

ABA School Newsletter

The Highlights

January 2014

- School make-over
- Visiting Utdanningshjelpen in Kisumu
- New design for website
- Biogas
- Artist donates work
- Finding Neverland
- Montessori
- School begins
- New staff
- Random



January has been a hectic, but extremely exciting month for all of at ABA School. Luckily, we now have an extended crew with new staff, new people showing interest across the oceans and it's unreal how much is actually developing in such a short amount of time. Check out our adventures below, we couldn't have done it without most you who are reading this. Thank you, thank you, thank you all!

ABA make over

During christmas we had a little make over of our school. - Who needs men anyway?!

Before

In the fixing



After



We also realised that someone had tried digging out the sides of our main door(!) so, we had to get dirty with cementing it back into place. Luckily, the pastor came by and made us aware of the fact that we had bought chalk for painting (instead of cement!) So we went back and got cement...



Before

After



Left: Entrance

Before



After



Left: Hallway

Before



In the fixing



Staff room

After



Kitchen

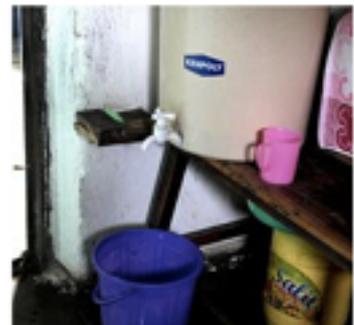
Before



In the fixing



After



Visiting Utdanningshjelpen in Kisumu

Back in november, in Norway, Lindsay met Felix Osok, the founder of *Utdanningshjelpen* (translated The Education Help). This is a non profit organisation sponsoring individuals in several african countries with their education.

Felix is Kenyan and came to Norway ten years ago pursuing his studies and today he works for the norwegian government (NORAD). He grew up as a poor orphan and with hard work, he made it happen. Now, he wants to help others do the same. - A true inspiration!

<http://ny.utedanningshjelpen.no/>

He invited us to visit their project just outside Kisumu (where he is from). So we took a road trip across the country and after dealing with holiday traffic (and the president banning night travel for all busses) we were finally there in the beautiful surroundings in Osiri Beach!



Above left: Hippo safari! Above middle: Adrian (the partner to Felix) is showing us their view. Above right: William (a sponsored student) and the crazy half cast duo.

Basically, Osiri Beach is becoming an “education hub”. They have a small primary school and have just received funding from Norway to build an IT centre. (Lindsay’s step dad was able to organise



his company to donate 10 computers!) They have built some cottages for visitors and during our visit, their people came to tell us all about the projects and wanted to hear about ABA School.

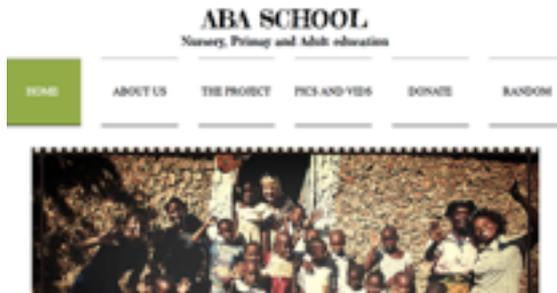
Above left: People involved with the Osiri Beach Project. Above middle: Beth on a roll about a ABA School. Above right: Lindsay and Felix (who is translating)

We were also given an amazing performance by the woman and men from the community. What they didn't know is that white folks can shake it too :)



New Design

We are exploring different designs for our web site and for now this is our address (we still need to hook up our domain). This should be easier to navigate and contains more information about us.



Knowledge is power and we should not blindly accept anything as truth, but rather make up our own mind based on investigation and personal experience. To gain experience you have to experiment and that's what this project is all about. Being a Kenyan/Norwegian collaboration, we are uniting two very different cultures that have a lot to teach - and learn from one another.

