

# Eco Moyo

Education Centre



NEWSLETTER FOR MAY, JUNE,  
JULY AND AUGUST 2018

## Summary

Wow - four months since the last newsletter....! Well, loads has happened; we have planted trees, veggies and flowers during the rainy season, the kids had a holiday in August and school is now going on as usual.

I have been back in Norway since early May, working my regular summer job for the Norwegian mapping agency. This is the longest I have been away from Kenya since the project started in 2013 and it feels good knowing that we have enough great staff in place looking after our students and keeping everything moving as it should. The time in Norway has also been important for our project - getting in touch with other charity organisations to learn about how they work and presenting our projects to other schools and people seem to be bearing fruits already - and of course like with any job, its important to take a break and get some perspective on things.

I always think about our monthly sponsors - some of you have been there since the beginning and we are so forever thankful! We always need more of you so let us know if you want to join :)

*Big hugs from Lindsay and the Eco Moyo Crew*

Happy Reading!



# Grant from “BARNAS FREDSPRIS” (THE CHILDREN’S PEACE PRIZE)



Our sister foundation at Sandøya in Norway (Eco Moyos Venner) applied for funding from a local organisation in the same county called Barnas Fredspris.

This organisation was initiated by a retired teacher almost 17 years ago. She gets young students from local schools involved in charity projects and the children are the ones who decide how donations are spent.

They were generous to assist us with money for **food, salaries and books!**



In August I visited Barnas Fredspris and gave a presentation about Eco Moyo and how the money was being spent. Loads of energetic kids with great questions about our work!



Many story books were bought with the donations we received.



Our students holding "Thank you cards" for Barnas Fredspris that were made in arts and crafts



Making nutritious porridge for the students from different local cereals. We wash the grains and take them to the local mill before cooking it. Much better than the ready made stuff!



The cereal dries in the sun after washing

Students drinking porridge every morning

## Planting trees and making swales

As the rain came, we decided to take full advantage of it and planted loads of trees across the whole 10 acre site. We also found an indigenous tree nursery in town and purchased a few dozen seedlings there. Swales have also been dug to sustain more water. Maize, mchicha, cassava and beans have been planted. The kids looove getting involved and have done such a great job!



Scooping up manure for planting trees



Planting fruit trees below the swales



We planted tamarind, mango, orange and loads of nitrogen fixers as well as local species.



The kids eating passion fruits growing on school ground



Maize planted



Planting more trees

4K club building swales



The 4K club planting passion fruit seedlings along our new pergola that shades the assembly area in the middle of the school ground.



Some of the indigenous seedlings we bought



Girls planting passion fruit

# Learning about the new curriculum

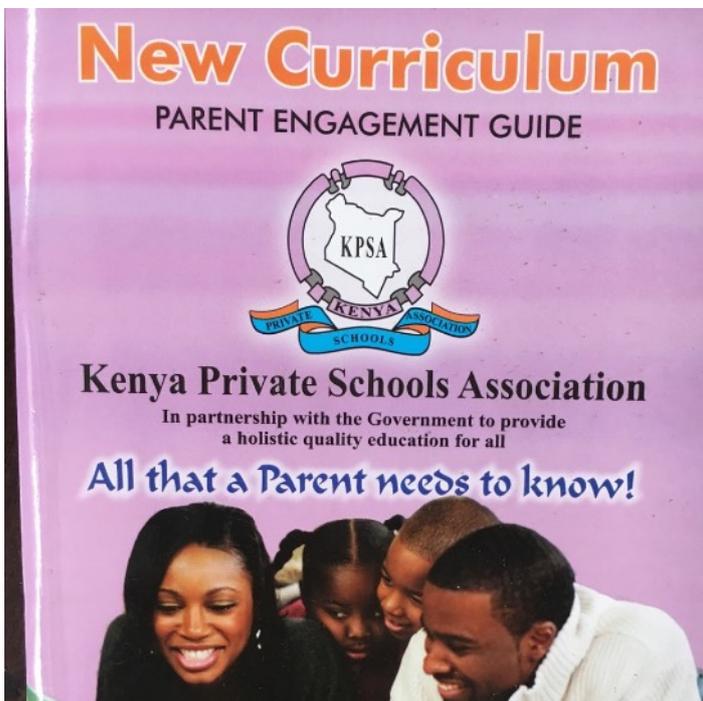
As we are registered with the Kenya Private School Association, our director Asumptor attended their annual meeting in Mombasa to learn more about the new curriculum that has already been implemented across the country.



The new curriculum aims to be skills-oriented rather than exam oriented. Students should be able to acquire all round skills ranging from sports, academics, choir, etc.

The students will be judged on how he/she displays the skills but not whether he/she passed the exam. At least this is the idea.

The new system requires more teaching aid and more involvement from the parents.



