



GRADE 9 AT KUNSKAPSSKOLAN GURGAON, MEETING WITH THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR, MS. ANGELA MERKEL

# KED

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## We Are KED Competent

by Cecilia Aronsson  
KED Network Director

As educators, we care about the quality of teaching and learning in our schools. We consider leadership, recruitment, training and development of teachers who are qualified to navigate all aspects of the KED Program. And as we develop and grow our competence through new initiatives in the Network, so does our Program.

This issue of the Newsletter highlights how members of the Network bring their competence to the table in different ways: Teacher introductions and exchanges, KED Buddies links, and presentations about our achievements to large audiences and powerful decision makers – these are good examples of ways to promote KED Competence in our Network.

We are part of the same community of learning, tapping into the same pool of KED



Competence. By examining the interests and experiences of members of the KED Network – like the examples displayed in our Newsletter every two months – we will continue to facilitate collaboration between students, teachers, principals and management globally. I am convinced that this makes KED a world leader in education.

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# Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon Students Invited to Angela Merkel

by Charu Anand

German Teacher, Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon

Advika Narang and Mrinalini Bhargava, students of Grade 9 at Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon, participated in a contest organized by Max Mueller Bhavan in partnership with the German Embassy. This was an All India Contest, where 31 students were going to be selected for a prestigious and life changing award – A three-week German language scholarship in Germany and a meeting with the German Chancellor, Ms. Angela Merkel.

The contest included making e-presentations on a set of given topics in Stage I, and clear a language aptitude test in Stage II. Advika and Mrinalini worked meticulously under the guidance of their German Teacher, Ms. Charu A Mehra. In Stage I, the students

created two exceptional presentations which stood out amongst the 400+ entries received from all over India. They used tools like Google Survey and Live Interviews to present their work in a compelling manner. They interviewed their school mates, students around the vicinity and German natives to present authentic findings.

Their original ideas caught the attention of the judges resulting in them being called for

the language aptitude test in Stage II of the contest. The girls and their families were thrilled as they got announced as two of the 31 winners from India. They certainly made the school proud as they travelled to Dresden and Berlin and represented Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon at the German Chancellor's Office.





## KED Inspired Bond Grows Stronger

by Emil Burman  
Principal, Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden

Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden, just outside of Stockholm, Sweden, and Ansford Academy in Castle Cary in Somerset, England, have established a strong link between the two schools. In May, last year, staff and nine students from Ansford Academy visited Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden to explore the potential for collaboration. A year later, the student council from Kunskapsskolan Saltsjöbaden came to visit them in England. Now, the schools prepare a new round of exchanges.

The main purpose is to give our students a more international perspective on education. By letting them visit a school in England, with a different school system, set of traditions and values, students from both places get the opportunity to discuss and compare our schools, lectures, and concepts. During their visit, our students stayed with English host families, contributing to a totally new experience.

It was an educational visit also for the teachers, who got to observe other types of teaching sessions, and discuss pedagogics

and school related topics with their English teacher buddies.

We stayed in Somerset from Monday to Friday. The Swedish students came to school together with their hosting KED buddies. In the beginning, the students were a little nervous, but quite soon they felt more relaxed and got to know their buddies very well. During school hours, the Swedish students basically had the same schedule as the English students, participating in various sessions in different subjects. The English students had to wear their school uniforms, whereas the Swedish students could dress in their regular clothes. The Swedish students delivered a detailed presentation about Kunskapsskolan and the KED Program. The English students listened curiously and offered many questions in return.

After school hours, we managed to do some sightseeing. On the way to Castle Cary we



passed Stonehenge, and later in the week we visited the beautiful city of Bath. It was raining, but we still got to see the famous Roman baths.

One evening, we were all invited to a barbeque with the host families. It was nice to see the students getting along so well, while talking to everyone about our impressions and the next steps. Now we are looking forward to welcoming students and staff from Ansford Academy back to our school next month. We will then let our students in Year 8 visit them again in May. It is a privilege to become buddies in the KED Network.

# KED Pedagogues Share Experiences in Digital Age Teaching

by Tulio Capriles

Head of Business Studies, Kunskaps gymnasiet Malmö

During summer, Swedish KED pedagogues Dónal Gaynor and Sofia Jidbratt were invited to give a lecture at the ISTE Conference & Expo in Texas, USA, on the benefits of using IT solutions in education.

Dónal and Sofia, teachers at upper secondary KED school Kunskaps gymnasiet Malmö, Sweden, focused their presentation on how to take advantage of the flipped classroom method to support students of Swedish as a foreign language. The concept of flipped classroom refers to having students do their homework before coming to class, by using IT solutions to access lectures and other educational content prior to the teaching session. Based on the preparations, students are ready to complete assignments in school guided by their teacher.

