

# Integrating Service Learning into PYP: The K5 Experience

In October, HKA hosted service learning presenter Cathy Berger Kaye to facilitate the development of a school-wide vision for service learning and its application as an integral part of the instructional program. Here's an example of how teachers integrate service learning into a Unit of Inquiry.

K5 has been learning about habitats and has embraced the service learning ideas of Cathy Berger Kaye who visited HKA in October. This unit's central idea is "Living things coexist and depend upon their environments". To encourage action, we began by front-loading the students with things that others had done and then brainstormed a variety of ideas of things that K5 students can do. These ideas included picking up rubbish, making posters, recycling and talking about using trash to do junk modeling at home.

The attitudes and profiles that we are focusing on during this unit are knowledgeable and principled, appreciation and commitment. By embracing these, the classes have been inspired to act in a variety of ways. They want to share their knowledge with the greater community to make a change both at home and at school.

K5KM agreed to collect rubbish in HKA's neighborhood to protect the habitat of the local birds and insects that we saw on a wildlife walk. In addition, the rubbish we collect will not wash into the ocean, thus adding to the waste that is already endangering the ocean habitat. This activity has empowered the students by the notion that they can make a change.

Additionally, they have been spotted by residents

in the neighborhood leading by example. We hope to write a letter to the construction company up the hill to request that they place a rubbish bin near the Early Childhood entrance to encourage their workers to keep their waste off of the street.

K5JS have talked about endangered animals and have brought in books and stuffed animals as a means to generate discussion about these animals. Some children have taken action and have made posters at home and brought them to school as responsible citizens. Some say "stop littering" and others state "No to killing animals!"

The children have chosen places around the school to display these. One poster has been placed in the girls' bathroom while others have been placed outside the classroom.

The children are enthused and encouraged by the action of others. Children's actions are recognized on the classroom's Action Wall.



-Jane Sparks & Karin Maddox

## Hong Kong Academy Mission Statement

Hong Kong Academy is a dynamic learning community that provides a rigorous international education characterized by mutual benefit and support.

As an educational leader, HKA empowers learners to pursue pathways to individual excellence by fostering creativity, communication and problem-solving skills.

HKA learners develop an evolving understanding of our changing world, leading them to engage in responsible action motivated by their interests, strengths and ongoing reflection.

HKA is committed to maintaining a diverse, collaborative and captivating learning environment in which students become adaptable, confident and tolerant, equipping them for the future.

-adopted December, 2010



## Sports Day

11 February  
Aberdeen Sports Ground

**Start time: 8:30 a.m.**

**Finish: 12:30 (K3-G1); 3:00 (G2-G11)**

### Don't Miss...

- 12:00 p.m. Parents vs. Staff Tug-o-War**
- 12:30 p.m. Ribbon Presentation to K3-G1**
- 2:40 p.m. Staff Relay Races**
- 2:50 p.m. Awards**

See the full Sports Day schedule for more details.