

A cluster of five bright yellow sunflowers with brown centers and green leaves grows from a patch of green grass at the bottom left. A small red ladybug is perched on one of the flowers. The background is a clear blue sky with three white, fluffy clouds.

SERVICE LEARNING

Presented by
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How did the idea of Service Learning come to AISB?

The idea of Service Learning and how it could reshape student learning at AISB began in 2008.

Many schools in Europe have already started to lead the way with Service Learning and when we heard about all the wonderful benefits of Service Learning for student learning, AISB made a commitment to find out more about Service Learning and how we could integrate it into our school.

Service Learning is about encouraging children to become lifelong learners and demonstrate global citizenship while helping them to acquire the necessary skills to survive successfully in tomorrow's world. Service Learning is a paradigm shift in the way we learn, teach and prepare our children for the 21st century.



With **Service Learning**,

“Students actively participate in the process of understanding, integrating and applying knowledge from various subject areas as they work to improve their communities”.

Cathryn Berger Kaye

The Complete Guide to Service Learning, 2004

What has been done so far with Service Learning at AISB?

- In 2008-2009, two Service Learning coordinator positions were created. They attended a conference on Service Learning and came back with a wealth of information to share with the faculty.
- A Service Learning philosophy statement was written which has the potential to re-define how we interpret Service Learning and Community Service at AISB.
- Service Learning/Community Service became one of our school-wide goals. The goal is: ***To develop a coordinated service learning/community service program that helps students become successful and responsible global citizens.***
- A Service Learning committee was created at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year to help us better understand Service Learning and guide our efforts in achieving this goal.

- The committee surveyed the faculty & staff, parents and students to learn more about their perceptions of Service Learning and Community Service.
- Janice Myles, Lynn Wells, and Lorne Bird attended a Service Learning Conference presented by Cathryn Berger Kaye, one of the top leaders in the field of Service Learning. They met with faculty and representatives from many other European schools in order to learn more about Service Learning and share best practices.
- A Middle School program has been implemented through advisory. High school works with CAS.
- The Committee is currently in the on going process of finding ways to include Service Learning opportunities into our curriculum.

Service Learning Philosophy

We believe that Service Learning is an integral component of achieving our mission statement. As such, we are committed to:

- *promoting a clean environment;*
- *responding to the needs of living things;*
- *addressing health concerns;*
- *fostering education for all, and*
- *raising awareness of global and local issues.*

Further, we are committed to providing programs and structures designed to develop a social climate which promotes responsible attitudes as well as thoughtful and appropriate action.

The goals of our Service Learning program are to:

- *provide students with an opportunity to become involved in the local community;*
- *provide students with an opportunity to learn about global, regional, and local issues of concern and take positive action related to them;*
- *allow students to initiate Service Learning;*
- *model action service for students and the community;*
- *teach students the value of community service and service learning and of devoting personal time for others;*
- *engage our students in reflection on service, and*
- *instill service as a lifelong endeavor.*

Goals for Service Learning

- **Defining Service Learning for AISB – Elementary.**
- **Setting up guidelines/ procedures across the Elementary.**
- **Every grade level commits to one unit this year to tie in with Service Learning.**

Roles & Responsibilities

Doreen – PYP & Learning Coordinator

- Help teachers find curriculum Connections
- Identify and determine units of possibility
- Develop procedures /guidelines with Service Learning Coordinator

Janice- Service Learning Coordinator for Elementary

- Support Teams during Grade Level Meetings when planning to implement a SL project.
- Support – teachers and parents
- Workshops- teamwork, training
- Develop guidelines and procedures

John O'Brian- CAS and Service Learning Coordinator for Secondary

Each grade level in Middle school has a SL coordinator for that grade level.

Positive steps have been taken towards fulfilling our commitment to Community Service and Service Learning.

