is not enough communication. Like the rest, I tend to withdraw or go along with the anger. When I focus again on 'my candle' (on the energy that the candle stands for), I can listen to what is being said. With a firm voice I call a halt to the reproaches and I invite the other to tell what the reason behind the emotion is. The whole process touches me deeply and yet I keep a certain overview. At the end when one sister gives up and drops out, I can tell the rest what is happening, why someone can be so angry and frustrated. At the same time I can feel my love and empathy for her and the others. There is silence on the phone for a moment and then I hear, "Moniek, that is what I find so special about you. We all go to church but after the service we can just continue to fight. You, who could/should be very angry right now, don't do that and connect us through love. Thank you, your words help me". Wow, this warms my heart, not that I 'did so well' but that the added value of guiding and loving life is picked up. Full of emotion and full of love we close the 2 hour meeting. I can do nothing other than make a deep bow to 'my candle'.

The title, not flawless but perfect, was already the starting point for this newsletter before the meeting, but this story perfectly fits in.

Further on in this newsletter more 'not flawless but perfect' stories:

- Louisa's choice
- Emmanuel wants to become a pilot
- Donor wanted for Emmanuel
- Ya sha ase a
- Store in Bad Nieuweschans
- New Cooking Bag via Webshop
- A delicious failed soup
- There are still face masks for sale

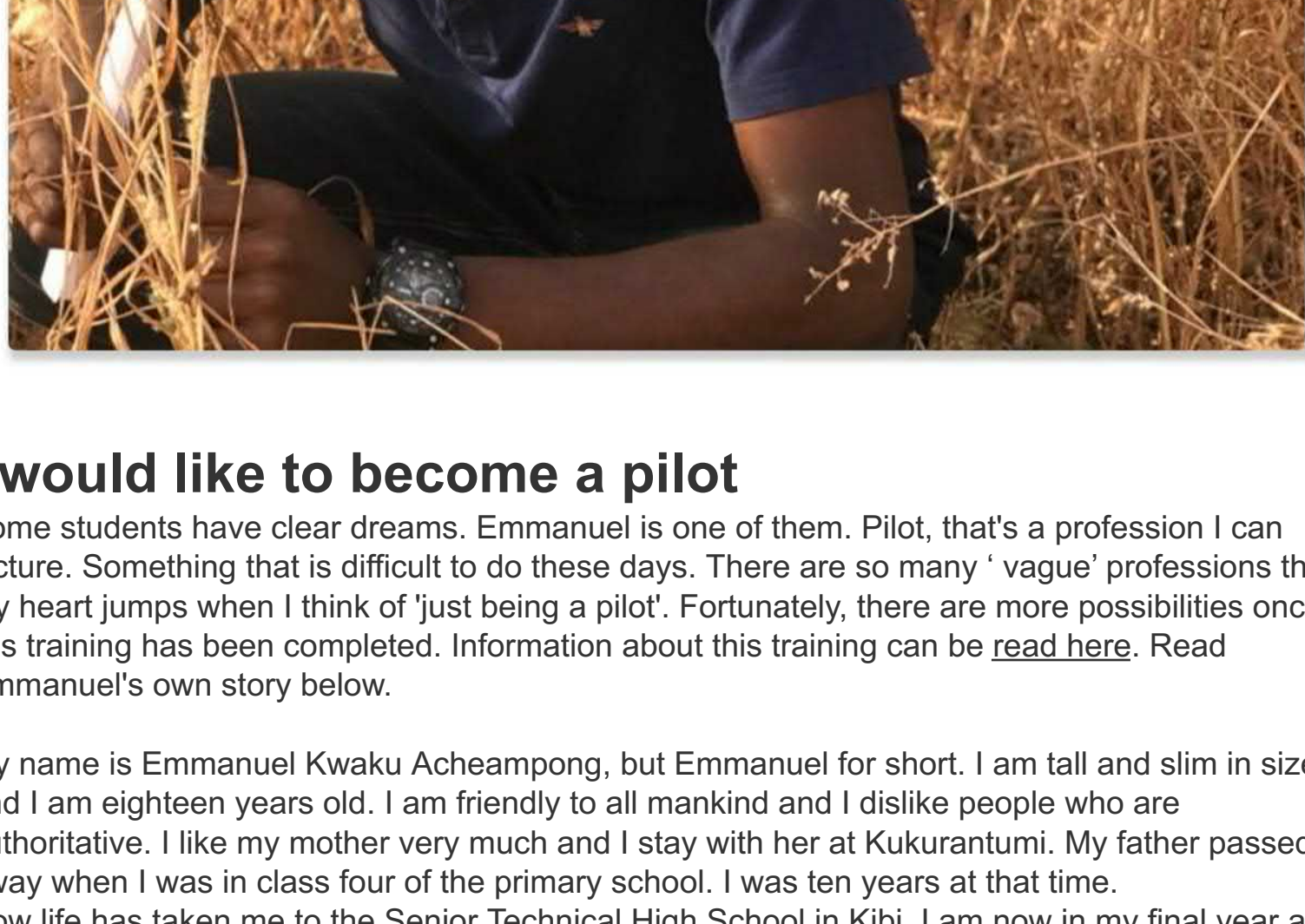
Have fun reading!  
Kindest regards, Moniek



