



At the end of May, 24 students from KED Partner School Dr. Nassau College used their Erasmus+ grant to visit Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden in Sweden for a week

KED

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Motivation

Students and teachers in exchange projects gain knowledge, new experiences, and personal growth. But in addition, motivation is created in this process. Motivation to keep challenging yourself towards clear and realistic goals in your local KED school. You can see this in Emma's story about Kunskapsskolan Enköping's exchange with Dr. Nassau College a few weeks ago. And you sense it in Sri's beautiful painting of going from busy Bangalore to Borlänge in the middle of the Swedish echoing countryside. While she was still out there, another batch of students from Dr. Nassau College arrived in Sweden. It has been the high season for KED exchanges, to say the least. This issue captures the essence of them all.

When you read Katja's article you get another motivating perspective of motivation. Students at the Dutch KED Partner School 2College Cobbenhagenlyceum designed a prototype of a cinema, which was picked up by the cinema company and turned into reality. A true statement - in red and purple - of the value of working hard. What could be more motivating for students than that?

Motivation does not happen by itself. But understanding your purpose, and that your work counts, so that motivation is created, can be encouraged in many ways. We can help each other with it. Maybe there will be a moment this summer for you to consider how you are going to build motivation next school

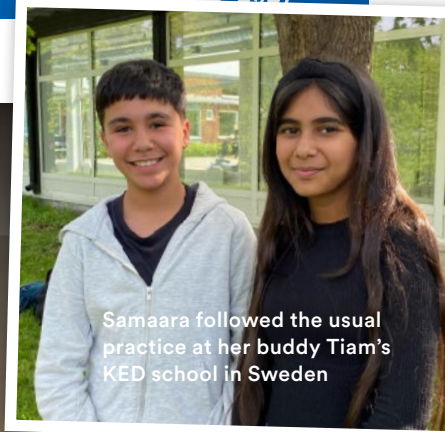
year - for yourself and others. Hint: a smile goes a long way.

I smiled from ear to ear when I saw the picture of Samaara from Kunskapsskolan Lucknow together with her family after returning from her exchange at Kunskapsskolan Nacka. Make sure you don't miss the article written by her parents about their motivation to participate in this exchange. Motivation feeds motivation, it seems. ■

Cecilia Aronsson
Network Director
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To Survive and Thrive in a Complex World



Samaara followed the usual practice at her buddy Tiam's KED school in Sweden



12 students representing all KED schools in India completed a student exchange at Kunskapsskolan Nacka in Sweden in May

Our planet is now a global village.

Over the past couple of decades, the internet supplemented by easy travel connectivity has made exposure to different countries, cultures and ideas much easier than it was ever before.

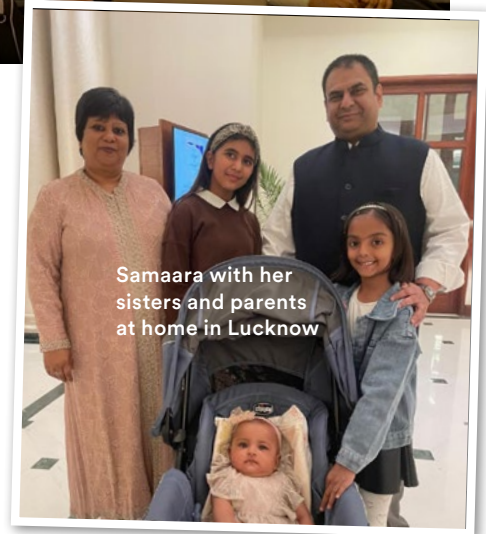
To survive and excel in our current complex and competitive environment, it is imperative to be aware and sensitive to different cultures and people.

We have been hearing about student exchange programs since we were kids growing up in the 70's & 80's but we never had the chance to participate in one. That

said, we have both been lucky enough to travel the world extensively and also study abroad; and we sincerely feel that the perspective, exposure and understanding of different points of view that travel brings to an individual is incomparable.

It was due to these experiences that, as parents, we did not give it a second thought when Samaara got the chance to participate in this program and go to Sweden. To be able to share a week of your life with an unknown family based on nothing more than mutual respect and willingness to learn from one another is priceless.

Samaara had the experience of a lifetime. Travel is a great bonding medium. She has made heartfelt connections with several of the other students who traveled from India with her for the program, as well as with many of the Swedish students at Kunskapsskolan Nacka. As for her host buddy Tiam, she is thrilled to have found a lifelong friend in him. The host family was kind, considerate, warm, welcoming and made her feel right at home.