- Students helped collect school supplies for children as part of our work with **Ovidiu Rom**.
- Students helped raise funds for the tigers at the Bucharest Zoo and for the sterilization of street dogs.
- Students have been actively involved in recycling projects.
- Students helped coordinate and execute this year's annual **Terry Fox Run** for cancer research.
- Secondary school students worked with Elementary students to help save the planet through activities for Earth Day.
- Elementary school students have been engaged in after-school activities like Action Service and Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots.
- Secondary school students have participated actively in Habitat for Humanity, Amnesty International, work with the Fundatia Provita Orphanage and continued support to Victor Babes AIDS hospital.
- Second Chance Fundraiser- Stuff the bus for Berceni



Community Service

Picture thisa classroom full of student coming to school with loads of canned food to donate to a local charity in the hope of winning the pizza as the prize for the most number of cans donated.

Now picture this alternative scenario....

- A group of middle school students who are eagerly researching and reading about what it means to be hungry and homeless in Bucharest.
- The students research and find out what the homeless situation is in Bucharest and they then interview some the homeless people to find out their stories.
- They attempt to fast for a day to empathize with the homeless and to understand what it feels to be hungry.
- They write to the concerned government officials to try and get support and help to start a food drive as part of their cause to support the homeless.
- One student suggests that a group of them meet once a week and make sandwiches and fruit that could be wrapped and delivered every Saturday to a local homeless shelter. The idea takes off and many students volunteer their Saturdays to this cause.
- Another student gets the idea to donate clothes that they do not want anymore and organizes a way to collect and deliver them to the shelter.

- After a visit to the homeless shelter, and seeing the living conditions, the students decide to organize another fundraiser and use the money to buy new beds for the shelter.
- The art class decides to get involved too and the students draw pictures to put on the bare walls of the homeless shelter to help brighten it up.
- All along the way students share their ideas to find new ways to help. When they finally accomplished their mission they were asked to reflect on what went well and how they could make the process better next time.

Areas where Service Learning can happen

- SL driven by students/Teachers- based on curriculum
- After school activities- Girl guides, boy scouts, Roots and Shoots, environmental club, etc.
- Student Council- voice of the children
- SL driven by Parents- can be separate (community service) or be a partner experience with teachers and students. With this students do what they can and assign the adults the rest.

Areas for Service Learning

- **EC3- EC4**
- Kindergarten- **100 day collection** for Ovidiu Rom and **Animal Unit**
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- Grade 1- **“Recycling”** Unit
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- Grade 2- **Do Bugs Bug You? And Healthy living (next year)**
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- Grade 3- **“On the Move”** – December 1 – January 14 (tie in with migration and/or refugees) OR **“Water”** – April 26 – June 23 (water pollution/clean water)
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- Grade 4- **“World of Work”**
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- Grade 5- **Exhibition**

Focus of MS Service Learning Program

- ***Fostering education for all-*** School No. 26 (joint with PTO) -Donate school supplies / Visit and organize activities, Raise funds/other
- ***Raising awareness of global and local issues-*** Centrul de Plasament Antonio (Orphanage)-Donate clothes, toiletries, supplies/raise funds/ organize activities
- ***Addressing health concerns-*** Pavel -Hospital visit / Raise funds / Raise awareness

MS extra curricular service learning activities

- *Responding to the needs of living things*-Barks
- *Promoting a clean environment*- Earth Day



Currently Approved CS/SL Organizations/Projects

- **Victor Babes Hospital**
- **Ovidiu Rom**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Pavel and Terry Fox Run**
- **Amnesty International**
- **Barks**
- **Second Chance**
- **Earth Day**

Parent Involvement & Roles

Possibilities:

- Web page to set up and maintain- to document history and keep an up to date record of what is going on at the school.
- Large plan of what school is doing to display in atrium
- Help with procedures/guidelines book
- Support class teachers with their chosen SL projects (take role that the children can't do)
- Help with contacts- liaison person

What are our next steps for the future of Service Learning at AISB?

- To provide Service Learning professional development for our faculty, staff, students and parents with workshops.
- Increase the opportunities for involvement in Service Learning projects to students by way of after-school activities, CAS (Community, Service and Action) and incorporation into our curriculum.
- Finalize our Service Learning guidelines and procedures.
- Gain the commitment of the faculty and parents to improve our existing Service Learning projects and to embark on new ones.