

NYNÄSHAMN NATURE SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT



2011



INTRODUCTION

Nynäshamn Nature School was founded in 1988 with its premises on Sjöudden at the lake Muskan in Ösmo. The Nature School receives children/pupils from the age of 4 up to 16 from all over the Nynäshamn municipality. The Nature School is not a place but a way of working based on outdoor education. The school classes have one nature school day a year – that's when they work with research around a certain theme. Before each nature school day the teacher prepares the class, and afterwards they do follow-up work at their regular school. Each school grade has their own theme, such as small insects in the forest hill, the senses, ancient technology, winter ecology, inventory at the wetlands of Alhagen, etc. *Spending a lot of time outdoors in the nature at an early stage will encourage the children's sense for the nature. Consequently they will care for the nature and understand our environmental problems.*



The house of Nynäshamn Nature School on Sjöudden in Ösmo in the Nynäshamn municipality.

PERSONNEL

During the year Mats Wejdmark was employed 100 % as manager of the Nature School. Robert Lättman-Masch was employed 100 % as nature school teacher. For a period of time the outdoor teacher Ammi Wohlin was employed on hourly basis working in the EU-project COBWEB.

Internship

Jonas Paulman has been helping out at Nynäshamn Nature School. He has contributed to further improvement of the basic maintenance of the Nature School and the development of the outdoor environment during this year.

CLASSES

The classes are coming to the Nature School once every academic year. The number of classes is presented in the table below.

Period	Number of classes/groups	Number of pupils/children
Spring term 2011	54	About 1350
Autumn term 2011	48	About 1200
Total	102	About 2550

The different school grades worked with the following themes during the academic year:

Ages 4-5	Insects on land
Age 6	The squirrel
Grade 1	Insects in the forest hill
Grade 1-3	Autumn (Kyrkskolan)
Grade 2	The senses
Grade 3	Ancient technologies
Grade 4	Winter ecology
Grade 5	Fire
Grade 6	Life in the wetlands of Alhagen
Grade 9	The process of nitrogen through wetlands
Special school 1-6 + 7-9	Insects in water
Training school	Insects
Backlura/Linnea	Insects

Pupils from grade 9 in Alhagen wetlands. The pupils measure the amount of nitrogen in the different dams, from the inflow to the



COURSES

The following courses/lectures/workshops have been arranged by the Nature School during the year.

Spring term 2011			Autumn term 2011		
Course	Time	Number of participants	Course	Time	Number of participants
Green Flag-info Vaktberget pre-school	1 hour	6	Outdoor Swedish Viaskolan 1-9	2 hours	20
Green Flag-info Kullsta pre-school	2 hours	10	Outdoor Mathematics Skåskolan on Ekerö	3 hours	22
Outdoor Swedish Sunnerbyskolan	2 hours	20	Outdoor English Sunnerbyskolan	2 hours	8
Outdoor Swedish Tallbackaskolan	2 hours	17	Outdoor Mathematics workshop, Esbo, Finland	1,5 hours	20
Outdoor Swedish Tallbackaskolan. Leisure-time centre	2 hours	15	Outdoor Mathematics Sunnerbyskolan+Humlan	2 hours	11
Outdoor Swedish Svandammsskolan	2 hours	17	The forest as a classroom Small animals/insects, Outdoor Swedish, Hökarängen	full day	10
Outdoor Swedish The Special school	2 hours	12	The forest as a classroom Small animals/insects, Outdoor Swedish, Lidingö	full day	16
Outdoor Swedish Gröndal/Humlan schools	2 hours	16	Outdoor Mathematics workshop, Malmö, Out is in (cool)	1,5 tim	25
Outdoor Swedish Vanstaskolan pre-school class-grade 5 +Linden	2 hours	15	Stimulating outdoor environment SPRING	full day	16
Outdoor Swedish Viaskolan leisure-time centre +pre-school class	2 hours	17	Outdoor Mathematics, insects, fire, School in Sollentuna	full day	25
Outdoor Mathematics School in Huddinge	3 hours	11			
Outdoor Mathematics Hallängen/Skogs nibble pre- schools	2 hours	15			
Outdoor Mathematics Vaktberget pre-school	2 hours	12			
Fire (+charcoal chalks) Sunnerbyskolan	2 hours	8			
Fire (+charcoal chalks) Svartbäck school	3 hours	11			
Outdoor Swedish Teacher-students	3 hours	23			
The forest as a classroom Insects, Outdoor Swedish Rönninge	full day	25			
Total	6,5 days	250 people	Total	6 days	173 people

Comment: The relatively few course days this year partly depends on the schools' efforts and focus on education about the new curriculum Lgr 11.

