

# GEKKO KIDS SNAPSHOT

Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr 2019



**268 MINORS 116 ADULTS**

**46% ARE NEW REGISTRATIONS**

**65 ARE REGISTERED IN GREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**53 UASC FROM SAFE ZONE**

**2794 TEACHING HOURS**

**11 COURSES OFFERED**

**20 VOLUNTEERS**



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

During this quarter, we focused on the design and applicability of Trauma-Aware teaching and Social Emotional Learning methodology to address the increase of trauma and PSS-related incidents identified by our staff & volunteers. We launched Trauma-Aware Yoga for girls, and opened up new courses in Music & Art with a special focus on gender empowerment to respond to the demand. Significant progress have been made with the new educational referral pathway for Lesvos, designed by Better Days. Seven educational referrals were received in April from the Appointed Representative of The Ministry of Education Maria Perdikouri in Kara Tepe and the Reception and Identification Center (RIC) representatives in Moria Camp. Snack distribution was funded for the unaccompanied minors living in Moria camp, throughout the winter. Radio Teilifis Eireann's (RTE) report on Andrew Foley and Gekko Kids earned national-wide attention in Ireland. Andrew's TedX talk took place on the 3rd of March. Elena Moustaka presented Gekko Kids to the University of Boulder, Colorado & The University of South Los Angeles.



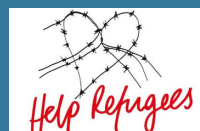
## WHAT'S NEW AT GEKKO ?

During the month of February, Gekko students went to two field trips and a school excursion to the Archaeological Museum of Lesvos. During April Gekko Kids was refurbished and painted. In April, our photography students presented their work at Gekko X, during a photography exhibition on "Freedom" and sold some of their artwork fundraising over 1000EUR for equipment. It was highly praised by UNHCR Greece and local media. During the Easter Holidays we prepared for our first 4-week STEAM module, a papercraft roller coaster workshop for 40 students who have successfully completed the class in May. Finally, our Socrates football team participated to a local football tournament organized by the University of Aegean. BD registered the first 32 students to sit accredited exams in Greek & English language as well as European Computer Driving License.

## UPDATES

- Drafting Gekko X curriculum
- New vacancies: Science teacher, Translators for PSS & Counselling
- April: Launched Public-School Exams - Tutorial Schedule
- Counselling & SEL programming
- Designing: GK Summer Program
- Girls Empowerment Project: Swimming Classes for Safe Zone & Gekko Girls

## OUR PARTNERS





## 1 QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

- **268 minors are attending Gekko Kids**
- 140 UASC from Iliaktida's shelters
- 53 UASC from Safe Zone
- 38 accompanied minors from vulnerable family living in Mytilene
- 7 accompanied minors referred through our new educational referral pathway
- 203 or of the minors attending Gekko are Male and 65 are Female
- 2 minors from the local community is attending Gekko
- 65 minors are registered in Public School
- 46% of the attendees newly registered during the reporting period.
- **116 adults are attending Gekko Kids** among which 88 are new registrations.



## + OUR STUDENT BODY

**Gekko Kids is providing education to 384 attendees among which 62,5% are minors and 37,5% are adults or young adults.**

- 282 of the beneficiaries are males and 102 are females.
- 26 nationalities are represented.
- 29 languages and dialects are spoken.





**RECENT PUBLICATION & ADVOCACY EVENTS / BETTER DAYS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

1. RTE, 'Lesbos school: 'They're very normal kids with very traumatic stories'  
<https://www.rte.ie/news/world/2019/0313/1036131-lesbos-gekko-school/>
2. Social Education:  
<https://medium.com/@betterdaysngo/social-education-by-way-of-segni-mossi-methods-e91394bfc0f9>
3. The Capital T-Truth of Education:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWAEgJ2xtyY>
4. No Textbook, No Classroom:  
<https://medium.com/@betterdaysngo/no-textbook-no-classroom-education-redefined-in-a-greenhouse-10acbf205b1>

**ADVOCACY ABROAD & COLLABORATIONS**

- Colorado, University of Boulder
- LA, University of South California
- Geneva, Institut Le Rosey
- Geneva, Ecolint
- Ireland, National University of Ireland Maynooth
- Ireland, Rockwell Annual Gala
- Colorado, 2019 Symposium WASH 5-6/3/2019
- New York, TEDx 2019 Birmingham University
- BD Sports Development program: UK, France, Poland conferences