"ISTE gave us a good chance to show how to support second-language students in a flipped classroom environment using programs like EDpuzzle, Question Writer and AnswerGarden," says Dónal.

"We also presented research showing how these methods can be helpful for first-language students."

This year's ISTE Conference & Expo was held in San Antonio, Texas. About 18,000 teachers, policymakers, IT pedagogues and other education stakeholders attended the conference, organized by the International Society for Technology in Education. The aim was to get inspiration, network and share ideas on how to develop the future of education.

Dónal's and Sofia's participation at ISTE was sponsored by a scholarship from the Atlas Program administered by the Swedish Council for Higher Education. The benefactor's goal is to help educators develop their work through global networking and exchange of ideas. If you have an international KED Inspired project in mind, please have a look at the Atlas Program's webpage to explore available scholarships to fund your project:

[www.utbyten.se](http://www.utbyten.se).



## University Graduate Trained for KED

by Tulio Capriles

Head of Business Studies, Kunskaps gymnasiet Malmö

This academic year, about a dozen students from Malmö University, Sweden, are going to acquire their practical teacher training at upper secondary KED school Kunskaps gymnasiet Malmö. Their aim is to become teachers in subjects like Swedish, English, math, history, social sciences and physical education. The link between the University and the KED school is generating positive results:

"My practical training at the KED school was a very rewarding part of my studies," says Palle Österling, who obtained his degree in education at Malmö University in May.

During his five years of studies at Malmö University, Palle completed a total of about 20 weeks of full-time practical training at Kunskaps gymnasiet in Malmö. Last month, he signed on as a full-time teacher here. It is probably safe to say he had a good understanding of the place he is coming to work for after those 20 weeks:

"At Kunskap I received constructive feedback and guidance from experienced teachers," says Palle Österling.





## Teacher Exchange Leading to Student Exchange

by Susanna Nivenius  
Student Year 9, Kunskapsskolan Spånga

My name is Susanna. This November, my classmates Jonathan, Linnéa, Stina and I are going to Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon for nine days. We are 15 years old and attend the final year of secondary school at Kunskapsskolan Spånga in Stockholm, Sweden. Going to Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon is a unique opportunity for us to see the differences and similarities of our cultures, schools, and everyday lives.

Last year, my English teacher Linda was part of the teacher exchange program between KED schools in Sweden and India to explore how to develop our education. Linda and her Indian teacher buddy Ramneek have planned the students' exchange that I will be part of. In preparation for the visit, I will work with special assignments in English, for example learn more about Indian history, watch Bollywood movies, and read books by Indian authors.

During my visit to India, I will stay with my new buddy Ayushi and her family. Ayushi is

the same age as me. She goes to Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon and enjoys sports in her free time. I will get to experience her way of life, spend the school days with her base group and meet her friends. It will be fun to experience what teenagers do on the other side of the world.

This exchange is such a great opportunity for me; my visit will help me develop my English-speaking abilities, as well as teach me a lot about the world outside Sweden. Since this is going to be the first time I travel abroad without my parents, it might help me become more independent. When I travel with my parents, they always know what to do and sort things out for me. This time, I will be expected to manage more myself. In the process, I will probably learn skills that will be useful to me for the rest of my life. I really look forward to this trip and cannot wait to try Indian food and meet my Indian KED buddies.





## Reflections from a New KED Teacher

by Alexander Bergström  
Music Teacher, Kunskapsskolan Tyresö

When I had finished my interview for the job as a music teacher at Kunskapsskolan, I realized that this is a totally different place to work at, compared to the public schools that are so familiar to me.

That realization became even more clear when I entered the introductory program at Kunskapsskolan in August this year.

Usually the start of a new school year is a bit chaotic. Routines that seemed to be set in stone are revised and changed for something... new. For new employees, whose first objective is to get an understanding of their new workplace, this tends to make the challenge of starting a new job even greater. At least, that is my experience.

The introductory program at Kunskapsskolan is everything but chaotic. Most areas that can be confusing to new teachers are covered in ways that give newcomers an understanding of the entire concept of the KED Program. I really enjoyed it. The areas covered had videos and sometimes even glossaries to make the whole learning process even smoother.



I tend to finish tasks quite fast. The online learning tool made it easy for me to proceed and start working on new areas and tasks. I

think that the ability to go back and review videos once or twice can be of great value to quite a few teachers, including myself.

As I begin my eleventh year as a music teacher, I am excited to belong to the Kunskapsskolan team. This feels like a place that suits my creative and curious personality. When working as a teacher at traditional public schools, I did not like the distance that naturally appeared between

students and teachers. I enjoy being able to influence the students and keeping a close

connection with them, even when I am not in class teaching them how to write and play music. This is how the KED Program makes such a difference – since I work as a subject teacher, but also as a personal coach for my base group, and a general teacher, I provide support to all students in the school in a personalized way.

“Kunskap” seems to be the right school for me.