



In one of Astrid Lindgren's famous books, Tommy asks Pippi Longstocking if she can play the piano. Pippi replies: "How could I know, when I have never tried?" The Dutch translation of this "Ik heb het nog nooit gedaan dus ik denk dat ik het wel kan" is found on the wall by the entrance to KED partner school van Kinsbergen College in Elburg.

KED

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Your Personalized KED Summer Course

Making workshop time more productive, learnings from the online classroom of the pandemic, helping students relate to the future skills – here are some of the topics that teachers in this round of the KED Teacher Exchange explored in depth together with a colleague from a school in another country. These projects generated valuable knowledge for you. To make the insight available, each pair of teachers recorded the outcomes as short video presentations. They are available to you now. Why not design your own summer course to power up your skills in applying the KED Program?

Cecilia Aronsson

KED Network Director

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You find the videos in the following link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Xo_E36Z4Cr5-6Q1kLqvpUvW5pTUnN3ly?usp=sharing

The teachers in the videos cover the following topics:

- How to improve work with the future skills, by Malin and Ellen.
- Improving base group time, by Mai Anh and Emma.
- Take-aways from the pandemic, by Mai Anh and Emma.
- How to make workshop time more efficient, by Ruben and Ullis.
- Safeguarding student well-being, by Shailaja and Jenny.
- Learner Autonomy, by Seval and Hetty.

This Newsletter includes articles about teacher exchanges that have been completed, exchanges planned for next school year, and a fresh highlight about how teacher and student exchanges reinforce each other, including a surprise (click the link on page 8) that brings out the essence of who we are – a flourishing global Network, unique in its kind.

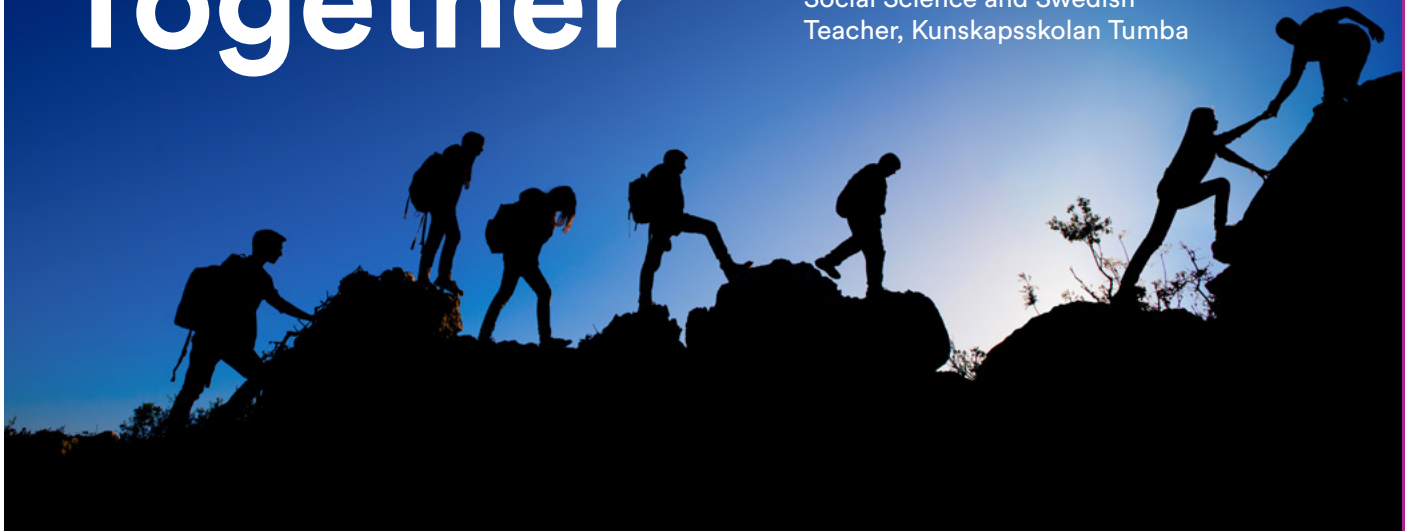


Kunskapskolan
EDUCATION

Walking the Extra Mile Together



Sac Cartwright
Social Science and Swedish
Teacher, Kunskapsskolan Tumba



If we walk the extra mile together, our students will get 110 % better education.

Did I hear 110 %? Yes, that is what we need to give of ourselves to always make way for better education for all KED students. And walking the extra mile starts with collaboration just like the exchange I am going to tell you about.

In April, I went to 2College Ruivenmavo in Berkel-Enschot, in the South of the Netherlands. I was hosted by Mick who is a teacher there. I quickly recognized the similarities between the Swedish and the Dutch culture, e.g., the importance of freedom. The difference is that everyone in the Netherlands has an opinion about everything, and of course, everyone eats their holy sandwich for lunch. My host and his wonderful wife really made me feel welcome

and I felt at home already from the start – and then we got down to business.