Samaara with her sisters and parents at home in Lucknow

Samaara thoroughly enjoyed all the activities, some of which included: swimming at the beach, picnic on an island, going out for sushi and pizza, trip to the museum, movie night, evening in the hot tub, the cultural performances at school and the other fun stuff which all can't be captured here.

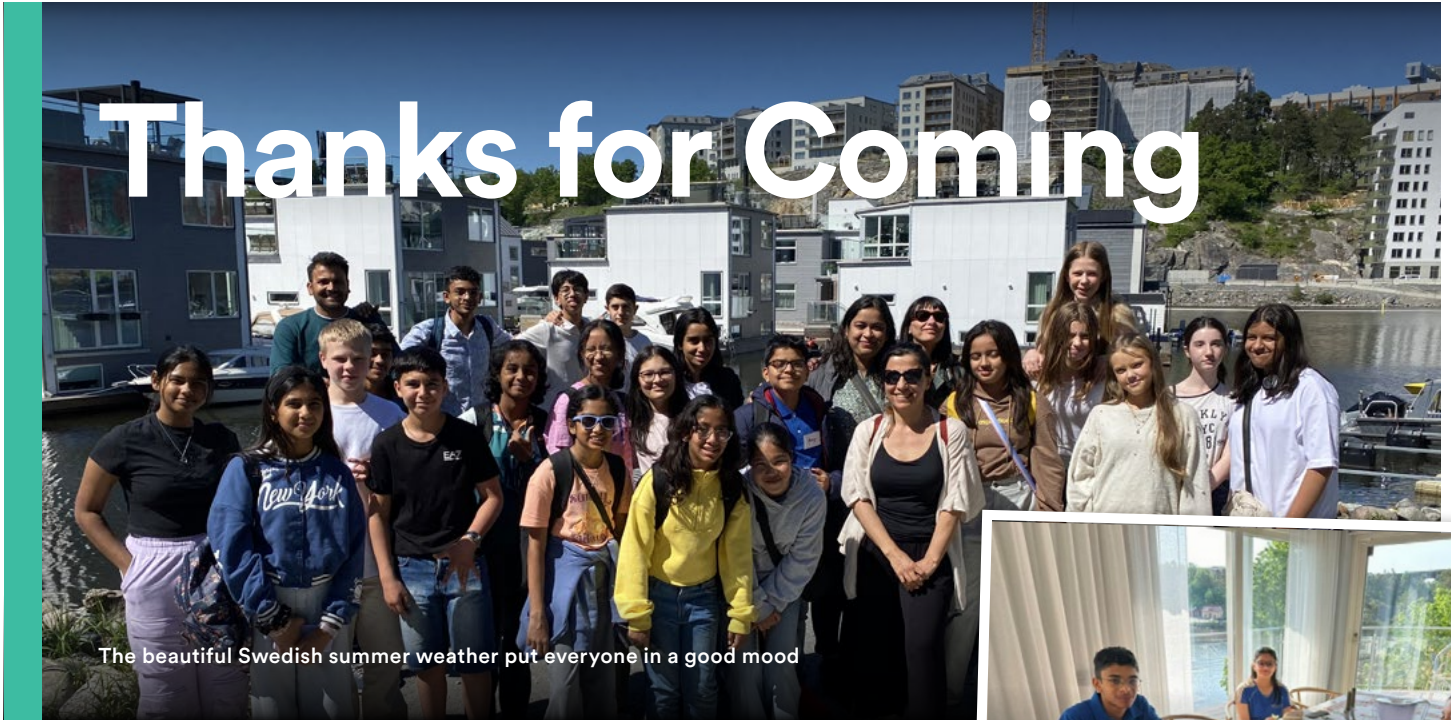
We strongly recommend this program and similar experiences to anyone who is lucky enough to get the opportunity.

Puja and Rahul Nemani
Parents of Samaara Nemani,
Grade 7, Kunskapsskolan
Lucknow



Samaara with the Swedish students Tiam, Agnes and Stella

Thanks for Coming



The beautiful Swedish summer weather put everyone in a good mood

I want to start by expressing my deep gratitude to the parents for your trust in letting your children stay with us. We are extremely grateful for that opportunity.

Welcoming the students from India to our home has been an exciting, amazing, unique, fun and incredibly enriching experience. It is difficult to describe in words the joy my family and I felt during their stay.

