



Letter of Introduction:

Community Service & Service Learning Help Define the Character of AISB

Long History of Community Service

Community Service has been part of AISB for decades and it is an integral component of achieving our mission. As such, we are committed to: (1) *promoting a clean environment*; (2) *responding to the needs of living things*; (3) *addressing health concerns*; (4) *fostering education for all*, and (5) *raising awareness of global and local issues*. It begins for our students in Elementary School, continues through Middle and High School and hopefully it lasts a lifetime.

In the Elementary School Community Service is integrated into the curriculum. KG students learn to design a proper habitat for animals living in the Bucharest Zoo; Grade 1 students learn about and help with the recycling of program in our school; Grade 2 students learn about the importance of taking care of insects in our school; in Grade 3 students create their own action plan on how to reduce the amount of water they use. Grade 4 students learn about climate change and Grade 5 students make an in-depth inquiry into a study of global issues.

In Middle School, students are exposed to four Community Service Groups which are influenced by the High School CAS Program. Students learn about the needs of the Service Learning Group they are interested in, plan events to support the group, take action to support the group and raise awareness of its needs, and then they reflect on their participation.

At the High School level the integration of Community Service is incorporated into the curriculum through our Community Action Service (CAS) Program. Students serve the community through a variety of programs such as Amnesty International, Habitat for Humanity, Victor Babes Hospital for AIDS patients, animal rights initiatives, Fundatia Provita Orphanage and the Terry Fox Run for cancer research in Romania.

Service Learning at AISB

The Service Learning concept is relatively new to AISB but has a notable history of success in schools throughout Europe and North America. During the 2008 – 2009 school year we began to explore the impact that Service Learning can have on our community and on the learning of our students when it is integrated into the curriculum.

In early 2008 our two Elementary School Service Learning coordinators, Janice Myles and Kathleen Millar, attended a conference on Service Learning sponsored by CEESA and led by Cathryn Berger Kaye and came back with a wealth of information from which we formed a school wide goal for 2009-2010.

To develop a coordinated service learning/community service program that helps students become successful and responsible global citizens.

These two programs compliment each other. They are further evidence of our commitment to the ideal of service and to the deepening of our understanding of service through the process of learning. Our Community Service and Service Learning Programs are vital ingredients in achieving our school's mission and we have embraced the enormous benefits of learning through service to others.

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