[Vision](#) [Progress Plan](#) [Design](#) [Budgets](#) [Biogas](#)



KG 2



This is our temporarily web address:

http://abaschoolkenya.wix.com/aba-school#!get_involved/c8k2

Our domain: www.abaschoolkenya.com is dormant at moment and looks like this:

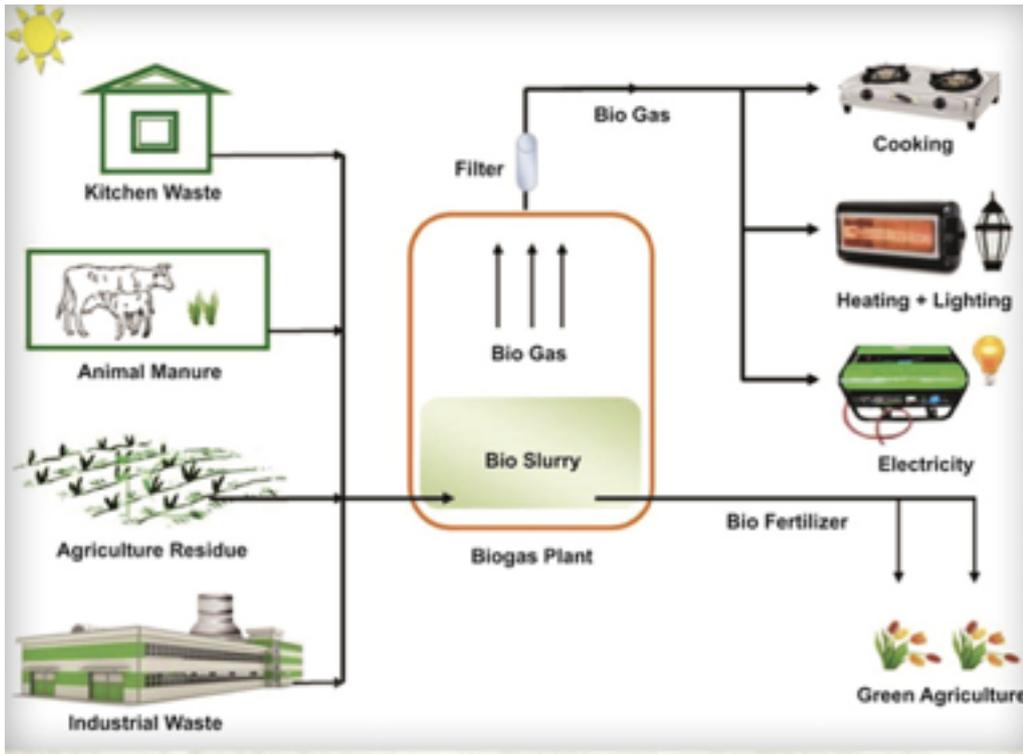


Biogas

For a while now, we have been trying to acquire as much information as possible about biogas as we are eager to set this up on future school grounds.

Biogas is produced by a system that operates much like a person. It eats, farts and takes a shit. It's one of those things that has a very simple concept, and if you have skilled people building and operating it - it is. But you can't just google DIY biogas and expect the magic to happen.

After doing some research, we arranged for a little biogas safari around Mombasa where we were accompanied by two engineers that actually set up the plants we were viewing.



Read more about biogas on our website under "The Project".



Artist donates his work

Martin Watson is a friend of Lindsay for many years and wanted to contribute to our project. He has been incredible generous, donating four of his prints!



Read more about his work at:

<http://www.martinwhatson.com/main.htm>

The eBay auction for "The son of man" and "Framed" started February 6 and two more prints will be ready for auction the following week.



"Framed"



"One small step"



"The son of man!"



"Angel"

If you could help us share this post on Facebook or any other media it would be very much appreciated!

<http://abaschoolkenya.wix.com/abaschool#!donated-art/c86d>

Finding Neverland

After a long and exhausting search we have finally found the dream plot for building our future school. It is a 4 acre plot in Mavueni village in Kilifi, the neighbouring county to Mombasa. In short it's an hours drive from Mombasa town.