It has been a wonderful and memorable trip that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

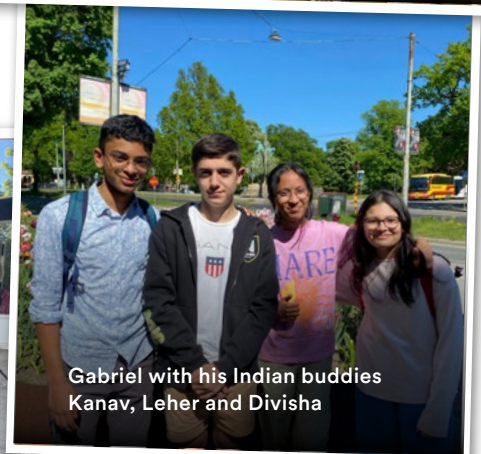
We have learned a lot from each other by sharing our respective cultures and traditions. This was the very reason why we chose to participate in this exchange – to create an inclusive and educational environment where everyone can feel welcome.



Kanav, Divisha and Leher having breakfast at their buddy's home



Dancing and singing in the schoolyard



Gabriel with his Indian buddies Kanav, Leher and Divisha



Gabriel and Sharv from Kunskapsskolan Nacka, together with Gabriel's mother Edessa, having dinner with their buddies Avyukt, Kanav, Divisha and Leher from Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon and Kunskapsskolan International

When we had the students from India here, we gained a new perspective on how we organize everyday life and free time for our children. It was really interesting to see the differences in culture and perspective.

If I were to be asked to do this again, I would without a doubt say yes a hundred times over. We miss our students immensely and are eternally grateful that we got to know them.

Edessa Babar
Mother of Gabriel Babar, Grade 7,
Kunskapsskolan Nacka

Exploring Nature Exchanging Ideas



Cooking over open fire is an essential part of the Swedish outdoor experience

It all started in 2021, with a world in lockdown due to Covid-19. Mai Anh Le at Dr. Nassau College and I came together in a project regarding how digital working methods, developed due to health restrictions to keep students isolated from each other, could continue to be useful after the pandemic. A few years later, when all the borders had opened, we ended up together again, this time to bring students together in an exchange project through Erasmus+.

The planning started in February 2024, when Mai Anh and her team contacted Kunskapsskolan in Enköping and proposed we do an Erasmus exchange together. The money was already granted and after a few hectic weeks of planning, the exchange took place in Enköping, Sweden, with a total of 45 participating students.

Our exchange centered around outdoor life, and the students were given an assignment to work on to-

gether for the duration of the week. They focused on The Rights of Common, a law entitling people to camp, cook and pick mushrooms, berries and flowers in Swedish nature, regardless of who owns the land. The Rights of Common is a privilege, almost unique for Sweden.

To really get the feeling for Swedish history, nature and culture the exchange involved a visit to Skansen and the old parts of Stockholm, a full day hike



The hike provided many opportunities for collaboration between the Dutch and Swedish students

organized an evening at JumpYard, where students and teachers could climb, jump and play together on the first day of the exchange.

The students were also very engaged in the project assignment and worked on Mood Boards for the final presentation, which was organized as an exhibition on our final day together. All the host families were invited to mingling and Swedish fika. The students explained what they had experienced and learned during the exchange as was displayed on their Mood Boards.

through Swedish nature, including cooking lunch over open fire, fun and games in lake Mälaren, and a visit to the Royal Mounds in Uppsala, as well as some free time and shopping in the Uppsala city center.

The weather was excellent, with bright sunshine and Swedish high summer temperatures, perfect for barbecuing and outdoor activities. It was great to see how all students put their phones aside and engaged in conversations, sports and games despite the fact that they had all just met and needed to use a foreign language to communicate. It probably helped that the host families



Digital devices unnecessary



Jumping on a trampoline together appeared to be the perfect icebreaker when the Dutch students arrived

This exchange has been educational in so many ways for both students and teachers. I did not get to meet Mai Anh this time, as Daphne and Arjan accompanied the Dutch students, two colleagues that I am more than grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know. I do hope to get to see all three of them when we bring our students to visit Dr. Nassau College in Norg in the future. We are excited to continue this collaboration.