I was given a schedule so I could experience the school in action, both organizationally and pedagogically. I met with the staff, principal, board, special education team and of course the students.

“Write down three things that make you feel bad, and you need to stop doing, then write down three things that you need to start doing to feel good about yourself.”

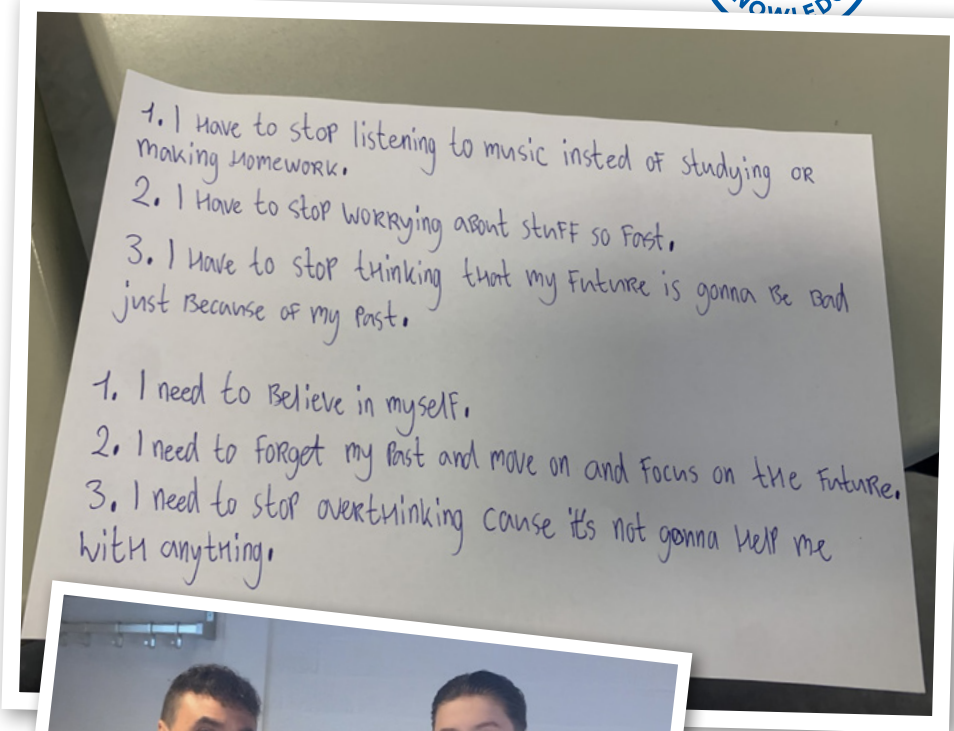
Base group – make it valuable and then let the students benefit from it

As part of the KED Teacher Exchange Program, I conducted my own base group sessions with groups at the school while collaborating with the teachers. We brought our minds together with ideas how to make the base group sessions more varied, interesting, and valuable for students and teachers. I suggested an exercise for Monday morning base group sessions that I call “variation and motivation go hand in hand” that is usually appreciated by students. It goes like this: “Write down three things that make you feel bad, and you need to stop doing, then write down three things that you need to start doing to feel good about yourself.” Our two schools will put this idea, and others, into practice, and then evaluate the results together. Did I hear 110 % valuable?

Coaching – the most important tool in the KED Program but also the most challenging

As for the personal coaching sessions, just like in Sweden, Dutch teachers are putting in a lot of effort. My interviews and discussions with both teachers and students led to the conclusion that students are thankful and love their coaching sessions. However, we also found out that students sometimes miss certain things, such as more varied discussions, as well as talking about mental health. This is also the hardest part of coaching.

We discussed it, collaborated, and found ways and possibilities to tackle the problem when needed. This is the beauty of the KED Program, you give and take, and together we improve. Did I hear 110 % collaboration?



Girls' Day – for girls only

My host and I went on a special excursion for female students only. This so-called "Girls' Day" is organized by large and well-known companies such as Bosch to spark women's interest in male-dominated occupational fields. Here they learn about and try out different professions that mainly occupy men. The goal is to inspire girls to "think outside the box". That also inspired me, and I am planning to see if we can do something similar in Stockholm. "Girls'

Day" – here we come! Did I hear 110 % inspiration?

Let's wrap this up by acting globally. Together with my host, we are already organizing a student exchange between our schools. The road straight ahead is clearer, but keep in mind, together we will discover more paths. Because together we are?