## Planning new classrooms

By the end of 2018, we need to build another classroom for our new class 7. (The school year starts in January in Kenya). We have already slashed vegetation in this area, as well as in other areas so as to plan the development of our site for future construction.



As shown in the picture below, we have designed a classroom that protects from rain and wind, but allows sufficient airflow. A thatched roof has the benefit of catching the rain without making too much noise, however collecting the rain water is a challenge. This is why we variate our buildings by using some with tin sheets, others with palm leaves.



## Extra curricular subjects

We really try to incorporate creative arts, dance and drama into our timetable. In many schools, these subjects are seen as “play” and a waste of time. We however, believe these subject are crucial for broadening the mind and discovering new skills. We are not all academically gifted, but that does not mean we don't have talents.



Above: Students making an elephant wood carving

Side and below:  
Students performing drama and dances

So fun to see what they can do with making costumes and getting into different characters!



## Guidance and counselling



Once per month we have a visitor from outside school come and give our students advice on topics like hygiene, sexual education, ethics and faith. The students get a chance to ask questions anonymously and we try to answer as best as possible. Usually health personnel from Kilifi hospital come and give the talks. This is often challenging as some students reveal poor situations at their homes and it's not always easy to help.

## Development of a computer room



One of our big dreams is to build a computer room for our school with wifi. It is crucial for the students become computer literates to improve their chances at future jobs later. It will be a costly project and will have to wait at least another year if not more.

Here our friends are checking whether the signal will be strong enough to even make wifi possible at our site in the bush. Luckily we are on a hill so it looks like its possible!

## Getting down with the proper system



It has taken a while for us to get a grip on how to systematise our budgets to please national standards in both Kenya and Norway.

After talking to loads of Norwegian organisations who work with charity abroad, it's finally starting to make some sense. Hopefully by early 2019, we will be registered with both *Innsamlingskontrollen* and *Grasrotandelen at Norsk tipping* - and be a tax deductible foundation for norwegian sponsors!

We have hired a part time accountant in Kenya (John) that helps us get all receipts and cashbooks in order together with our director Asumptor.

He sends all the required information to our Norwegian accountant (who works for free as a volunteer - Thanks Vigdis we love you!!!) In total we are four people going through budgets each month in addition to a Kenyan and Norwegian auditor!



## Exciting collaborations!

In November students from **NTNU in Trondheim** are coming for a building workshop to set up visitors facilities on our site. This has been initiated by architects Dagur Eggertson and Sami Rintala who are hosting the workshop together with Pasi Alto. At the moment we don't have any places for visitors to stay if they wish to spend the night and it will be exciting to see what the students end up presenting to us!



I also gave a presentation at SKAP Folkehøgskole in Mandal a few weeks ago (pics below)

Shortly after they decided they wanted to come for a research trip to our site! They will come in December and see what they can plan for future projects. Very cool to see how quickly things can develop! This school focuses on design, technology and sustainable solutions for building and so much more!



## Eco Moyo Women fundraising



Every year at Sandøya in Norway they have marked days where people from the mainland come to visit - buying crafts, food and many other things. Eco Moyos Venner had a stand selling a kind of pancake called “sveler” and raised 6000 kr!!!

## Kids Bazaar for Eco Moyo



Our friend and sponsor Martin Watson got his kids and the neighbour kids involved in charity work! Here they are selling cupcakes and juice raising money for our school - such sweethearts!!!

## Slippers for boarding students



With all the rains and low temperature it got pretty cold in the evenings. A big thanks to David Skaufjord for donation to purchase slippers for everyone!

## More Solar!!!

Thanks so much to Synne Freberg and Unn Irene Kjenslie for donations to buy more solar kits for around the school.

Especially, in the teachers living quarters and the dorm, more lighting and phone charging became necessary.