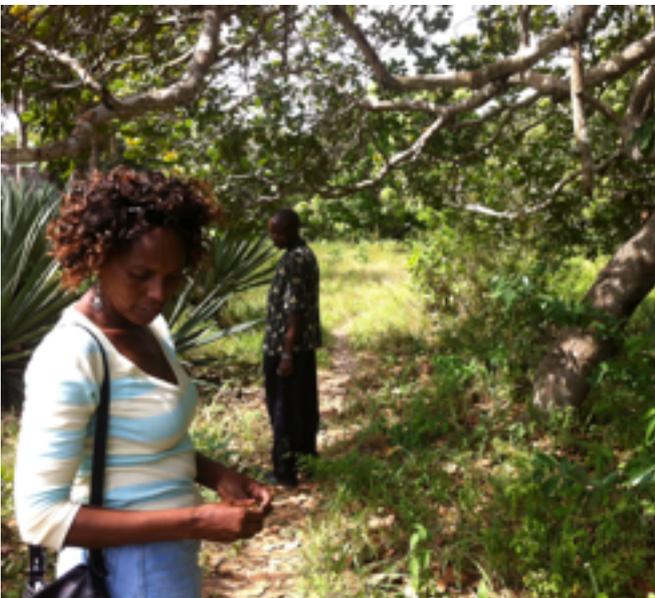
We are still in the process of finishing the paper work and navigating the legal process has been quite the adventure! But then again, most of what we are up to here is :)



Hello view!



Hello neighbour!



Hello sisal, palm, mango and cashew trees!

Montessori

On Monday (February 10th) Beth and Cecilia start their training for becoming Montessori teachers. They will be with the kids in school from morning to lunch and then 4 hours in the afternoon, they will study themselves. After 6 months, they do their exams.

The pictures below are from a little Montessori safari we did at a nursery in Mombasa town.



School begins

The school began on January 6th and the kids were amazed to see what the new facilities looked like! With the new year we decided to make some changes to our routines and invite some new ways of getting the kids more active and responsible (even though they are extremely well behaved).

New timetable, new menu, attendance list (they all have to sign themselves every morning), weekly chores (two students every week), sorting the trash (paper, organic, plastic), wash their face and brush their teeth after breakfast. They serve themselves food, wash their hands with soap. Small one sit on toilets etc.



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
07.00 - 08.00	Breakfast, brushing teeth, washing face + adult students	Breakfast, brushing teeth, washing face + adult students	Breakfast, brushing teeth, washing face + adult students	Breakfast, brushing teeth, washing face + adult students	Breakfast, brushing teeth, washing face + adult students
08.00 - 08.30	Morning talk				
08.30 - 10.00	Social studies	Creative studies	Religious studies	Life skills studies	Physical education
10.00 - 10.30	Play time				
10.30 - 12.00	Science	Math	English	Kiswahili	Physical education
12.00 - 14.00	Lunch Play time + adult students	Lunch + adult students School finished 13			
14.00 - 15.00	Science St.1 + St.2 Kg.1+ Kg.2 +Kg.3 Sleep	Math St.1 + St.2 Kg.1+ Kg.2 +Kg.3 Sleep	English St.1 + St.2 Kg.1+ Kg.2 +Kg.3 Sleep	Kiswahili St.1 + St.2 Kg.1+ Kg.2 +Kg.3 Sleep	Staff reviews the previous week and plans for the one coming, then; WEEKEND !!!
15.00 - 15.30	Afternoon talk	Afternoon talk	Afternoon talk	Afternoon talk	

WEEKLY CHORES

Date: ___ / ___ / ___ Students: _____ and _____

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
After breakfast Help kg 1 students brush their teeth	After breakfast Help kg 1 students brush their teeth	After breakfast Help kg 1 students brush their teeth	After breakfast Help kg 1 students brush their teeth	After breakfast Help kg 1 students brush their teeth
AFTER 10.30 BREAK Make sure everyone puts toys and games back into place	AFTER 10.30 BREAK Make sure everyone puts toys and games back into place	AFTER 10.30 BREAK Make sure everyone puts toys and games back into place	AFTER 10.30 BREAK Make sure everyone puts toys and games back into place	AFTER 10.30 BREAK Make sure everyone puts toys and games back into place
After lunch Hang straw mats on line outside, sweep floor in hallway	After lunch Hang straw mats on line outside, sweep floor in hallway	After lunch Hang straw mats on line outside, sweep floor in hallway	After lunch Hang straw mats on line outside, sweep floor in hallway	After lunch Hang straw mats on line outside, sweep floor in hallway
After last class Wash blackboard in both class rooms	After last class Wash blackboard in both class rooms	After last class Wash blackboard in both class rooms	After last class Wash blackboard in both class rooms	All students help clean school before the weekend