Right! 110 %! ■

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Young KED Entrepreneurs Win National Championships

Viktor Storm
Business Studies Teacher,
Kunskapsgymnasiet Norrköping



Sweden's sharpest young entrepreneurs are now crowned. During two intensive days, 226 Junior Achievement (UF in Swedish) companies from all over Sweden have presented their company ideas and products to exhibition visitors and jury members from the business community. The Swedish Championships in Young Entrepreneurship ended with a grand gala finale where champions in 16 categories were presented.

And so, the company Nordic-T UF from upper secondary KED school Kunskapsgymnasiet Norrköping

was awarded the title Product of the Year in Sweden 2022 and nominated as top five in the category Growth Company of the Year in Sweden.

The company's business concept is golf pegs made of cardboard that are environmentally sound and designed for optimal exposure of brands. The enterprise members Anton Lövbom, Douglas Franzen, Edvin Carlsund, Ludwig Wilén and William Sjölund are very happy after the award ceremony.

What is the secret behind this successful product?

"We combine two things that we like, marketing and golf. Golf pegs are otherwise invisible unlike all other golf material, but through our peg it has 50 times more visible surface, making it a great platform for marketing," says Douglas.

Are you going to continue running your company?

"Absolutely. We want to sell mainly to companies that can have their own logo on our peg." ■



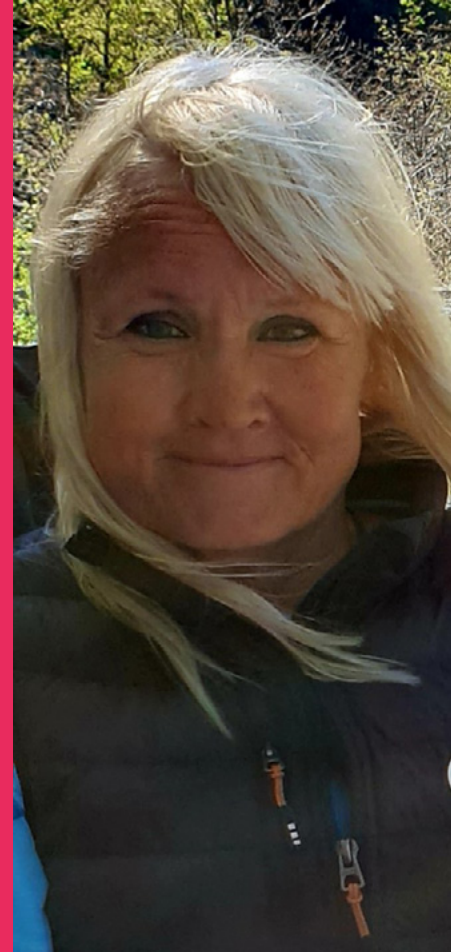
Ever since I was a young girl, I have always loved music. During my upbringing, music was a natural element at gatherings, both in festive and day-to-day life. So, when it was time to choose a career, the choice was simple – music teacher.

Already during my first year of teaching music, I was given the opportunity of setting up a musical at my school. I witnessed first-hand how being a part of the musical positively affected the students' confidence and self-esteem. Being a part of this work felt fantastic. The response from students, parents, and the community validated my feeling

”Being a part of this work felt fantastic. The response from students, parents, and the community validated my feeling that this was a success.”

that this was a success. I saw that the personal growth and boosted motivation helped the students in their other school subjects as well.

Our principal Thomas Moberg has always been very supportive of our annual musical production at Kunskaps-skolan Gävle. Now I have been given the opportunity to take this annual event to the next level, through KED exchange, by cooperating with another music teacher, Carlos Monteiro at Dr. Nassau College in the Netherlands. In the next school year, we will create a musical together, truly a dream come true!



”My ambition with this KED exchange is to help students from different countries share musical experiences and work together side by side towards a common goal.”

Carlos and I communicate regularly, and through digital meetings, our students have performed for one another. Since a few months, our students connect through both mail and social media, which feels great.

With music as their common interest, students from Kunskapsskolan Gävle and Dr. Nassau College are now going to produce a musical based on their own manuscript, how cool isn't that?

My ambition with this KED exchange is to help students from different countries share musical experiences and work together side by side towards a common goal. But as mentioned earlier,

this experience will also improve the students' self-image and confidence and give them the opportunity to get to know new surroundings and cultures.

This collaboration will certainly develop everyone involved. Not just in music but in multiple ways; language skills, theater, crafts, and social values, both as an individual and as a group.

I'm so excited, I can't wait until next school year! ■

Monica Stolpe
Music Teacher,
Kunskapsskolan Gävle

More Than a Student Exchange



Just over a year ago, a couple of colleagues and I started writing an application for Erasmus+. We wanted to be part of an exchange project and thereby start a collaboration with a KED school in the Netherlands. None of us had previously participated in a similar project and it was with both positive and a little anxious excitement that we cheered when our Erasmus+ application was approved.