## Louisa's choice

I am so proud of Louisa. She has the opportunity to skip the last year of Junior High and go to Senior High. Louisa took her exam early and passed. The new school decides, based on the student's results, which direction is possible. In Ghana, there are two options: Science or Business. Louisa wants Science but got a place at Business. She is advised to go to Senior High and take her chances. But Louisa really wants to be a paediatrician and has said that she would rather stay at Junior High for another year so that she has a better chance of getting higher marks. Her mother fully agrees with her and together they have made sure that Louisa has another chance to really pursue her dream. It is not common in Ghana for a child to turn down the advice of elders. Respect for this brave act!

And my heartfelt thank you to the 'Dames van de Zijden Draad' for making it possible for Louisa to study!



## I would like to become a pilot

Some students have clear dreams. Emmanuel is one of them. Pilot, that's a profession I can picture. Something that is difficult to do these days. There are so many 'vague' professions that my heart jumps when I think of 'just being a pilot'. Fortunately, there are more possibilities once this training has been completed. Information about this training can be [read here](#). Read Emmanuel's own story below.

My name is Emmanuel Kwaku Acheampong, but Emmanuel for short. I am tall and slim in size and I am eighteen years old. I am friendly to all mankind and I dislike people who are authoritative. I like my mother very much and I stay with her at Kukurantumi. My father passed away when I was in class four of the primary school. I was ten years at that time. Now life has taken me to the Senior Technical High School in Kibi. I am now in my final year and as a candidate am learning harder to pass my final exams. It wasn't easy with the seniors but gradually I made it to form three. My elective subject (Elective maths, Geography, Government and Economics) qualifies me to become a pilot. I once ask one of my cousins, who is working at the Kotoka International Airport of Ghana, the program needed to become a pilot. He told me to study aviation at tertiary. I would like to continue my schooling just after Senior High School. I would like to study aviation at Kwame Nkrumah University of Art and Technology in Kumasi.

I like to travel, and I've been to most regions in my homeland. First time was with Moniek on the Quashie School trip. We went to the Northern Region (Tamale). Later I had the possibility to visit family in the Ashanti Region (Kumasi) and in the Greater Accra Region (Accra). Last year I visited Moniek's friend Margreet in Upper East (Bolgatanga). I also have been in the Volta Region and I live in the Eastern Region. I've seen many places in my country, but I also like to see many places in the world. I hope you will support me to realize my dream.

Emmanuel

## We are looking for a donor for Emmanuel

The Quashie School Project is committed to providing a good education and personal guidance for every student. A good education is very important, but also a place where you can study well. All students of the Quashie School Project take internal training:

- There is little vocational education. For this, students often have to move to cities (outside their region).
- Students cannot freely choose where to go. The schools decide which students they want to admit. As a result, it often happens that students are placed in a school far from their home.
- A home situation is often not a good environment for studying. All children in a family usually sleep in one room. The age ranges from 5 to 18 years so no quiet space to prepare for an exam.
- There is no place in the house to make a separate study room.
- Students are distracted because they have to help with all kinds of household chores at home and take care of younger siblings.
- Travel time can now be used as study time.

