

American International School of Bucharest

Emphasis on Service with Change of Focus

AISB has traditionally had a strong Community Service program. This year, the program changed with a focus on Service Learning. We hope this will enable students to work collaboratively with others, learn new information and develop new skills, make connections beyond AISB and take risks so they grow and develop as people. The service may be to AISB, local organizations or the broader international community.

The HS Service Learning program includes every student and teacher in the High School. Fifteen groups were formed and students chose a group with which they would commit to for the entire year. Two more groups were initiated by students. At the end of the year, each group will present to an Elementary School class or Middle School class to share their experiences and learning.

This year, many of the Service Learning groups sponsored an activity at the Elementary School Halloween Party to make it a successful event.

A short summary of the purpose of each group follows.

Victor Babes – Students work with children who have AIDS at the Victor Babes hospital. AISB students fundraise to supply the children with needed items the hospital cannot supply including soap, shampoo and light bulbs. They also fundraise to buy toys for the children and visit the hospital to interact with the children.

Amnesty – The Amnesty Group’s purpose is to raise human rights and awareness at AISB and to promote human rights in Romania and throughout the world. This year, the students have researched several campaigns, deliberated over which is the most appropriate and currently intend to plan a campaign on women’s rights.

Barks – Students work to remove homeless dogs off the street and transport them to new homes. They are also involved in vaccinations and sterilizations of dogs. This is a new group for High School students and they are currently researching how they can best positively support the suffering of homeless animals in Bucharest.

Varsity Club – Students promote positive school spirit in a variety of ways. They help with the booster club – a spirit shop for CEESA events where they sell food and clothing. Students also find ways to make CEESA events more green and will be looking into a carbon offset program to compensate for greenhouse gases emitted due to CEESA events.

Environmental Group – Students have researched different environmental groups and are in the process of determining one with which they will work. Students will then initiate and

implement activities on a local AISB level to raise awareness and positively contribute to the environment.

Peer Tutors – Older AISB students work with younger students to help them with their academic studies.

Terry Fox Run – The Terry Fox Service learning group intends to organize the Terry Fox run in order to raise awareness and fundraise for cancer research. In the true spirit of service learning, students will research Terry Fox and the issue of cancer to determine the reasons behind the need to fundraise. The students will take a stronger planning role in planning the Terry Fox Run for next year.

Fundatia Inocenti – Students work with infants and children who are in need of extra care beyond their families. Students will visit the hospital to interact with the children to further their emotional, social and physical development.

Newspaper – The students intend to publish an AISB School newspaper once a month. Articles include school news, fashion, opinion pieces, horoscopes and profiles of teachers and students.

Coach's corner – Students set up activities for younger children from grades 2-8 and teach them sports skills. The goal is to improve the younger children's sports skills and for them to see the importance of physical activity in their daily lives.

Collecting Items for the Poor – Students will work with the parish "Sfanta Treime - Tei" to collect clothing, footwear and toys for people that need it. They will also send items to local communities in Romania.

Helping with the Elderly – Students work with elderly people in the town of Nuci, Ilfov. AISB students will talk to the Elderly, determine their needs and then help with everything from cleaning their houses to fundraising for needed food and medicines.

Diversity – The Diversity Group aims to bring respect to the identity of every member of the AISB community. The student members intend to make a video about self respect and show it at The Harvest Festival. Next semester they intend to develop a peer pressure workshop and present it to students in the second semester.

Teaching in Local Romanian Schools – Students intend to help improve the teaching strategies in local Romanian Schools. Students have begun researching the teaching method at a school through interviews with Romanian students. They will share assignments and work they have done at AISB with students and teachers at a local school in order to show in a concrete, practical way how literature can be taught.

Model United Nations (MUN) – This is a simulation of the United Nations where students act as delegates representing a country, debate global issues and search for real resolutions to these

issues. In the first semester students will attend an MUN conference in Lisbon with schools from all over the world. In the second semester, students plan on organizing an MUN conference for middle school students where they will invite local international schools in Bucharest. They also intend to organize an MUN conference next year where they will invite schools from around CEESA.

T.R.Y. Through Reading – T.R.Y is an acronym for Teaching Roma Youth. This student initiated group has contacted corporations for donations for books. The students intend to deliver the books to needed communities in Bucharest.

24 Italian Difficulties – Another student initiated group, the AISB school band “24 Italian Difficulties” is currently involved in working with Casa Valentina - an organization which helps work with Roma children. They are currently organizing an acoustical concert at Casa Valentina where they will also talk with the children and get to know them, and investigate the possibilities of putting on a larger concert in the spring.

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