In December 2021, a group of teachers from van Kinsbergen College came to visit Västerås to plan the collaboration. We were sketching out a program for 80 Dutch students to visit us in May 2022. Together with our Dutch colleagues we planned goals and activities, and

from January 2022 our Swedish and the Dutch students had digital meetings where they discussed and reported different themes. The students presented themselves and their city, talking about all the things the Dutch students would see and experience in Västerås and vice versa. They discussed how their well-being had been affected by isolation during the pandemic. Just being able to talk face to face was something they really missed. Finally, they discussed cultural similarities and differences in issues

concerning gender equality, human rights and being who you want to be. This was part of the preparations for the upcoming exchange.

And oh!! How fun to finally receive our Dutch friends on May 9 at a campsite just outside Västerås. A sunny day with activities linked to the environment and water and Swedish traditional fun and games, such as 'brännboll' and 'kubb', ended with a fantastic Midsummer



celebration where we danced around the midsummer pole and sang about little frogs without ears.

Watch us dancing here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nOn06D1hm-vWHhZ7BSgzu_xj3jSc02GeP/view?usp=sharing



and a 10-kilometer hike with different tasks such as making and drinking blueberry soup. The week ended with a day in Stockholm and visits to the panorama movie theater Cosmonova and amusement park Gröna Lund.

Many new friendships formed, among the students as well as the teachers, and a new KED Teacher Exchange project is now underway.



Fantastic parents and students baked, and we served Swedish fika such as cinnamon buns, chocolate cake with whipped cream and a lot of Swedish shortbread. The following days the students went canoeing and for a quiz walk

Early September it is time for teachers and students from Kunskapsskolan Västerås to go to van Kinsbergen College in Elburg – and we can't wait! Our exchange could become our new shared tradition.

Trine Mie Mattsson,
Deputy Head of School,
together with the teachers
Helena Erdsjö and Felicia Engdahl
Kunskapsskolan Västerås

Believing in the Same Vision

It has been a difficult and extraordinary two years since the Covid-19 pandemic began and touched every aspect of our lives. Masking and social distancing policies became the norm whilst lockdowns and quarantines became our routines. The changes and uncertainty brought on by the pandemic affected not only our physical and mental well-being but also our basic rights such as the right to go to school to receive/give proper education, which is essential to the development and growth of all countries.

For the past two years, educators in all countries of the KED Network have faced a challenge unprecedented in our lifetime. To tackle these challenges, schools have developed different approaches ranging from remote education to partial returns to school.



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These unprecedented times paralyzed the chance of not only the face-to-face interaction between teachers and students but also the physical encounter of the participants of the KED Teacher Exchange Program. When we applied for the seventh round of the program, we were told, due to obstacles to traveling, to explore our personal research questions in online meetings as well as through digital observations and discussions arranged by each partner. Yet, the possibility of traveling was still there with its weak probability.

We were both aware that the destructive side of the pandemic and various restrictions of the governments had intensified the uncertainty and weakened our chance of meeting up. However, by the end of our first Google Meet, having talked to each other bashfully, we already felt that we were going to overcome this traveling barrier and visit each other in our home countries. We were so determined that, after starting to sense a possible return to normalcy, we put the worst of the pandemic behind us and started searching for flights between Stockholm and Amsterdam.



Before meeting up for the first time and giving our first hugs to each other at Arlanda Airport on March 19th, we had attended numerous rewarding digital meetings in which we discussed different issues related to our research questions, taking the KED core values and vision into consideration. Our starting point was naturally the impact of the pandemic on us as KED teachers, and our colleagues as well as students. Having discussed our distinct roles, we pondered the challenges we came across during personal coaching sessions. We even discussed the factors that might make our students less motivated in their not only daily lives but also learning process, especially during the pandemic. Our discussions on intrinsic motivation finally led us to the concept of learner autonomy, i.e., self-regulated learners, which is at the heart of pedagogy in the KED Program.

Having visited each other's schools for a week, we made some modifications in our research areas and focused on more practical issues such as the efficient use of workshop sessions. Two months later, upon meeting up one more time and walking the hallways assigned for different workshop sessions and seeing the passionate students and teachers,

we realized that we, despite various organizational differences, are similar in many ways. It was amazing to see that we are using the same 'KED language' and believing in the same vision.

We do admit that Covid-19 is undeniably an ugly phase of a changing world. However, during our exchange program, we understood one more time that the KED Program, our core values, and strong digital infrastructure as well as our resilient students and devoted teachers managed

these difficulties. We are not only proud to be two of those teachers but also glad to be sharing the same vision to contribute to an education that empowers every student to master the challenges of today and shape the world of tomorrow.

Seval Orhan Bahsi and Hetty Hamerlinck
 Teachers, Kunskapsskolan Nacka and van Kinsbergen College