### Help make dreams come true

Without your help, we cannot get young people to study. Because of your monthly and annual donations we can make our dreams come true. Thank you very much!

Become a donor for a school period of 3-5 years. In this way we can guarantee a student that they can finish their studies. For specified costs and detailed information for an education, please [contact us](#), or call Moniek +31 6 2028 1979

[For information regarding our ANBI, please click here](#)



## Ya sha ase a

Ya sha ase a, we have started!  
It is already 4 years ago that we received land from the Chief of Oyoko. We immediately "baptized" the plot as Homeland Oyoko. Finally home, finally a long cherished dream can become reality. Homeland Oyoko does not only stand for a home for me or my family, but also stands for a guesthouse that feels like HOME. Homeland Oyoko also stands for a warm loving environment for young people who, without financial help and a guiding hand, cannot continue their studies. It is a meeting place of two worlds that will form a community together on this piece of land.

Architect Michel Post of Orlo is working on the sketches for the guesthouse and the layout of the land. Meanwhile, I am in contact with engineering students in Ghana to shape the next phase. The preparations and construction are turned into a school project within the Quashie School Project. It's great that at a young age you can say 'I helped develop a guesthouse'. In Ghana, children are 'just children' and mainly do what the parent/supervisor tells them to do. Now they are invited to be creative and innovative.

Would you like to (financially) contribute to this project, please [contact me](#).



**Quashie School Project**

# Welkom!

## maar maak wel even een afspraak

0031 6 2028 1979

Voorstraat 43-45 9693 EE Bad Nieuweschans



Moniek Jacobs



Marieke Molenaar



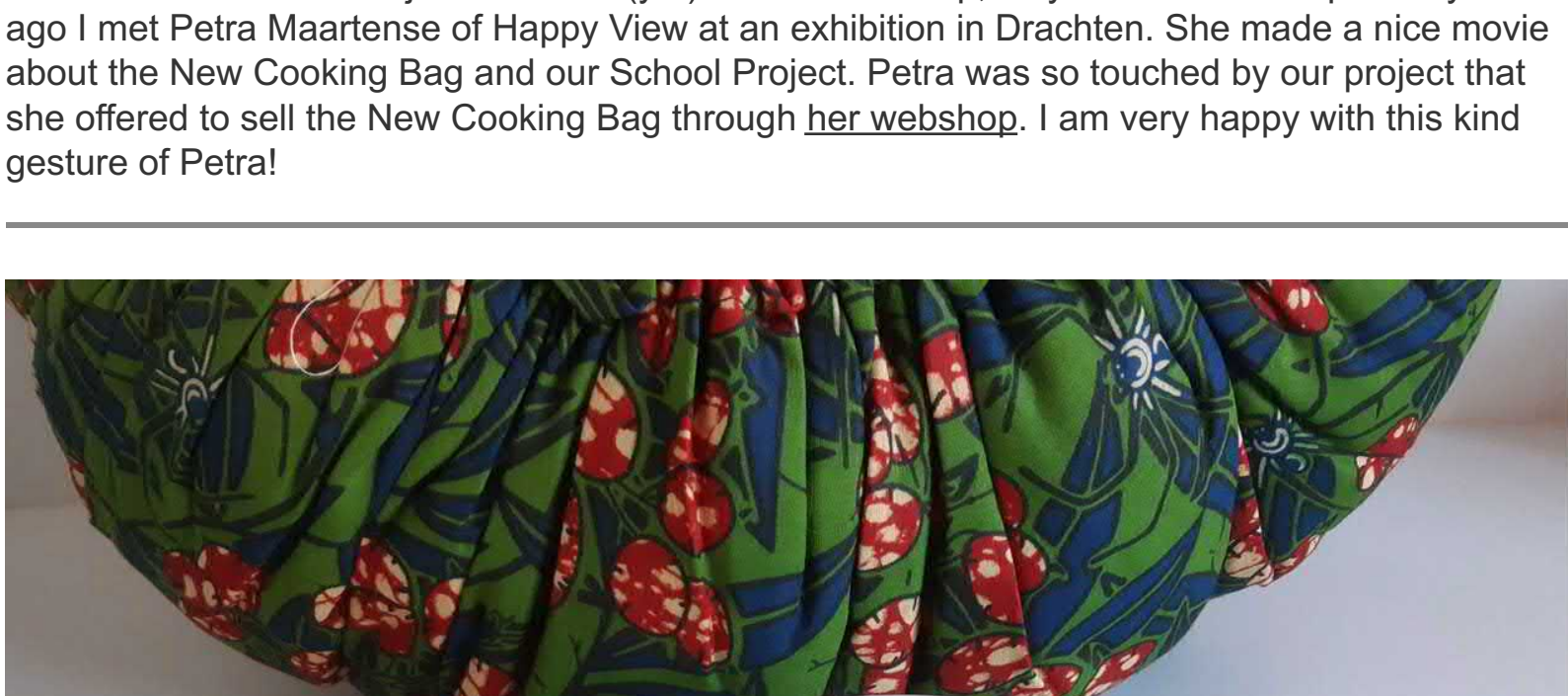
## Small store for the Quashie School Project

