American International School of Bucharest 2010

Service Learning Leads to Excitement in the Chimpanzees Kindergarten Class

Over the last few weeks the children in the Chimpanzees Kindergarten class have been buzzing with excitement as they have engaged themselves with learning how they can help make a difference in their community through service learning.

The children were learning about animals and their needs and understanding how they have a responsibility to care for animals. The children were asked which animals they felt needed help in Bucharest and without any hesitation the resounding answer was that the street dogs needed their attention and assistance. This was for them the most obvious immediate need as all the children had been exposed in some form and seen the plight of the street dogs around Bucharest. What an exciting moment it was for the class when the decision was made as the children could not wait to start working on their action plan to support the ‘Save the Street Dog’ campaign.

The next step in the action plan was to host a fundraiser and this was set into motion by the children who designed and made an ABC animal coloring book that they planned to sell. They also baked cookies in class and worked at home baking even more sweets to sell for the fundraiser.
Posters highlighting the ‘Save the Street Dog’ fundraiser were designed by the children and posted around the school. It was decided that the money raised during the fundraiser would go to help six puppies that had recently been rescued and were part of the school sponsored B.A.R.K.S program; as they are being prepared to be sent to Germany for adoption.

The children had a very rewarding time listening to our guest speakers who explained to them the reasons why there was a street dog problem in Bucharest and this was followed by lively discussions that provided the children with ideas for solutions to help tackle the street dog problem. They learned that the best solution to the problem was sterilization and adoption.

There was even more excitement when the children had a surprise visit from six cuddly puppies and the children had the opportunity to hold and play with them. What fun it was to watch the children’s beaming smiles and their sense of pride which was no doubt instilled by them knowing that they could make a difference for these six puppies. The children are now anxiously awaiting word from Germany as to who will adopt them.
Overall ‘Save the Street Dog’ was a great success to help save a few of the street dogs of Bucharest, and of course, so many opportunities for learning that happened for the children. This unit was not about how much money could be raised or about how many dogs could be saved, but rather the focus was on the learning that took place for the children. It is hoped that this service learning experience will carry over to inspire the children in their future lives by preparing them with the knowledge and skills to become responsible and environmentally conscious global citizens.

The children observed first hand how ‘taking action’ could make a difference in their community. It was a truly meaningful and thought-provoking experience for the children and one that the children in the chimpanzee class will remember!

On Behalf of the Chimpanzee Kindergarten Class,

Janice Myles