

## Newsletter no 96

2020-09-25

All of us have in different ways been hit by the ongoing pandemic. For the school, pupils and staff in Kenya it has brought great hardship. The pupils have had no possibilities to continue their education via digital facilities. Therefore the authorities had to make decisions regarding the operation of schools with more far-reaching consequences than those in Sweden. Presently the conditions for the school's continued operation are to some extent unknown, primarily because of lacking federal directives and schedules for restarting the schools. Further information about this later.

Our head master Calvin assembles the staff regularly to inform and check the situation. They go through items, which need to be attended to. They repair, paint and maintain the school's different building and nurtures all the garden patches. Face masks are used and distancing rules are obeyed. Calvince and Ulla Stureaus (the Foundation) keep frequent contacts via WhatsApp.

### **Latest news from the school and the situation in the village**

Covid 19: The pandemic has not yet hit the village to any larger extent. All Primary Schools in Kenya were shut down at the outbreak of the disease in early March. From time to time the closing of the school was monitored by police. The distance education provided centrally can not be utilized by our students since most of them lack electricity, smart phone and internet connection. The plan, which has now been released, means that students in the graduation class, 8th grade, will resume the tuition in early November with exams scheduled for end of March / early April. Grades 1 to 7 repeat the school year 2020 and no primary school exams will be arranged in the fall of 2021 The school will be reopened gradually with limited tuition for all grades except 7 and 8, which will get full time tuition from start. Grades F – 6 are in the school only two days per week in order to spread out the classes and reduce the risk of contamination. The school must be inspected

before it will be permitted to open and each school must have a Covid-19 committee with internal and external members who continually monitor that all restrictions are adhered to. Tap water from, soap, paper towels and hand anticeptic must be in place The pupils must wear face masks, which are manufactured locally. One mask per child is provided by the school and they are sewn by the staff

The duration of the fall semester is not known but is estimated to December 15.

**Our personnel:** Temporary layoff and associated support measures do not exist in the Kenyan employment market, but the normal action is discharge. The Foundation and the staff have agreed on reduced working hours and 40% reduction of salaries. Work in the areas of property maintenance and vegetable farming were done during the whole period. Pictures etc. can be found in our web page [www.kisumu.se](http://www.kisumu.se) and in Face Book

**New curriculum:** The difficulties in planning and execution of the tuition is partly due to the ongoing gradual implementation of a new general curriculum. This includes introduction of a preparatory pre-school class and transfer of the first class in secondary school to become a ninth class in the primary school, which will then consist of eleven grades in stead of today's nine. The implementation will be affected by the way school openings are performed. It seems unlikely that a

ninth grade will be introduced in 2021. The education program will be reformed as music, drama, sports etc will be added. Stricter requirements in hygiene, buildings and other facilities.

### **Economy:**

The operation of St Christine School is funded by member support, membership fees and special contributions, activities as concerts and fairs and donations from companies and organizations. During the ongoing pandemic the society had no possibilities to arrange the kind of activities we had in previous years.

**The pandemic puts extra strain on our economy and makes the contributions from you members even more important.** We keep our fingers crossed and hope that the Christmas Fairs in which we normally participate will not be cancelled.

The average cost for one child is now SEK 200 per month, all included, i.e. SEK 700 000 per year for the whole school. This amount changes with the exchange rates, which sometimes means extra stresses beyond our control. In addition the Society has administrative costs, for instance banking , transaction fees, Webb page and newsletters. However, these costs are very small as all other work is voluntary. The exact numbers are published in the annual report, which was distributed before the annual meeting in 2020.

### **Gifts for celebrations, in memoriam and other donations**

Do you wish to give a gift for a celebration or in memory of someone? Send your donation to one of our accounts below and a mail to us at [gava@kisumu.se](mailto:gava@kisumu.se). State purpose, the name of the person to whom we shall send our thanks and who the donors are. We will then send a thank you-card with the names of the donors.

Swish-account: 1236 072 698

Bank giro: 5734-8534

Plus giro: 17 62 64 – 0

For IBAN-number contact our accountant Julia Olson, [ekonomi@kisumu.se](mailto:ekonomi@kisumu.se) to get the Society's account number and IBAN number in Handelsbanken

We protect your personal data in accordance with GDPR. Read the integrity policy of the Kisumu Association at [www.kisumu.se](http://www.kisumu.se) or send a mail to [ordf\(@\)kisumu.se](mailto:ordf(@)kisumu.se)

The latest news, pictures and reports from the school is available at the web page of the Association, [www.kisumu.se](http://www.kisumu.se)

Also visit us at Facebook. News from the Association and school is regularly published at [Föreningen Kisumu](#) och [Stiftelsen St: Christine](#)

### **Before and after Covis-19**

A deserted school with no pupils. The pictures show very clearly how we are all hit by the pandemic. We are all looking forward to the end of this, even if we realize that it will take time before it is over. Since this affects the school and its operation economically, we hope for your continued support.