

Lavender's Line

By Rebecca Lavender, Principal

IB Students Take Action to Make the World a Better Place for All

The International Baccalaureate believes that international education must go beyond learning knowledge and skills to include *students taking responsibility for making the world a better place for all people.*

At Anderson Mill, teachers regularly encourage students to apply their learning to problem solving activities that address issues involving the poor quality of life some people experience in our community and around the world or the dangers of ignoring human impact on the environment.

Through all 3 levels of the IB (Primary Years, Middle Years and Diploma Program), students are required to identify and participate in SERVICE activities to give back to their community and/or help others.

Some examples in our school include

- 4th graders teaching kindergartners how to conserve water when washing their hands,
- Peer Mediators (3rd, 4th and 5th grade) assisting other students in conflict resolution,
- AMIGOES promoting recycling and doing many community service projects
- 3rd graders donating the money earned in their economics sale to purchase items for the school,
- 5th graders using the research in their Exhibition to assist community members who live in poverty, sharing ideas for energy conservation at IB assemblies, etc.
- 2nd graders making a point to “Pass on the Positive” when they meet up with someone who could use it,
- and many, many more

Eventually, a student who participates in PYP for enough years, should get to the point that it is *automatic* to always being looking for ways to help fellow humans, animals and the planet in general.

HOW CAN **YOU** HELP? Parents can play a huge role in supporting student action/service efforts.

1. When your child sees a need and wants to help (serve food at a soup kitchen, help a lost animal find their home, pick up trash in the neighborhood, etc.), please support them in any way you can.
2. When you hear about such efforts going on at a grade level or school-wide, please get involved. Often volunteers are needed to get an activity off the ground.
3. Model caring action and service for your child by running to open a door for a person whose hands are full, pausing in traffic to let someone else in, donating to canned food drives, helping out at church or school, and recycling. There are so many ways!!
4. Suggest ways a grade level can connect service opportunities to a unit they are studying (we can always use more ideas!!!)