

Hello!

Midsummer just passed and the summer vacation we have longed for is just around the corner. I, like most others, am now looking forward to getting more time together with family and friends. Since the last newsletter the children of S:t Christine have spent another semester in school. They work diligently and strive to achieve the best possible results. This time we get a report from members, who visited the school in February, conveyed by Kerstin Kingfors.

Recent news from the school

Students from S:t Christine School have participated in a music festival i Oyugis and successfully qualified to the next level. They finished first in two categories, in second place in one and finally in third place in still another category. A fantastic achievement and an activity, which enhances the children's academic performance in different ways. The school's and the student's performance contribute to create a good reputation for the school, which in turn enhances the position of the students as they leave the school for their future careers. The success of the children in the various competitions in which they participate also bring with it costs, which are not covered by the funding, to which the Society is committed for 2014. We want, however, to work in different ways to make it possible to support the school and the students as far as possible even in this respect.

Bildtext: *The school's collection of diplomas and trophies from both drama and music competitions.*

Please think of S:t Christine's children also during the summer. Don't forget your monthly contribution and why not give an extra donation when the holiday allowance arrives, if you have the possibility.

A few key figures worth knowing:

Total cost for one student for one school year: SEK 2 000.

This includes:

- ⌚ School operating costs, incl. Salaries: SEK 1 350
- ⌚ Catering: SEK 300
- ⌚ School uniform: SEK 50
- ⌚ Drama, music and sports: SEK 100
- ⌚ Maintenance: SEK 200

Bank giro: 5734-8534 Plusgiro: 17 62 64 – 0

Thanks for your donation!

Trousers sewn by the adult students, who participated in the sewing education. The clothes get our

own brand name - S:t Christine Tailoring (picture to the right)

Annual Meeting, April 10th

In the annual meeting on April 10th the proposed changes and updating of the Society's bylaws were adopted. These were proposed because the Society's mission and responsibility was changed as the Foundation was founded. This meant i.a. that the responsibility for the operation of the school was transferred to the Foundation.

The Kisumu Society in its role as main sponsor of the school still carries a big responsibility towards the children in S:t Christine and the operation of the school. Our main mission today is to collect funds in the form of membership fees, sponsor donations and various activities and events. As part of this the board has during the spring looked into our possibilities to register a so called 90-account. What is required from the society, which costs are associated with it and in what way would it increase our revenues and contribution to the school? We are a bit on our way in this matter and will return with more information later on.

The new board

A new board was elected at the annual meeting. Here follows a short presentation:

Britt-Marie Hagman - substitute member, re-elected for one year.

Teacher since 1971. I got to know Skanskvarnsskolan, where the Kisumu Society developed, while I worked in the central education administration in Stockholm. Member since 2003, which has resulted in several visits to the School and the village Kabondo.

Anki Ahlman – new substitute member, elected for one year.

I have worked with care-giving, pedagogy, information and fund raising and hope that I, with this background, may contribute in the future work. As I see what the society has achieved during the past ten years, I'm very impressed and really wish to be a member.

Monica Tilstam – secretary, re-elected for two years.

Works as a nursery school manager. I have been a member of the society for five years and am now in my fourth year as a board member. During my time in the society I've been to Kabondo and visited the school twice.

Bitte Brask – chair person, re-elected for one year.

Works as deputy head master at Skanskvarnsskolan and got into contact with the society right from the beginning as the famous container was sent down. Has visited the school and village several times since 2005. I feel that the time and effort I spend for the society and the children in the school is enormously meaningful and returns lots of joy and positive experience.

Rolf Sundberg – substitute member, re-elected for one year.

Retired pedagogue and sports administrator. Devoted to the pedagogic work at S:t Christine School. Visited the school in January of 2013. Wishes to promote the further development of the golf tournaments arranged by the Foundation for the benefit of the school.

Per Kingfors – accountant, re-elected for two years.

Member of the society and accountant since 2004. Has visited the school several times and participated actively in the building of the school.

Erik Källström – deputy chair person, elected in 2013 for two years.

Architect and partly involved in the building of the school. Visited Kabondo and the school in 2011. In charge of the membership lists and some administrative matters.

Marianne Zetterlund – member elected in 2013 for two years

Teacher at Skanskvarnsskolan. Got into contact with the Kisumu Society early on as it was founded. Visited the school and village Kabondo in 2005. Today in charge of the society's home page.

Julia Olson – new member elected for two years

Newly graduated MBA with emphasis on environment and development. Got first into contact with the Society in 2006 in connection with a high school project. Has made a couple of trips to the village and the school and carried through a number of funny activities for the benefit of the school and the Society.

If you wish to contact any of the board members, you may use the following addresses:

Bitte Brask chair person ordf@kisumu.se

Per Kingfors accountant per.kingfors@kisumu.se

Erik Källström deputy chair person erik.kallstrom@kisumu.se

Monica Tilstam secretary sekreterare@kisumu.se

Julia Olson member julia@kisumu.se

Marianne Zetterlund home page info@kisumu.se

Britt-Marie Hagman substitute member brittmarie@kisumu.se

Rolf Sundberg substitute member rolf@kisumu.se

Anki Ahlman substitute member anki@kisumu.se

Some news from the school conveyed by Kerstin Kingfors

In February five members of the Society visited S:t Christine School in Kabondo. They were Mona and Hans Näreskog, Irene Kaufmann and Per and Kerstin Kingfors. The school gave a very positive impression with healthy, happy and diligent pupils, engaged teachers and a hardworking head master. We talked and met with many persons in the school and made an interview with head master David, which can be found in the Society's homepage. We spoke with nurse Betty about the children's wellbeing and looked through their weight and height records, which all looked very good. We also discussed the nurse's tasks and responsibilities. There is a need for students becoming seriously ill to be taken to a doctor in the neighborhood. Some of the nurse's tasks are performed by the teachers as the nurse herself is seldom present. We also met with a number of teachers concerning students, who are slow learners. We participated in a ceremony performed every Friday,

when pupils and teachers are gathered. The flag was raised, the children sang and there were many speeches, even from us. We also got the opportunity to watch the students performing dramas with different themes. It was fantastic and we could see an unbelievable engagement from everyone involved. The students then competed very successfully with this performance in the national drama competition in Nairobi.

After our visit in February the nurse has left and instead the doctor's office in nearby Othoro will help the school, when pupils are taken ill. The health clinic in the school is put in order and can now be used as it was originally planned. The drugs are locked in cabinets and the beds are free so that they can be used when needed by sick children. The teachers will to some extent take responsibility for i.a. weighing and measuring the children. The library was worn and was also used for storing text books. In the future the library will be moved to another building in the school area and will be refurbished. The playground is heavily utilized, making continual repairs necessary. Repair work and maintenance of the school buildings are not included in the funding from the Kisumu Society.

Head master David was very much engaged in the admission of graduated students into secondary schools, which has taken up a big part of his time periodically. In the future this will be handled by a dedicated person, paid for by a fund, created by those particularly interested in supporting the students' continued education in secondary school.

Bildtext: *A place in the shade is pleasant when the time for tests and exams comes.*

Important information – homepage

The Society's homepage www.kisumu.se, our external facade crashed a few weeks ago. The cause of this is not known at the time of writing this, but intense efforts are made to resolve the problem. In the home page you otherwise find all news concerning the Society's activities and a link to the Foundation's homepage. We recommend you to visit www.kisumu.se now and then to take part of the news and information published continually between the release of the newsletters.

Finally we wish all members a nice and pleasant summer.

The board / Bitte Brask, chair person