DEVELOPMENT OF THEMES, TEACHING MATERIALS AND COURSES

Outdoor Mathematics, the school

The book "To learn Mathematics outdoors" with 135 pages was published in late autumn of 2005.

The book presents a great number of outdoor exercises organized according to the fulfillment goals within Mathematics for grades 5 and 9. More than 30000 copies have been sold up to December 2011. The book has also been translated and published in Latvia with the title "Matematika Mežā". Parts of the book are also in Russian, Estonian and Finnish.

The work of revising the book started during autumn 2010 because of the new curriculum Lgr11. The work has been done by the Nature Schools of Nynäshamn, Uppland Foundation and Falun. The book was revised completely during 2011, and turned into a new book with 100 new exercises but with the same name. It will be published during spring 2012.

- Mats and Robert had a telephone conference with Uppsala and Falun nature schools on Feb 10 and meetings on Apr14-15, Aug 25-26, Nov 10-11 and Dec16 concerning revision of the book *To learn Mathematics outdoors*.
- Photos have been taken during all the seasons of the year for the sake of the new book. This has been done by showing exercises during regular class visits or when a group of pupils have helped to do the exercises during school hours. Almost all photos have been taken by Nynäshamn Nature School.



Outdoor Mathematics, pre-school

In the beginning of 2007 the book "Play and learn Mathematics outdoors" was published. Nynäshamn Natur School has written the book together with the Uppland Foundation and Falu Nature School and two outdoor teachers from Uppsala and Öland respectively. More than 35000 copies have been sold up to December 2011.

- The book has been translated into Japanese during 2011 and the layout has been set. To finalize the work we have to find a person who can read and review the book as well as check the quality.
- The book has also been translated into English and the layout has been set. It will be printed in the beginning of 2012.
- A meeting was held on May 23 with publisher Outdoor Teaching, the Nature School's contact person in Japan and a Japanese man who is interested in translating the book to Japanese.
- Mats and Robert had a meeting with the Japanese translator on Sep 10 and Nov 8 about the translation of *Play and learn Mathematics outdoors*.



Outdoor Swedish

Nynäshamn Nature School has together with outdoor teachers from Älvkarleby, Uddevalla, Skärholmen, Södertälje and Lund written the book "To learn Swedish outdoors". The book was published October 2010.

- During the year all schools have had the opportunity of two hours training where the participants were given one book each. This was done in cooperation with the Nature School and the Department of Childcare and Education in the Nynäshamn municipality.



To learn outdoors all year round

Nynäshamn Nature School's own book "To learn outdoors all year round", which was published in 2008, is now used as compulsory teaching material within different courses in several schools of education in Sweden, such as Stockholm University and the universities in Malmö, Halmstad, Umeå and Kalmar.

- During the year the book was revised to adjust to the new curriculum Lgr 11. Through earlier contacts with Russia the work of translating the book into Russian has started.



NETWORKS

The Nature School runs networks within schools and pre-schools to stimulate the work of sustainable development within the municipality. The school has 14 *environmental group representatives* and the pre-school has 23 *environmental representatives*. The following meetings have taken place during the year. During these meetings the Nature School has the possibility to distribute information about outdoor education, school ground development, Green Flag, environmental plans, current environmental knowledge, new courses, etc. The participants have the opportunity to share experiences with each other about environmental work, school ground projects and to get support in different issues.

Spring term 2011		Autumn term 2011	
Network	Number of occasions	Network	Number of occasions
The school's environmental group	3 x 2,5 hours	The school's environmental group	3 x 2,5 hours
The pre-school's environmental representatives	3 x 2 hours	The pre-school's environmental representatives	2 x 2 hours



GREEN FLAG

The Nature School informs and inspires schools and pre-schools to work with the Green Flag project. The Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation organizes and rewards schools and pre-schools in the whole country. The Nature School holds the information during network meetings, planning days and personnel conferences. Furthermore the Nature School pays the registration fee of 500 kronor to the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation for the schools and pre-schools that apply.

Green Flag is a mini environmental management system where an environmental group is formed and they decide upon five goals to work with during at least six months. The goals concern six different themes: local environment, climate and energy, water resources, lifestyle and health, consumption and lifecycle. When the work has been approved the school or pre-school receives a diploma and a flag and they must then decide upon five new goals to be able to keep the flag. Current information about those working with the Green Flag can be read at www.hsr.se. Click the Green Flag logotype and "we have joined".

In December 2011, four pre-schools and four schools were certified with the Green Flag. More schools and pre-schools have registered and are working with their goals. According to the local environmental goals in Nynäshamn municipality, at least 50% of the schools and pre-schools should be certified with Green Flag or similar before 2012.