Emma Rova
Team leader, Kunskapsskolan
Enköping

Make It a Yearly Thing



At the end of May, 24 students from KED Partner School Dr. Nassau College used their Erasmus+ grant to visit Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden in Sweden for a week

The week after the Dutch KED buddies from Dr. Nassau College left Kunskapsskolan Enköping, another 24 students from Dr. Nassau arrived in Sweden, this time at Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden. Indeed, Erasmus+ financing enables schools to create opportunities for many students.

I was happy to reunite with Danielle Boer and Carlos Monteiro that I got to know during the exchange with Kunskapsskolan Gävle a year ago. Now they are back in Sweden with a new batch of young teens, 12-14 years old.



Swedish and Dutch students having lunch at Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden

Carlos, what is the best thing about student exchanges?

“The experience for students is the most important thing. They get to see another culture and compare it to their own.”

“The rules are different, the way they do things is different. It is good to learn that and to practice adapting to that,” Danielle adds.

Yan Wang and Marika Sabo are the local project leaders at Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden. They also host some of the

Dutch students at their homes during the week, since the school could only find 14 host families with students. Danielle and Carlos have rented a house close to the Swedish school, where they stay with five of their students during the week. This way, they solved housing for all 24 students from the Netherlands.



Mart, Jesse, Tijn and Jan enjoying a learning session by the sea together with their teacher Sven

“You get to practice your English and see other cultures. It is a good investment for the future,” says Marika Sabo, Coordinator at Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden.

“This context with different people increases students’ learning ability. You learn from seeing how people behave and talk in different ways,” says her colleague Yan Wang.



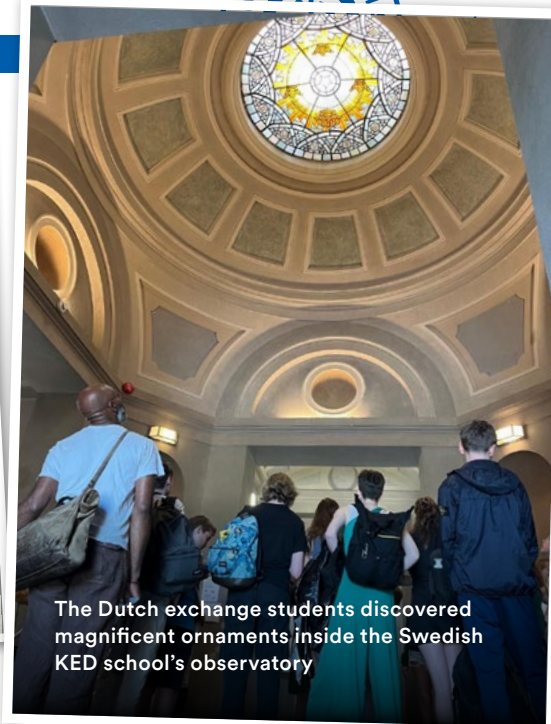
Visit to Stockholm Old Town

What have your students learned this week?

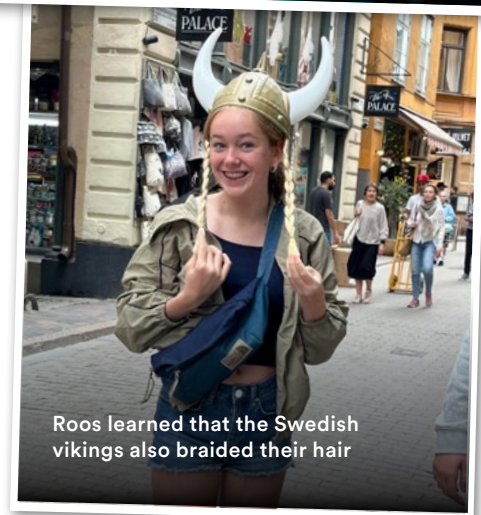
“They experience something that makes them grow. When kids come back from an exchange, you can see that they have become more confident, stronger and more experienced. They are far away from their parents and that makes them more independent, and they also have to learn to work together and support each other,” says Danielle.

What is your advice to other schools that would like to do student exchange?

“Find motivation and make sure that there is interaction with the students and that they also take initiative in the planning process. That is part of the growth process. And make sure to create a team around you. Don’t try to do it alone. We have great people back home who support us with everything,” says Carlos.



The Dutch exchange students discovered magnificent ornaments inside the Swedish KED school’s observatory



Roos learned that the Swedish vikings also braided their hair

Mai Anh Le and Ruben Eisses are the Erasmus+ coordinators at Dr. Nassau College. They are exchange experts by now and form a team around the colleagues who are traveling with the students abroad. This way, the exchange project becomes part of the school’s regular teamwork and is completed more strategically.