It was quite a hassle. All the sales products for the Quashie School Project were at my place, back upstairs. I live at number 43 and everything had to be transported to Marieke at number 45, downstairs. We can get to each other's houses through an indoor door so it was full hands, down the stairs, on the mezzanine floor, down another flight of stairs, through the door, and another door, through the kitchen, careful not to knock any pans off the stove and then I arrived in the new store space. I put my stuff down and went back upstairs to start the process all over again...

At number 45, a lot of hard work had already been done, because the space had to be empty and clean (and it was packed...). Despite the hard work, it gave us a lot of energy. The front room of Marieke's house is now furnished as a shop/atelier.

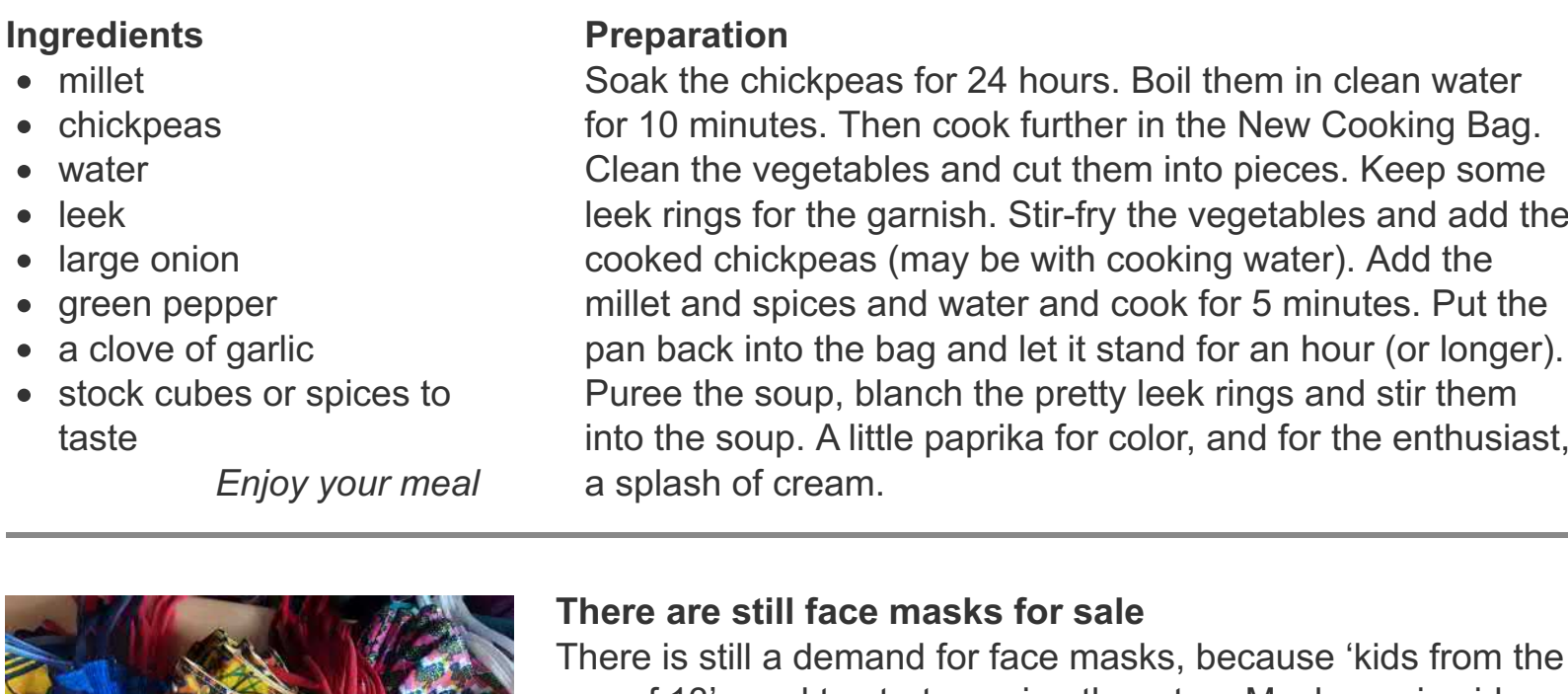
Bad Nieuweschans is far away for many of you, but it is a very nice village to visit. There is also a beautiful spa here, so a visit to Bad Nieuweschans is definitely worthwhile. Staying for a while is not difficult, there is a wide choice of beautiful B&B's. In short, reason enough to come and visit our new small store. We like to tell you about the fair products and the stories and future plans of the school project.

I hope to see you soon (again)!



## New Cooking Bag via Webshop

The Quashie School Project does not (yet) have a webshop, only a Facebookshop. Two years ago I met Petra Maartense of Happy View at an exhibition in Drachten. She made a nice movie about the New Cooking Bag and our School Project. Petra was so touched by our project that she offered to sell the New Cooking Bag through [her webshop](#). I am very happy with this kind gesture of Petra!



