

Service Learning at AISB

Where did the idea of Service Learning come from at AISB?

The idea of Service Learning and how it could re-shape 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.

AISB's Service Learning philosophy statement reads as follows:

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.*

What direction is AISB taking with regards to Service Learning?

- A Service Learning philosophy statement was written, which has the potential to possibly re-defining our school's mission statement in the future.
- Professional training for Service Learning coordinators, staff and parents.
- Service Learning coordinators were appointed in Elementary, Middle and High school to offer leadership and direction to faculty, staff, students and parents.
- Service Learning is one of our school-wide goals this year. A Service Learning committee has been instituted and we are currently in the process of finding ways to include Service Learning opportunities into our curriculum.
- Cathryn Berger Kaye, the "guru" of Service Learning, visited our school and presented to faculty and parents.
- Our Service Learning proposal was presented and endorsed by the school's Education Policy Committee (EPC).
- Service Learning goals and guidelines are being put in place.
- The entire faculty and staff are committed to improving our existing community service and Service Learning projects and to embark on new ones.
- More opportunities for involvement in Service Learning projects will be provided to students by way of after-school activities, CAS (IB Community, Service and Action) and revisions to our curriculum.

AISB has already taken some positive steps towards fulfilling our commitment to Service Learning.

Many students have had the opportunity to be involved with helping collect school supplies for Ovidiu Rom (a local charity). A number of fundraisers have been held to raise funds for the tigers at the local zoo and for the sterilization of the street dogs. Students have been actively involved in many other projects like

recycling of paper, cancer research (Terry Fox) and saving the planet (Earth Day). Elementary students have been engaged in after-school activities like Action Service and Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots, and in the secondary school students have participated in orphanage visits and supporting the local Victor Babes hospital.

At AISB we are committed to empowering every child as a learner through active engagement in Service Learning.

Janice Myles

**Kindergarten Teacher and Elementary school Service Learning Coordinator
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