“Make it a yearly thing. It is worth the effort. Last year I was very nervous about the exchange, but this time I’m completely relaxed,” says Danielle.

Cecilia Aronsson
Network Director



The good weather allowed for lots of outdoor excursions

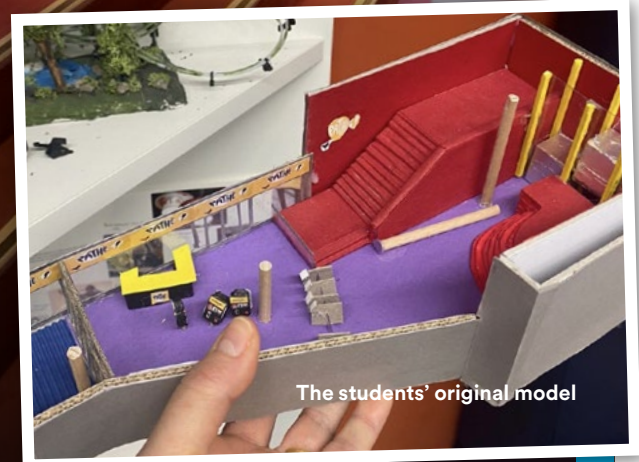
KED R&D

A new cinema entrance designed
by students at KED Partner School
2College Cobbenhagenlyceum

At 2College Cobbenhagenlyceum in Tilburg, the Netherlands, the students are studying a unique course called Research & Design. To be able to offer this subject you have to be a certified Technasium and part of STEM secondary education, which is a teaching approach that combines science, technology and math. Technasium students work in a team on real science and techni-

cal projects from their first year to the final exams that will qualify them for higher education.

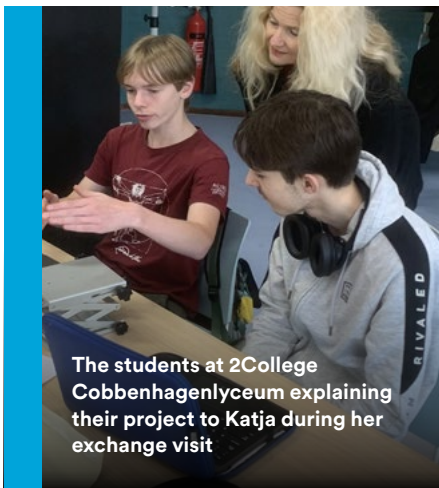
When I was doing my KED Teacher Exchange Program the other month, I had the opportunity to attend several classes with students of Research & Design. One of



The students' original model

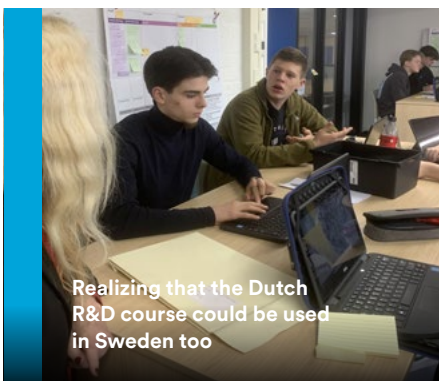
the ideas is to integrate the students with working life, in contact with different local companies in and outside Tilburg.

An example of a project was to redesign the foyer of a cinema, present a plan, choosing material, colors etc. First the students had to draw a sketch of their idea, create a model, while being in constant contact with those responsible for the company (in this case the cinema Pathé Tilburg). And then, after several weeks and working stages the cinema decided to accept the idea and put it into practice.



The students at 2College Cobbenhagenlyceum explaining their project to Katja during her exchange visit

The whole concept fascinated me and I learned a lot through all the engaged students and also the teachers, among others, Joep and Tamara, who shared their knowledge and experience of teach-



Realizing that the Dutch R&D course could be used in Sweden too



Ideas by students that local companies could potentially turn into practice

ing Research & Design. The students described how they had contacted companies in and around Tilburg, discussed and planned possible projects to be presented and hopefully put into practice.

Talk about motivating the students! When I was visiting the school in general and the Research & Design course in particular I was thinking about how much we can learn from each other internationally. For example, a similar course could be implemented in the Swedish upper

secondary program Business & Management or, why not, in the Natural Science program, to get a more creative and practical use of the science subjects.