- During the year we have written a tutorial, as inspiration, about the *water resources* theme for the schools and pre-schools in Nynäshamn municipality. The folder is 75 pages and divided into pre-school, from pre-school class-grade 3, grades 4-6 and grades 7-9.
- Mats participated in a principal's conference on Feb 25 about Green Flag, Etiquette at the toilet, Keep Nynäshamn Tidy and Earth Hour.
- Robert held information meeting at Vaktberget pre-school about Green Flag on Feb 17.
- Mats held information meeting at Kullsta pre-school about Green Flag on March 22.
- Mats participated in a principal's conference on Oct 7 about Green Flag and SPRING.
- Mats and Robert had a meeting at the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation's office on Nov 25 about Green Flag and the tutorial to the theme *water resources*.



According to Nynäshamn local environmental goals, at least 50 % of the schools and pre-schools should be Green Flag-certified or similar before 2012.

During the year the Nature School wrote an inspiration folder - a tutorial - to the schools and pre-schools in Nynäshamn municipality. The purpose of the folder of 75 pages is to be a guide in the Green Flag-work about the water resources theme.

PROJECT AND CAMPAIGN

The outdoor environment of schools and pre-schools – a background

The playground project started in the beginning of 2001. The purpose of the project is to develop the pre-schools' playgrounds within the Nynäshamn municipality to let the children get close nature experiences and increased knowledge about ecology, eco cycle, plants and animals. It will also fill the children's need of motor skills' training, play, good health, joy of discovery, creativity, quietness, etc. Initiative to the project came from the pre-schools' environmental representatives. Over time also the school grounds have become included in the project.

In the *investment budget* of the Department of Childcare and Education during 2003-2006 the playground project was accounted for. The money improved the work with the school grounds. Things started to develop at the schools and pre-schools. Documentation from 2004 describes how the project proceeded.

The new *school/pre-schools' school ground project* continued where the last project ended. The project period was 2004-2006. The project goal was to let all the pre-schools and schools within the Nynäshamn municipality to actively work with development of their school grounds both in short term and long term. There was money left during 2007 so the schools and pre-schools could continue their work of developing the school grounds.

SPRING

During 2007 the new and unique public health project SPRING (Shadow, Pedagogy, Activity In Nature and School Ground environments) was born and it started in 2008. During 2009 the project was running at full speed and up-to-date information can be found at www.nynashamnsnaturskola.se/spring



The purpose of SPRING is to create outdoor environments at pre-schools and schools in order to stimulate physical activity, to protect against harmful UV-radiation and to increase children's concentration ability, as well as to use the outdoor environments in the pedagogical work.

The long-term goal of the project is to integrate it into regular work in the municipality, that the aspects that SPRING are built upon are taken into consideration when new pre-schools are built and during maintenance of school grounds. This is to be achieved by implementing the project within the regular work in cooperation with the different departments of the municipality.

The project continued during 2011 with work on the school grounds involved in the project, focusing on documentation, evaluation and implementation of SPRING into regular work.

- Mats and Robert had meetings with SPRING's steering group on Mar16, Apr 27, Sep 21 and Nov 28.
- Mats had a meeting with Cecilia Boldemann from Karolinska Institutet on Jan 27 about SPRING and the inquiries that will be sent out during spring.
- Mats attended a meeting with the principals at Vanstaskolan, the head of the schools Marie Lööf as well as Inger Höjer from the National Public Art Council Sweden on Jan 17 for the purpose of the illustration of the school ground at Vanstaskolan as part of the SPRING-project.
- Mats attended a meeting with Vanstaskolan's management group on Feb 10 concerning the illustration of the school ground at Vanstaskolan.
- Mats attended a public health meeting on May 19 and Aug 18 concerning the public health conference during the autumn. SPRING is one of the public health projects.
- Robert attended a meeting with two researchers from Karolinska Institutet at Vanstaskolan school ground on May 20 concerning a project named Kidscape 2.
- Mats and Robert had a meeting with Vanstaskolan's school ground group and the two industrial designers Folkform on May 31 concerning the illustration project at Vanstaskolan school ground.
- Mats and Robert had a meeting with the National Public Art Council Sweden on June 8 concerning the illustration project at Vanstaskolan school ground.
- Mats had a meeting with the arts teachers at Vanstaskolan and an arts teacher from the National Public Art Council Sweden on Aug16 concerning the workshops that were to be held later during the autumn.
- Mats and Robert had a meeting on Sep 9 with Konstform, arts teacher from National Public Art Council Sweden and teachers from Vanstaskolan concerning workshops.
- Robert had a meeting with a representative from the Section of Planning and Sustainable Development on Sep 12 concerning the detailed plan for Ösmo, to make sure that the illustration project at Vanstaskolan would not conflict with other plans.
- Mats had a meeting with Vanstaskolan on Sep 12 concerning workshops.
- Folkform and the arts teacher from the National Public Art Council Sweden arranged a workshop with pupils at Vanstaskolan on Sep 27. The purpose was for the pupils to write down their ideas about the outdoor environment so that Folkform could draw a proposal and present it to Vanstaskolan's school ground group and SPRINGs steering group.
- Robert had a meeting with the head of the Department of Childcare and Education on Oct 3 concerning implementation of the SPRING-project.
- Mats attended a principal's conference on Oct 7 concerning SPRING and Green Flag.
- A one-day course was held at the Nature School on Oct 17 with the name *A stimulating outdoor environment for children and pupils* by Sara Chronvall and Anna-Karin Hughes. The target groups were estate technicians, school keepers, park personnel and environmental representatives from schools and pre-schools.
- Mats and Robert had a telephone conference with the previous SPRING working group, i.e. the Nature School and representatives from Karolinska institutet.
- Mats and Robert had a meeting with Folkform on Oct 26 concerning the results of the two workshops previously carried out at Vanstaskolan grades 6-9 and pre-school class-grade 5.