## WHAT NEXT FOR GEKKO KIDS ?

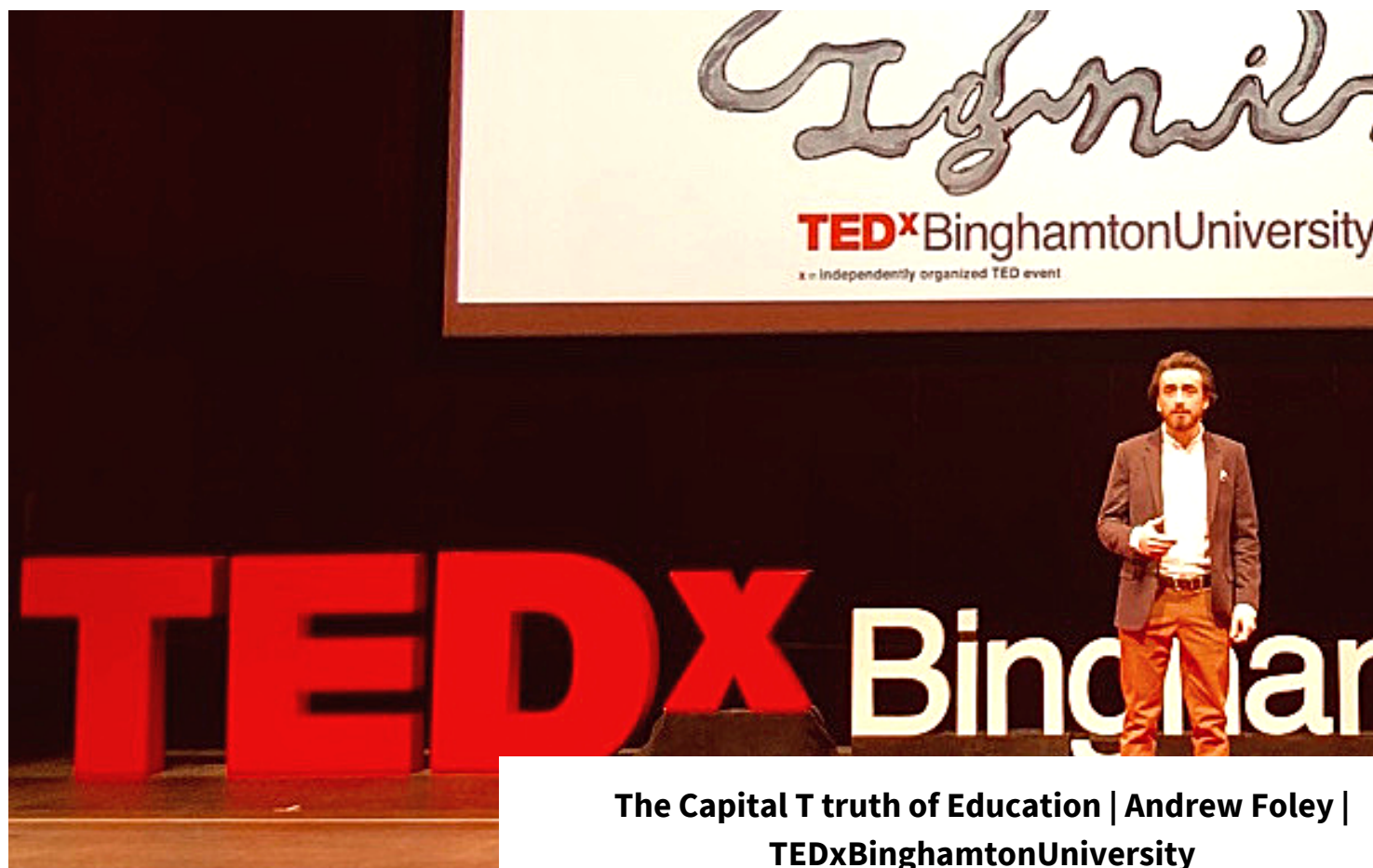
Theatre workshops to be launched in mid May - 3 months module of Drama planning on performing a public performance opened to the local community before the August break.

The Art Scholarship students are now working in producing individual artwork which they will then exhibit in August in Gekko Kids 1st ART Exhibit. The Photography Exhibition is now travelling to Los Angeles (June-July), the date is to be confirmed soon. Additional venues in the USA & Europe are under discussion.

Better Days educational team is working on developing a new Greek and English curriculum for 2020. The English curriculum will be designed with the support of REAL Volunteers & ILIAKTIDAS' teachers.

In May we are entering the public school exam period (May-June) which implies over 133 hours of intensive tutorials for over 27 students sitting individual examinations this year.





The Capital T truth of Education | Andrew Foley |  
TEDxBinghamtonUniversity



In April, Better Days' PSS Manager launched 'Peaceful Embodiment' workshops, including Trauma-informed Yoga activities for UASC girls and minor mothers



# P \* G E K K O K I D S

## P R O G R E S S



**Launch of Socrates Sports & Development programme in February: To this day Socrates team offered 32 pitch hours, 31 classroom hours to 42 students with focus on SEL & Sports Development in collaboration with Athlead, MediaPro & La Liga**

## P I C T U R E S



**In March launch of Gekko X - 100m2 of additional space to offer educational programs with focus on STEAM courses, Blended Learning, e-Learning & Accreditation**





# EDUCATION REIMAGINED

## OUR TOP PICKS SEMESTER 2- 2019

Attika Human Support & Juice Plus donated over 5000 bars for TAPUAT & Gekko Kids students. Through Better Days 'Emergency Education Fund' we were able to purchase fruits & sesame bars which are now distributed daily

Better Days team, The Light Space Director Olga Saliampoukou & our young photographers worked hard, day and night to set-up Gekko X & organize this wonderful event under a tight timeline which remained open throughout April

Refugee Education & Learning International (REAL) is now almost exclusively running our English Curriculum for minors & adults at Gekko Kids. Also they tutor our students for EN language accreditation



### NUTRITION

Working with Unaccompanied Children from Moria provided us with first hand accounts of nutritional gaps, resulting in health problems, lack of energy and depression. The students reported a limited access to protein and greens, poor quality of food & limited quantities as well as hunger.



### SPACE DESIGN

In February Better Days signed the lease of a new educational space, in walking proximity to Gekko Kids. The new space is named Gekko X. It was renovated by the Better Days team & volunteers, in line with our child-specific standards and was open to host Gekko Kids 2019 Photography Exhibition on 'Freedom'. The exhibition will now travel to the USA.



### ADULTS

Following the restructuring of Mosaik Refugee Centre, and the success of Gekkos' 2018 Accredited Adult Course in Greek Language, we felt the urgency to expand Gekko's 2019 Adult Zone and respond to the growing demand for quality adult programming in English, Greek & Computers..