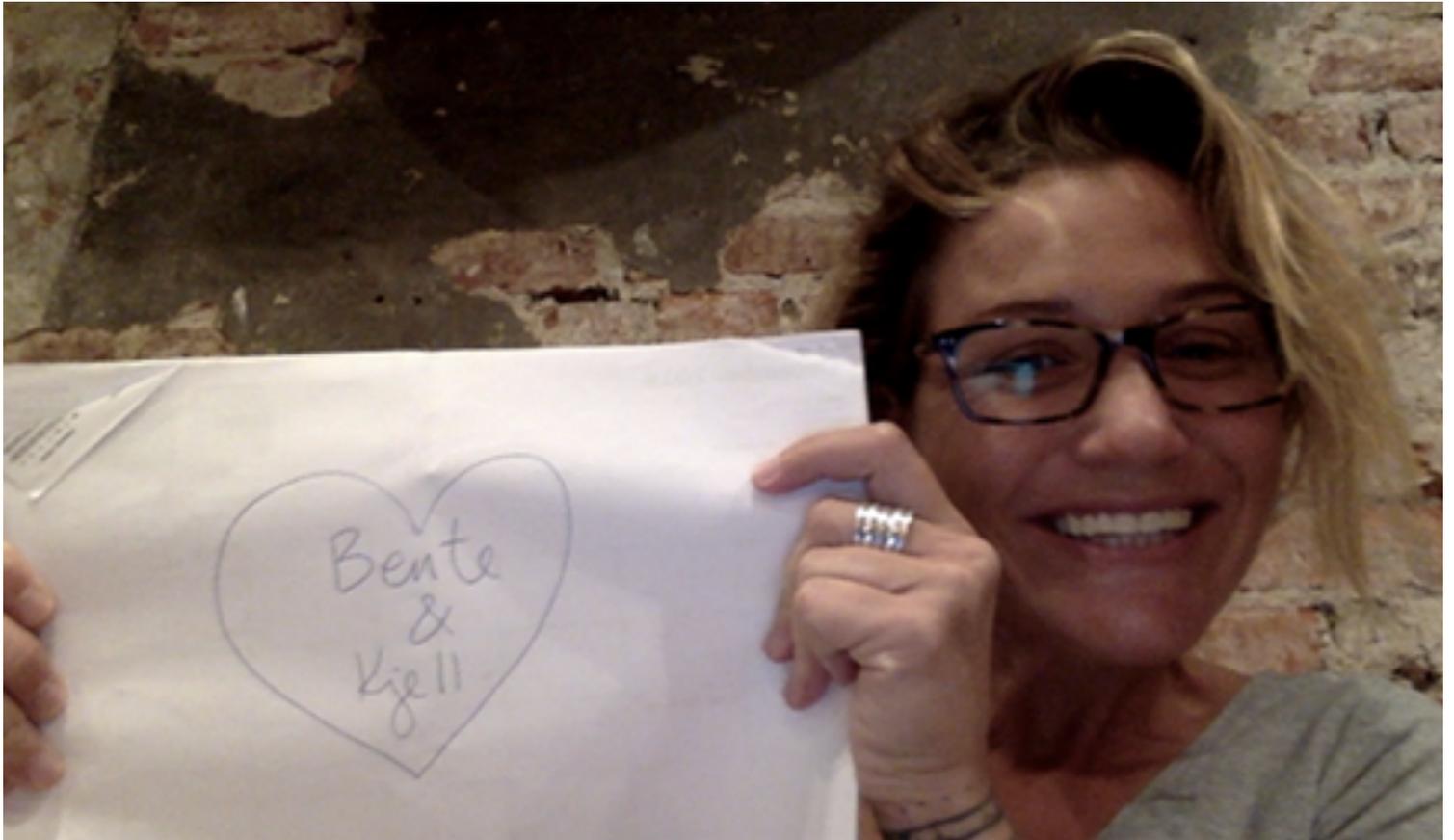
We are still debating whether or not to hook up to electricity. They paid us a visit from Kenya Power and we will decide later what to do. The problem is, that even if we sign up to the grid, power cuts are so frequent in our area it will surely lead to so much frustration I'm not sure its worth it...



## Sponsored uniforms!

A while back, Kjell Finvåg asked me if we needed anything at our school. I told him we needed money for uniforms for 130 students by December. Then just like that his partner Bente Hayes transferred all the money we needed AND signed up to be monthly sponsors!!!

Thank you so much - this is incredible! The uniforms will be ready for use when the new school year starts in January 2019!



## Anyone to sponsor PE kits?

I feel bad coming with this enquiry just after thanking the people above for uniforms...however, the kids also need PE kits (gym clothes for days when we have physical exercise classes). They wear the clothes every other day so there is a day for washing in between.

A PE-kit includes:

- Printed Eco Moyo T-shirt
- Shorts
- Rubber shoes.

We have done a rough calculation and this is what is needed for 130 students:  
100 Norwegian kroner per students x 130 students = **13,000 NOK**

If there is anyone out there interested in chipping in - let me know - it would be hugely appreciated!!!

## *Big hugs from all of us at Eco Moyo!*

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**Betale med Vipps?**  
**Mottaker:** Eco Moyo Education Centre  
**Nummer:** 10968

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter!

In the boxes you can find information on how to contact us, send a donation and follow our work.

Our website is currently undergoing some changes and hopefully by the end of September we will have a much nicer platform with easier access to information about our project!

If you wish to follow our development, we try to post most of our activities on **facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/ecomoyokenya/?ref=bookmarks>

Our **website**

[www.ecomoyo.com](http://www.ecomoyo.com)

PS - American tax payers get a tax deduction by donation to us through our partner **Journeys of Solutions.**

# Random pictures from school