- Mats and Robert had a meeting with the municipality's health advisers on Nov 17 and Dec 12 concerning implementation of the SPRING-project and how it can be illustrated in the record of the safety check, the so called Toolbox.
- Robert attended a meeting with one of the administrative managers on Nov 23 concerning the outdoor environment at a newly opened pre-school unit.
- Mats had a meeting with Folkform on Nov 24 concerning the design proposal before the meeting with SPRING's steering group and Vanstaskolan's school ground group.
- Mats and Robert had a meeting with Vanstaskolan's school ground group, arts teachers and Folkform concerning Folkform's design which they had done based on the two workshops with pupils at Vanstaskolan.
- Mats attended a meeting with Utenavet as representative of the Nature School Association in Umeå on Nov 29-30 concerning follow-up of the Malmö conference *Out is cool*.
- Mats attended a meeting with the financial controller of the Department of Childcare and Education on Dec 1 concerning the Nature School's 2012-year budget.
- Mats had a meeting with the Head of the Housing Administration on Dec 5 concerning the implementation of the SPRING-project and asphalt-painting for summer workers during 2012.
- Mats and Robert had a telephone meeting with Folkform on Dec 19 concerning priorities in the illustration project at Vanstaskolan based on the comments on Folkform's design from the school ground group and the SPRING steering group.



Vaktberget pre-school. A stairway to increase the activity and trees for shadows, nicely integrated in a narrow and highly sun-exposed playground.

Vaktberget pre-school. A girl is walking through the shrubbery on the part of the yard where the fence has been moved further out and new land has been incorporated. The new area stimulates to both activity and discoveries and it provides shadow when needed most, during May to August 11a.m.-15 p.m.





The EU-project COBWEB

This EU-project has been a border-crossing cooperation where key actors, universities, museums as well as nature and environmental schools together create environment-educational materials and programs, which affect people's feelings and senses. At the same time the most up-to-date knowledge about status of the environment and sustainability is combined with efficient environmental communication. The project planning started in August 2007 and has evolved into great cooperative work. The leading thought of the planning process was to create a "work and learn together"-project with common and concrete results and transnational values. Partners from Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Sweden have participated in the project. Nynäshamn Nature School was the only Swedish partner and the project lasted during the years 2009-2011. More about the project can be found on the Nature School's English part of the website.

- Within the project and during the year Nynäshamn Nature School has produced a couple of teaching materials; Ecological Outdoor Games and Keep the Municipality Tidy. Both have been translated into English.
- Teaching materials produced by other partners are for example *Movement of Animals*, which has been translated and printed by Nynäshamn Nature School with means from the project. The original is written by the Natural History Museum in Tartu. Two copies each of the folder have been distributed freely to grades 4-6 in all schools in Nynäshamn municipality. The teaching material *Snails and Bivalves Teach* is written by Tartu Environmental Education Centre and has been translated by Nynäshamns Nature School and will be available on our website under teaching materials.
- Mats attended the COBWEB conference in Riga in Latvia on Mar 8-11.
- The project was completed in October 2011.
- Mats attended a meeting with the Finnish coordinator of the COBWEB project on Dec 13 concerning follow-up and future cooperation.



Visit at a national park where some animals could be seen. At the Natural History Museum in Riga different pedagogical materials have been written about the salmon and its migration. This picture shows a salmon migration cloth where a ball is to be moved from start to finish by the players holding the cloth together, cooperating.



