

**American International School of Budapest
Middle School Grade Specific
Service Learning Projects**

**6th Grade Special Olympics
7th Grade UN Refugee Partnership Program
8th Grade Gyengenlatok School Project**

6th grade Special Olympics

What is Special Olympics ?

Special Olympics is an international non-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. Special Olympics offers children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round training and competition in **26 Olympic-type summer and winter sports**. Special Olympics currently serves more than 2.2 million persons with intellectual disabilities in **more than 200 Programs** in more than 150 countries.

Why did we choose to host a Special Olympics at our school?

Since its inception 7 years ago, this project has made a huge impact in the lives of our students, teaching staff and parent community. The project has allowed us to:

- Teach students about a wide range of physical and developmental disabilities and spend time with people who are developmentally disabled;
- Give students an opportunity to make a difference in their local community and host country;
- Help students become lifelong advocates of people with disabilities and encourage our students to make voluntary service a lifelong endeavor.
- Give the Middle School Community a positive service focus; parents, teachers and administrators are all involved in Special Olympics.

What does a Special Olympics Event look like?

The project is organized by the sixth grade team. Nevertheless, one of the goals is to invite the entire Middle School and AISB school community to attend. The event is a whole day affair in June that includes:

- 1-An opening ceremony conducted by students.
- 2-A singing ceremony sung by students and guests.

3- A track and field competition: designed by students, organized and run by students. Some AISB students may compete against the Special Olympics athletes.

4- A lunch organized by students and teachers.

5- A medal ceremony conducted by students + teachers.

6- A closing ceremony conducted by students.

How do we prepare?

We use a program called "So Get Into It" which is produced by the Special Olympics movement in the United States.

<http://resources.specialolympics.org/ResourcesDefault.aspx>

Six weeks before the projects starts we use our advisory periods to:

1- Bring in a speaker from Special Olympics Hungary

2- We learn about Developmental disabilities (Link to science)

3- We learn how do adapt a track meet (Link to PE)

4- We give workshops on tolerance and discrimination

5- We use a variety of video resources to complement our teaching

Visit the Special Olympics section of this CD-Rom for more information about the "Get Into It" program.



7th Grade: UN Refugee Partnership Program

The grade 7 service-learning project is connected with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Through this project, grade seven students are able to understand and explain what causes individuals and families to leave their homeland; what routes and methods they use in order to pass through borders; what countries in the European Union are required to do in the areas of granting asylum and integrating them into the local community. This project grants the students the opportunity to meet and spend time with refugee children in fun, active settings which break down stereotypes, racial and linguistic divides, and allows both groups of children from vastly different backgrounds to just be kids together. The project is in its second year, and has impacted both groups of kids, especially our AISB students, who have come away with a fresh perspective on the world they live in, and their relationship with those who occupy it with them.

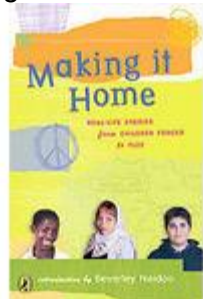
Resources we use

The UN Refugee agency: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4ab346796.html>

Doctors Without Borders: <http://refugeecamp.ca/>

Book we read:

Making it Home: Real-life Stories From Children Forced To Flee by Beverly Naidoo



Curricular Connections

Advisory: Speaker from UN, workshop given by refugee, learning the terminology, reading refugee stories.

Math: Math problems related to population movement

Social Studies: Refugees thru time

English: Refugee stories

Art: Refugee art (Links to psychological trauma)

8th Grade: Gyengenlatok School Project



The eight Grade service project takes place in April and involves the Partially Sighted school of Budapest.

This service project is in its sixth year and has become an eight grade tradition. The eight graders start the project by visiting the Gyengenlatok School to learn about students who are 97% visually impaired. Then they design, run and host a whole-day event for the Gyengenlatok students at AISB, taking into consideration what they have learned about the students.

Curricular Connections

Advisory: Whole day visit at partially sighted school. Students partake in simulations and learn all day about being visually impaired

Social Studies: History of Braille, Helen Keller

English: Story of Helen Keller

Art: Art and the Partially sighted

Resources we use:

[Guide dogs in America and Hungary](#)

http://www.hvskalapitvany.hu/?page_id=15

http://mvgyosz.budapest.hu/engine.aspx?page=mvgyosz_kutyaiskola

<http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org/index.html>

Low vision and blindness associations & Helen Keller Museum

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=44&TopicID=189&DocumentID=1757>

<http://www.afb.org/braillebug/askkeller.asp>

<http://www.afb.org/braillebug/hkmuseum.asp>

Books to consider

http://www.amazon.com/Out-Darkness-Story-Louis-Braille/dp/0395968887/ref=sr_1_9?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1273771666&sr=1-9

http://www.amazon.com/Braille-Sighted-Beginning-Harold-Collins/dp/0931993954/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1273771666&sr=1-1

Amazing YouTube videos

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JO3S9lwJDgg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9CawJSUy2c&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0BBRbvde2U&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv1uLff35Uw&feature=related>