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
07.00 - 08.30	Porridge	Chai, bread	Porridge, eggs	Chai, sweetpotato	Porridge
	Fruit in 10 a'clock brake	Fruit in 10 a'clock brake	Fruit in 10 a'clock brake	Fruit in 10 a'clock brake	Fruit in 10 a'clock brake
12.00 - 13.00	Cabbage, carrot, potato, onion, tomato + ugali	Fish with veggies and potatoes	Beans with carrot, potato and onion + rice	Pojo with carrot, potato, onion and tomato + chapatti	Ghidheri * Kids leave after lunch, latest at 1 pm * Staff reviews the week until latest 3 pm
Notes:	* Vegetable delivery in the morning * Order 2 kg fish from Mama Riziki (400 sh) * Lindsay comes with food for the week	In General: * 1/4 kg sugar is used in porridge. Same in tea. * 250 g of porridge used per meal.			* Beth and Annet make vegetable order

New staff

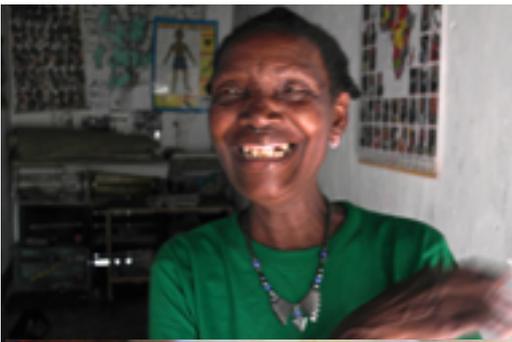
Chef/Caretaker

In early January, we hired Annet. She makes really tasty food and is warm and caring with the kids. She is half Kenyan, half Ugandan. Her wide experience in agriculture will for sure come in handy! Before the rainy season kicks in, she will organise our outside area with food plants, make a solution for leading rainwater etc.

- A handy woman with great energy!



Music and Movement Teacher



Kache is our most dedicated adult student and is everybody's grandma at the school. A very funny character! She makes her living as a traditional dancer and as the kids have a class called "music and movement", we figured she would be perfect for the job. And she is! When we payed her the first salary this month, she was able to sign the receipt writing her full name. Magic moment indeed.



We have also hired a part time teacher for the afternoon classes when Beth and Cecilia are absent in training. Her name is Trisa, she is 23 years old and just finished her ECDE (Early Childhood Development Education) training. She has been with us this last week to get to know the kids and the adult students.

We actually came to know about Trisa when on our biogas safari! While visiting one of the places (her father's farm) she was there, and after realising we were running a school, she pulled Beth aside and insisted we hire her! So we did! Unfortunately I have not taken her picture yet, but she is a gorgeous Kikuyu chick with a kick ass go-getter Kikuyu attitude!

-To be continued next newsletter..... :)

Random

Birth cards

We have finally collected all the birth cards for our kids! For many of you this might sound like a strange thing for a school to be doing, but the thing is, in Kenya, you need to have this in order to do your class 8 exams.

Many parents do not realise the importance of keeping these for future ID cards etc and when the time comes, many kids struggle to get an ID and end up in unnecessarily trouble that can be expensive to solve.



Adult students

We have now given the adult students the opportunity of coming either at 7 am or at 12 am (before they would come at any given time). This has been a good move and so many of the mothers are joining in the morning while their kids eat breakfast. ABA school is such a chick place, we literally have no male interference....we should do something about that...another time :)



Other than that, we now have contracts for all the staff, they all deliver Letter of Good Conduct, we have our weekly staff meeting which is very helpful and we are basically a family growing together.

That's all for now, but as mentioned earlier you can read more about everything on our website.

http://abaschoolkenya.wix.com/aba-school#!get_involved/c8k2

Sincerely,

- ABA Crew