The campaign *Etiquette at the toilet*

During week 12 and 13 the campaign “Etiquette at the toilet” started with the initiative of the Department of Water and Sewage in cooperation with Nynäshamn Nature School. The purpose of the campaign is to spread knowledge about what can be flushed down the toilet, so that the quality of the sewage sludge in the municipality is improved and that the emission of nutrition and environmentally hazardous substances into lakes and seas are minimized. By improving the quality of the sludge, then the nutrient phosphorous (which is a limited nature resource) can be returned to the agriculture. Environmentally hazardous substances can be toxic to plants and animals but also to people. These substances may also disturb the purification process in the treatment plants, which results in increased emissions of nutrients. Everybody participating in the campaign is contributing to create a lifecycle of nutrients.

- The Nature School had a meeting with the Department of Water and Sewage before the campaign “Etiquette at the toilet” on Jan 17 and Feb 1.
- Nature School participated in a principal’s conference on Feb 25 and informed about the campaign “Etiquette at the toilet”.
- Jonas Paulman painted two posters with the message of throwing litter in the garbage can instead of in the toilet.
- Before the campaign Nynäshamn Nature School wrote four tutorials suitable for the different school stages; pre-school, pre-school class-grade 3, grades 4-6 and grades 7-9. These were packed together with dishcloths printed with the campaign logotype, etc., into folders of different colors for the different school grades. They were delivered through internal mail one week before campaign start. All the tutorials can be found as PDFs on the website.



The content of the folders that were packed and sent out to all the classes in all schools and pre-schools in Nynäshamn municipality.



The folders of different colors for the different school grades that were sent out by internal mail.



The two campaign posters.



This is how the sludge looks like when it is stored before being distributed on the

Steering documents supporting the campaign

The local environmental goals 2010-2016 in the Nynäshamn municipality

Under the title *Toxic-free and resource-economic lifecycles* the interim target is:

“All sludge from the municipality’s treatment plant shall be certified to be used on arable land for cultivation of ecologically branded food products before 2012”.

The target was fulfilled in 2010 and it is now important to continue sustaining that quality since new sludge is constantly produced.

The curriculum Lgr 11

- The goal of the school is that each pupil shows respect and care for both the immediate environment, as well as the environment from a broader perspective



The forest as a classroom

During the year the project “The forest as a classroom” was carried out for the third year in a row. This project combines the ambitions of the **Swedish Society for Nature Conservation** (to protect the children’s forests) and the ambitions of the **Nature School Association** (that children and pupils should be able to learn outdoors while they are at the school or pre-school). The purpose of *The forest as a classroom* training day was to inspire teachers to use the forest as a pedagogical resource. The training was held by nature school teachers who have many years of experience of outdoor educational training. The politicians and officials of the municipality were invited for an hour of discussion about the children’s need of forests. This discussion was held by the local part of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation. Participating teachers had to perform and to write down an outdoor pedagogical exercise with their pupils between the first and second training occasion. **Altogether 9 nature schools around Sweden participated and educated about 1000 teachers** in Natural Sciences, Swedish, Maths and English – outdoors – this year. Each school that participated was granted two free training days. The project was financed by means from Svenskt Friluftsliv (Swedish Recreation and Leisure Life Organization).



- Nynäshamn Nature School is one of the nature schools that participated in the project and educated schools in the Stockholm area.
- The project received attention when the newspaper Svenska Dagbladet had a series of articles about outdoor education in November 2011.

Keep Nynäshamn Tidy – week 17 – The national litter-picking week

The campaign was carried out as a cooperation between the Park Administration and Nynäshamn Nature School.

This year 3300 people participated in Keep Nynäshamn Tidy, which is 13 % of the whole population of Nynäshamn municipality. Altogether 28 schools and pre-schools, of which 16 weighed their garbage.

- Decomposable 1600 kg
- Metal 290 kg
- Glass 230 kg

Totally: 2120 kg



The Park Administration lent litter-picking sticks to the participants and collected all the garbage that had been sorted in three different parts. The Nature School was in contact with the schools and distributed pedagogical materials and teacher’s tutorials. More about the campaign can be found at the Nature School’s website under project/campaign. Read more also on the Keep Sweden Tidy website www.hsr.se/skrapplockardagar

- Mats had a meeting with Kjell Stokki on Feb 23/2 concerning the national litter-picking week (week 17).

Earth Hour

The Nature School sent out a short invitation about activities concerning Earth Hour. The pupils were told to make climate promises for each of their fingers.

- In cooperation with the environmental strategist at the municipality the film Home was shown on Mar 24 before the Earth Hour. In connection to the film a lecture was also held based on the magazine Heroes (which had been distributed to the pupils) at Folkets hus in Nynäshamn. The idea was that the film's profound message would be balanced with an inspiring lecture, just like the magazine Heroes which is focusing on good examples and engaged people.