## A delicious failed soup

Sometimes it happens to me, that everything I do fails. Even the cooking of ingredients in the New Cooking Bag. Millet not done and also the chickpeas would not cook. Out of pure frustration I threw it all together in a pan, together with some seasoning. I was on the verge of throwing it out of a window, but..... It turned out to be a delicious soup!

- Ingredients**

  - millet
  - chickpeas
  - water
  - leek
  - large onion
  - green pepper
  - a clove of garlic
  - stock cubes or spices to taste

*Enjoy your meal*

**Preparation**

Soak the chickpeas for 24 hours. Boil them in clean water for 10 minutes. Then cook further in the New Cooking Bag. Clean the vegetables and cut them into pieces. Keep some leek rings for the garnish. Stir-fry the vegetables and add the cooked chickpeas (may be with cooking water). Add the millet and spices and water and cook for 5 minutes. Put the pan back into the bag and let it stand for an hour (or longer). Puree the soup, blanch the pretty leek rings and stir them into the soup. A little paprika for color, and for the enthusiast, a splash of cream.

**There are still face masks for sale**  
There is still a demand for face masks, because 'kids from the age of 13' need to start wearing them too. Maybe a nice idea to order a parent and child face mask with the same print. We can make them to order in 3 sizes. They are double layered cotton and the outside is of nice quality Ghanaian batik fabric, printed fabric or Dutch Waxprint. We always have changing prints!

Would you like to support us by purchasing our face masks? Please [contact](#) op or call +31 6 2028 1979.

- € 7.50 each. Free shipping in NL: > 6 pieces.
- An assorted package of 10 face masks: € 65
- 15 face masks: € 90
- 25 pieces: € 125