

Hello,

Time runs fast and Christmas is near. Here comes the fifth and last newsletter for the year. It contains among others a review of the year 2013 in a report from the school's manager Ulla Sturaeus.

It is still time to give a Christmas gift for the benefit of the orphans at S:t Christine. See the attached suggestions for gifts. Deposit any sum of your choice to our bankgiro 5734-8534 or Plusgiro 176264-0. Mark the payment "Christmas Gift". If you write your name and address and deposit more than SEK 100 you will receive a small Santa. It may arrive too late for decorating the Christmas tree, but you may put it near your work place or anywhere else as a little reminder of your gift to the children.

On October 20th we rented space in the flea market in Sollentuna center. With our cars filled with various things given by members and friends we occupied our space and set up tables and clothes racks. We promoted our merchandise and argued with the customers, who bargained and in different ways tried to reduce the price. This flea market is located outdoor but under a roof on the upper deck of the parking garage. As the weather was rather cool, was it nice to be near Sollentuna's indoor center, and we could take turns to go in and buy something to eat and drink.

During the autumn we had three crafts evenings, when we met and among others manufactured gems, which we then sold at the concert in Årsta church on October 10th and at our Christmas sale on November 30th.

The concert in Årsta church was very successful. The event was a cooperation between the Society and the Foundation. All profit went to the school to cover costs over and above the school operations proper, which the Society is unable to undertake as our revenue is not big enough. The performing artists were the choir Folkpust, singers Torbjörn Ljunglöf and Eva-Christina Söderman, male singing group Men and singer Joanna Lindberg. Årsta church and pastor Maria Pils contributed by providing concert hall, printing posters and tickets and assisting in various other ways to make the event a success. Our sincere thanks to Årsta church for all support and help.

A few dates for the coming year:

Board meetings: Wednesday January 8th, February 19th and March 19th

Annual meeting: Thursday April 10th. Place will be announced later.

The Society's home page www.kisumu.se is our public "face".

It has received a new layout and different functions are improved. There you will find all news concerning the Society's activities and a link to the Foundation's home page. We recommend you to visit www.kisumu.se from time to time in order to get information and news, which is published continually between the newsletters.

If you wish to contact any member of the board, you can reach us at the following addresses:

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A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year wishes

Bitte

Report from the school

The school year 2013 has ended.

KCPE- graduation (primary school graduation)

Around a month ago head masters and church dignitaries gathered at S:t Christine school to pray for the students in the upcoming graduation tests in the nearest schools. It was like a small celebration and the custodians of our pupils were invited.

The graduation tests are run under high security precautions with police present and teachers from other schools on duty. Only the head master may remain in place. These tests are the most important events during the primary school years. In preparation for these tests both students and teachers have worked hard to reach such results that everybody will get grades qualifying them for secondary school. Everybody is hoping for good results. Now a period of waiting is coming. The tests are sent to the Department of Education for scrutiny. At the middle or end of February the results will arrive. The students, who have reached high enough points, will be awarded a place in a secondary school commensurate with their score. The higher points the bigger chance you get to attend a better school. On the other hand such a school means higher costs, since normally it is a school far from home with costs for accommodation. With great excitement are we looking forward to seeing the results from the tests of the eighth graders.

The school's total result

All classes in the Kenyan school system are tested during the whole school year. Our school, S:t Christine is among the very best in the district. Of its 199 schools S:t Christine is number two, if 10 private schools with completely different selection of pupils are excluded. All teachers, school management and non-teaching staff have contributed to this achievement. All we members of the Kisumu Society have good reasons to be proud of our school at the end of this school year.

Drama and music

The drama activities in the school have continued during the year with even more success. The students have won one competition after another and finally qualified for the national finals, which this year took place in Nakuru, not far from Kabondo. They returned home with trophies and diplomas and were, of course, very happy. Chiefly our two teachers Caroline and Calvince were responsible for these activities in the school.

Computer education

The computers, which we received from the Swedish embassy, are now in service. There is a computer room, where the students in the upper grades have lessons in smaller groups every week. Two of the teachers, Augustin and Nicholas, are responsible for the computer education. Now they wish to get access to the internet. Initial contacts are taken with the owner of an optical fiber cable running through the village and this may lead to a connection. Presently we have no sponsors for this, but the Foundation is active in arranging this.

January 2014

It is now ten years since the first six year-olds started in S:t Christine School. It is one year since the first students graduated from primary school with outstanding results. I'm happy to go to the school soon in order to, together with management and teachers, begin a new school year.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

wishes

Ulla