"Draw both of your hands on a colorful paper and then write a promise on each finger, i.e. five promises valid for you yourself one month ahead. This is a HANDaction-plan. One of the hands is shown to your parents and the other one is sent to the environmental strategist at the municipality."

The Grazing land project

Background: *The Grazing land project* in Sunnerby has continued during the year. The purpose of the project, which started 1997, is to combine outdoor education with IT (computers, digital camera and image editing, multimedia). The pupils in Sunnerbyskolan, who worked with the project, are between 6 and 9 years.

The project combines IT, outdoor education and natural care by placing the studies and work at Torp's meadow (Axel's meadow) with the size of 12.5 ha. The original flora and fauna in the grazing land is endangered because of overgrowth which in turn depends on the abolishment of proprietorship and modernization of agriculture. One goal is to reclaim the traditional proprietary-favorable flora and fauna. From the environmental protection funds money has been used for clearance, building of field fences, etc.

Actions during the year:

- The cooperation with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation continued with for example clearance, forest meadow raking and mowing of meadowland using coulter, in a smaller part of the grazing land.
- During the growth season about 25 sheep were grazing in the meadow.
- Mats and Jonas cut five trees in the meadow during the autumn.
- Mats and Jonas and pupils from Sunnerbyskolan added logs to the amphitheatre.
- Jonas has been ring marking aspen trees.
- The teachers have updated the website during the year. Information about the project can be found at www.nynashamnsnaturskola.se under the title "project/campaign". Also the link to Sunnerbyskolan's new website about the project can be found there.

THE CONTACTS WITH JAPAN

Background

In January 2010 we received an invitation from the Rikkyo University in Tokyo. Invited were Nynäshamn Nature School and the nature schools in Falun and Halmstad, to a two-weeks long education trip during March 20 – April 3 2010. **The purpose was to inform about the nature schools' way of working as an example of learning for sustainable development, focusing on biological diversity.** By protecting natural areas close to the schools we also protect the pedagogical resources and biological diversity for the future. A longer article and an extensive report about the trip to Japan can be found at www.nynashamnsnaturskola.se

This occurred during the year:

- A Japanese student joined one day outdoors with grades 4-5 under the theme Fire on March 8.
- A Japanese lady visited on Apr 2 concerning the Japanese TV-series about people's engagement in environmental issues in other countries. This led to a Japanese film team visiting Nynäshamn and filmed a girl from Viaskolan and her family in the end of May.
- The Nature School's contact in Japan visited on May 17 concerning the Japanese translation of "Play and learn Mathematics outdoors".
- The Peaceboat from Japan visited on Sep 8 at the same time as a class from Svandammsskolan had camp school. They got in on the work of the Nature School and together with the pupils they did some outdoor English exercises. The purpose was to facilitate discussions to learn about and from each other.
- A law student and lawyer-to-be from Japan made a study visit on Dec 8 to see part of the work at the Nature School and to know more about the national environmental goals, the municipality's environmental goals and the environmental work that Nature School is acting on.



Peaceboat from Japan visited for a day and met a class from Svandammsskolan that were on camp school at the Nature School.

THE WEBSITE www.nynashamnsnaturskola.se

During the whole year photos from the classes' visits here at the Nature School have been displayed on the website, with permission from the pupils' parents. Usually they could check the web already the same evening to see what their children had been doing during the day. **The pedagogical idea** with this is for the parents to ask questions and inspire the children to talk about the day. To tell and reflect about one's experiences is a way for the pupils to gain knowledge.

The website has links to documents that are not available to everybody; it is only the teachers in the Nynäshamn municipality who can access them, if they have the right password. Such documents are tutorials about working for example with the Squirrel theme. The tutorial has been developed during several years and is therefore protected by password.

Films can also be found on the website; about the books, class themes and the film about Nynäshamn Nature School.

Linked to the website is also the website about the SPRING-project. Click the SPRING logo in the menu to the left.

The English website is well developed and contains several pedagogical tutorials. In a mail from a Dutch outdoor teacher our website was praised as follows:

"Your website looks very nice. Super that all the programs are in English! With that your organisation is much further than nature and environmental organisations in the Netherlands. I liked the programs too, although I think that the emphasis is sometimes too much on learning and less in experiencing and be overwhelmed by nature." // "I don't know websites similar to yours. Yours is so extensive! Marvelous."