The KED Teacher Exchange Program certainly lives up to its name. Thank you, Cobbenhagenlyceum, for this time!

Katja Hjelm
English and Spanish Teacher,
Kunskaps gymnasiet Malmö

KED B2B

KED Exchange
visit to Dalarna

Here, B2B stands for **Bangalore to Borlänge (nothing to do with business)**. It all starts with a bunch of fleeting dandelions and a philosophy for life.

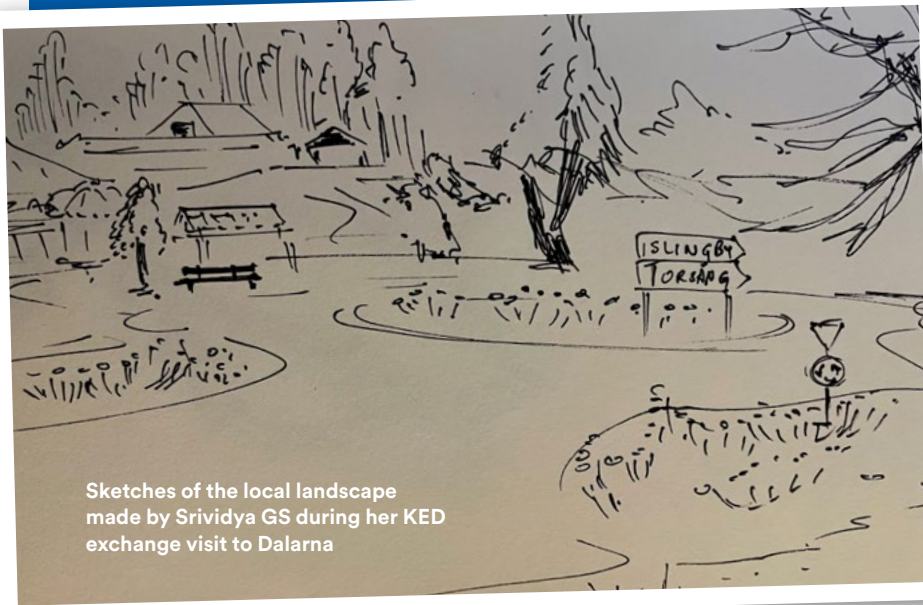
As a nature lover and a painter of flora, my first lasting impression of Borlänge was the dandelions. Enchanting yellow flowers turning white and the petals, pollen and seeds flying far and wide before settling down on

new territory and making it their own. In my mind, this drew a philosophical parallel to the purpose of my visit. A new country, a new city, new acquaintances, new learnings and new memories in a distant land.

I am Srividya, the Academic Coordinator at Kunskapsskolan Bengaluru (KKB) in India. I have been part of Kunskapsskolan for the last seven years as an Art Facilitator along with



Srividya GS and her exchange partner Emelie Steen at Kunskapsskolan Borlänge



Sketches of the local landscape made by Srividya GS during her KED exchange visit to Dalarna



having various leadership roles from primary to senior grades. I presently work as Team Leader for my immediate team along with the work team. The KED exchange program has empowered me to become a better KED teacher and leader. For this, I express gratitude and sincere thanks to Kunskapsskolan Borlänge Head of School Erica and Deputy Head Marie.

I traveled to Kunskapsskolan Borlänge, Sweden in May, 2024. My personal learning goal for the exchange visit was to identify the common good practices and challenges at our schools, linked to the KED Quality Model. The idea being that I make sure my learnings percolate across the teams back home in Bengaluru. Consequently, my school gets to benefit from these leanings, reflected in the ways of teachers and students.

To this end, my exchange partner Emelie played a pivotal role. She handled my requests of scheduling meetings with leaders, teachers and also planning observations in various sessions across age groups, which happened smoothly and seamlessly. A big hug and thanks to her.

Our first step should be to continue collaboration in a structured manner. That is how we will ensure common goals

to nurture students to be world ready, armed with skills to tackle the future which exactly connects to one of our KED values.

One topic that we would like to collaborate around is the KED future skills. This area needs to be strengthened at both schools through awareness of the importance and purpose behind the chosen skills.

It is my firm belief that the free spirited yellow dandelions of Borlänge and the yellow jacaranda of Bangalore will soon create a perfectly harmonic symphony together.

Srividya GS

Academic Coordinator, Art Facilitator and Team Leader, Kunskapsskolan Bengaluru



The dandelions of Borlänge

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