Films

The website contains films from the local production company Prospericon. The films about each theme/program that the classes are participating in can be found at www.nynashamnsnaturskola.se. Located here is also a 16-minute long introduction film about Nynäshamn Nature School. Furthermore there are the Ljungberg Foundation-financed films about outdoor education and the book series "To learn outdoors" described above. The film about the book "To learn Swedish outdoors" which was produced during autumn 2010 was financed by the publisher Outdoor Teaching. The films about the books are also on Youtube.

EVALUATION OF THE WORK

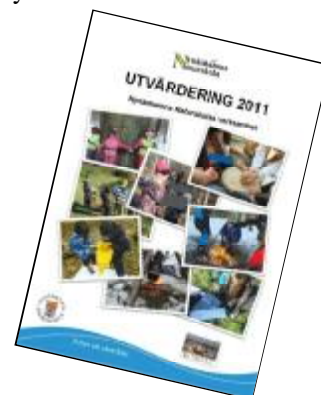
Background

The last big evaluation of the Nature School's work was done in 2006. During the spring term 2011 several evaluation questions were sent out digitally to all schools and pre-schools in the Nynäshamn municipality to evaluate the work of the Nynäshamn Nature School. Many of the questions are the same as last time to enable comparison. But since the work has been developed it is natural that also new questions have been added. The responses are shown in the following summary. A link to the digital inquiries, done with help from Google, was sent out to all the principals and heads of the pre-schools on March 24 through the First Class mail system, and was then forwarded to all teachers within the primary school and pre-schools in Nynäshamn municipality.

Purpose of the evaluation

- Use the material to improve the work of the Nynäshamn Nature School
- Use the material for comparison with previous evaluations 2001 and 2006
- Use the material to show to the Committee of Childcare and Education

The evaluation can be found at Nynäshamn Nature School's website under the title "About Nynäshamn Nature School"



NYNÄSHAMN NATURE SCHOOL IN MEDIA

- Article in Nynäshamnsposten about the campaign *Etiquette at the toilet* carried out during spring 2011 by the Department of Water and Sewage and Nynäshamn Nature School.
- Article in Nynäshamnsposten about the SPRING-project and about workshop at Vanstaskolan with artists and the National Public Art Council, where the Nynäshamn Nature School is project manager. Title: “Artists to improve the school ground at Vanstaskolan ”
- Article in Nynäshamnsposten about grade 9’s day with Nynäshamn Nature School at the Alhagen wetlands with the title “A day of chemistry”.
- Series of articles in Svenska Dagbladet about outdoor education on Nov 21-24, 2011. Lotta Carlegård from Falun and Robert Lättman-Masch from Nynäshamn Nature School are interviewed in the second article on Nov 22 with the title “Nobody can sit still for a whole day”. See www.svd.se/nyheter/idagsidan/barn-och-unga/skoltrötthet-botas-med-lektioner-ute_6651032.svd



TERRARIUM EXHIBITION

The Nature School has a *permanent terrarium exhibition* and keeps a number of different animals with the purpose to show how to use them in a pedagogical way to reason with pupils what the different animals need to survive and also to visualise ecological problems. The animals also have a de-dramatizing effect since many children are afraid of animals such as snakes, spiders and cockroaches.

At the Nature School we have snakes, lizards, beetles, death’s-head cockroach, crickets, stick insects, tarantula, etc. The classes, teachers or pre-school personnel who want to make a study visit can do that and those who want to start their own breeding can take animals with them from the Nature School. The Nature School has also written a *tutorial folder* (autumn 2000) for teachers and pre-school personnel that can be bought from a publisher for teaching materials.



The Central Bearded Dragons and the Chilean Tarantula are used to touching and are not frightened when the pupils want to hold them ... and the idea with this is for the pupils to get used and not afraid of the animals.

TRAINING. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- Mats represented the Nynäshamn Nature School and showed the outdoor mathematic books at the Maths Bienette in Stockholm on Oct 29.
- Mats and Robert attended the yearly education days of the Nature School Association and annual meeting on May 4-6. This year it was arranged by Hyttö Nature School in Älvkarleby in cooperation with the Board of the Nature School Association.
- Mats and Robert attended a course in Uppsala on Aug 29-30, with the forest theme focusing on mosses, fungus and insects in wood.
- Mats attended the public health conference in Nynäshamn on Sep 6 and lectured about the SPRING-project.
- Robert attended the conference *In the middle of nature* in Esbo, Finland on Sep 15-16 as workshop leader in outdoor mathematics and as participant in other workshops.
- Mats joined as workshop leader at the EU-day of *Outdoor Learning* arranged by Studieförbundet (Study-promotion organization) on Sep 22.
- Mats and Robert attended the conference “Out is cool” on Sep 29-30. Mats represented the Nature School Association in Utenavet and as participant in workshops and Robert participated as workshop leader in outdoor mathematics and as participant in workshops.
- Robert Attended Skolforum (the annual school exhibition) representing Nynäshamn Nature School and the Nature School Association on Nov 1. The booth was shared with the publisher Outdoor Teaching that was selling the books in the series *To learn outdoors*. Information of outdoor education, nature schools, courses, etc., was handed out.
- Mats and Robert attended the region meeting of the nature schools on Nov 7 in Botkyrka. The theme of the day was Lgr 11 (the new curriculum), sustainable school and spiders.



Open Space-discussions during the yearly meeting between the nature schools in Sweden on the Nature School Association's yearly meeting days which took place in Älvkarleby this year.



Nynäshamn Nature School contributed with a workshop in Mathematics, Swedish and English outdoors at the EU-day Outdoor Learning by Studieförbundet in Kyrkhavn in Hässelby.



Finishing the conference “In the middle of nature” in Esbo in Finland where Nynäshamn Nature School contributed with a workshop in outdoor mathematics.



Nynäshamn Nature School contributed with a workshop in outdoor mathematics during the biggest conference in outdoor education in the Nordic Countries, i.e. “Out is cool” held in Malmö.



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Nynäshamn Nature School was part of the shared booth by the Nature School Association and Outdoor Teaching at Skolforum one day this year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Visit and study visit

- A unit from Backlura pre-school watched the animals at the Nature School on Feb 22.
- Two contact politicians visited on May 13 and were able to watch part of training on how to make fire and charcoal chinks.
- The Family central (Open pre-school) in Ösmo visited the Nature School on Apr 11 and Oct 24. The children were guided around the different terrariums and they were grilling on the campfire outside.
- Breddal pre-school walked the Nature School's "Lost path" on May 18 and Vansta pre-school walked the path on May 20.

Meetings and activities

- Mats attended a meeting about the Nature School's budget on Jan 10.
- Mats had a meeting with Utenavet as representative of the Nature School Association on Jan 11 (phone conf), Feb 16-17 in Malmö, May 16 in Stockholm.
- Mats and Robert had meeting with the other authors of the book "Learn Swedish outdoors" on Jan 14. The work with the book and the future were discussed. The day was completed by visit at a museum and theater.
- Mats attended a meeting with the environmental strategist on Feb 1 and Mar 15 concerning Earth Hour.
- Mats attended a meeting in Skärholmen on Feb 4 concerning the year's planning of the project "Forest as a classroom".
- Mats attended a principal's conference on Feb 25 concerning Green Flag, Etiquette at the toilet, Keep Nynäshamn Tidy and Earth Hour.
- Mats and Robert had a meeting with the Nature School's contact in Japan on May 17.
- Robert had a meeting with Firmatryck (printing company) on May 25 concerning printing of the translated folder *Movement of Animals* which is one of the contributions from Estonia in the COBWEB-project.
- Mats and Robert attended a meeting on June 10 in Vimmerby with the publishing company Outdoor Teaching together with several of the other authors to the books in the series *To learn outdoors*. It was a "learn-to know-meeting" and planning meeting for the future.
- Mats attended evaluation meeting with the project "Forest as a classroom" at the office of Swedish Society for Nature Conservation in Stockholm on Nov11.
- Mats and Robert had a meeting with an outdoor teacher on Nov 16 concerning outdoor environments as learning environments and how to integrate that in the physical planning.
- Mats and Robert attended a meeting with the publishing company Outdoor Teaching and the chairman of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation on Nov 21 concerning quality assurance of the book series *To learn outdoors*.
- Mats attended a meeting with Arbetsförmedlingen (Employment Agency) on Dec 9 concerning Jonas' employment during 2012.

PROPERTY AND OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

The *maintenance* of the house is taken care of by the Property Administration while other maintenance and cleaning is done by the personnel at the Nature School. During the holidays at summer, Christmas and spring, all animals at the Nature School must be given food and water twice a week.

Wood for one year's use is cut and stored in the basement during spring and autumn. The wood is used during courses and class themes.

With Jonas' help the outdoor environment has been improved. Jonas has built a butterfly flowerbed on the front side, built a rain and wind shelter, built a fence and put up several signs in the area.

The house is rented out during the weekday evenings to Ösmo Scout troop which has extensive work in the house and in the surroundings.



The butterfly flowerbed lured butterflies and other insects during the summer. The construction was made during the year of biological diversity 2010 as a concrete example of how the diversity can be increased in the local environment. Below is a map of the different plants in the flowerbed.



The wind and rain shelter will protect the pupils or their bags during the visit at the Nature School. During early summer the complete shelter was destroyed by vandals but was rebuilt during autumn.



Nynäshamns Nature School 2011-12-22

Mats Wejdmark and Robert Lättman-Masch

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