

## *SERVICE LEARNING ANNOUNCEMENT*

### *What is the plan for this year?*

This year we are moving from a Christian Service *contract* model to a Service-Learning model. Our students were previously required to volunteer for 25 hours a year. This year this requirement will be dropped. In order to keep our students connected to the Lasallian traditions that are key to our school, our campus will continue Christian Service, and will add on the element of Service Learning. These two models, while very different, are both important. One will not replace the other.

#### *Christian Service*

Our community has needs that service learning may not be able to reach. For example, weekly visits to Loaves and Fishes, helping out a harvest festival, and planting trees in Oak Park may require one time events or longer term volunteering. We are hoping to address these needs in the community by:

- \*Revamping and enhancing our Lasallian Youth
- \*Tapping into different clubs on campus that best complement and connect with students' interests
- \*Give students credit for service hours they do which will show on transcripts

#### *Service Learning*

Service Learning is a teaching methodology that engages student in hands-on academic projects in the community to meet learning objectives and strengthen communities.

#### **Example**

- \*Cleaning up a river bank is SERVICE
- \*Sitting in a science classroom, looking at water samples under a microscope is LEARNING
- \*Science students meeting state standards by taking samples from local water sources, then analyzing the samples, documenting the results, and presenting the scientific information to a pollution control agency is SERVICE-LEARNING.

Service-Learning is a learning method in which students have leadership roles in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet real needs in the community. The service is integrated into the students' academic studies with structured time to research, reflect, discuss, and connect their experiences to their learning and their world views.

Another pathway to understanding service learning as a teaching methodology is to know what it is **not**...

- \**Community service* – because it has clear and direct ties to the academic curriculum, in addition to its community outcomes
- \**Field trips* – because it can happen within the four walls of the classroom or school building
- \**Time away from class* – because it *is* class

**“Service-Learning has to do with powerful purposes – getting kids into the world. Jean Piaget says schooling isn't worth anything unless it creates for people the capacity to believe that when they leave school, they can change the world. If our kids don't believe they can change the world, then I think we ought to say that our education has not been powerful enough.”**

*Vito Perrone, Director of Teacher Education,  
Harvard Graduate school of Education, 1992*

*Here are some projects that I am working on in Service Learning. Projects are constantly coming my way. I wanted to give each of you a glimpse of what is growing and spreading on our campus and into the community. Many of these projects are under construction as you read and each will take place at some point during this fall semester.*

### *Science*

#### **Thanksgiving Baskets with St. Francis Terrace**

**(All science teachers)**

St. Francis Terrace is an affordable housing developed by Mercy Housing Complex in downtown Sacramento for low income families.

The science department will be collecting food within their classrooms and connect the collection with their curriculum. Examples include: Nutrition labs, Hypothesizing and testing weight, velocity and volume of food...etc.

### *Physical Education*

#### **Yoga Video for Sacramento Food Bank – Mother-Baby Program**

**(Bobby Fresques)**

The Mother-Baby program helps new parents and parents to be. The program helps distribute food, formula and diapers to clients and area agencies, provides pregnant mother packets, mentoring and referrals, and provides parenting workshops and breastfeeding programs. The agency primarily serves low income families in Sacramento.

The yoga classes will learn about the nutrition and exercise needs of pregnant women, and create a video for women to use for their own education and use during their pregnancy.

### *Video Production Art*

#### **KBFT and the KVIE Pledge Drive**

**(Br. Roch)**

KVIE provides educational programming via television.

Students will learn about the needs for educational programming. They will visit the Channel 6 studio to take a look "behind the scenes" via a tour and participate in the Pledge Bank Phone Drive in December.

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### *Literature*

#### **Comp. and Lit. and the power of persuasive writing**

**(Sean O'Brien)**

Students will be studying persuasive writing. Many agencies and services in Sacramento require written requests for aid to their agencies. Students will be given five different projects which involve experiential learning connected with service.

Through experiential learning and book/internet research, students will write advocacy letters for agencies including but not limited to: Mustard Seed, Loaves and Fishes, St. John's Shelter, Maryhouse, and The Sacramento Tree Foundation.

### *Math*

#### **Statistical Studies and the trash around campus**

(Rose Ann Holmes)

Students will:

- \*Research environmental facts and figures
- \*Collect recyclables around school and graph amount collected
- \*Sponsor and host a community recycling program
- \*Do morning announcements using environmental facts discovered
- \*Compute impact if all county schools recycled

### *Economics*

#### **Economics and S.T.R.I.V.E. (Strategies to Reach Independence via Education)**

(Linc Snyder)

STRIVE is a financial literacy program within California Capital Financial Development Corporation in collaboration with River City Bank, American River Bank, Home Loan Counseling Center, SETA, Scalzitti Insurance Agency, Sacramento Mediation Center, Sacramento Neighborhood Housing Services, Credit Analysis and Sacramento Works Career Centers.

Students will have a "businessman" guest speaker that will talk with the students about what it takes to set up and run a small business. Students will then analyze the challenges of running non-profit organizational businesses. Students will have a guest speaker from STRIVE, a non-profit organization that will talk with them about how they try to reach out to the community and teach people in the community about managing their own personal finances. Students will determine how they can help...possibly via a school thrift store that they manage.

### *English/Language Arts*

#### **Children's Literature Project with Oak Ridge**

(Chris Cassetta)

Students will study components of successful children's literature, read books aloud to students at elementary schools and write original children's literature to present at the end of the project. If possible, students will become literacy tutors and/or volunteer to read books aloud in their neighborhood libraries.

### *Fine Art*

#### **Art and CD Making**

(Findlay McIntosh)

Students will discuss influences of music within our society and specifically in our area. Students will also analyze covers to CD cases and discuss how powerful particular images and visual statements can be.

Students will create their own CD and CD cover, possibly focusing on positive themes and share them with local middle-school students.

### *Drivers Education*

#### **Statefarm Insurance Seatbelt Program**

*I am meeting with the man overseeing this program at Statefarm Insurance this afternoon.*

Drivers Ed. students will learn about seatbelt safety and provide a safety training/class for residence of Oak Park neighborhoods.

### *Clubs / Sports*

#### **Cheerleaders and The Oak Park Multi-Cultural Parade (Sarah Mungus)**

The Multi-Cultural Parade is a community event put on by the Multi-cultural Service center of Oak Park.

This year our cheerleaders won 3rd prize for their awesome performance in the parade.

### *Other aspects of Service Learning right now...*

#### **Rebuilding Together / Group Workcamps**

I am serving on a twelve person planning committee for Rebuilding Together and Group Workcamps, the organizations that we will be hosting in summer 2005. I am serving as a Co-Chair for fundraising for the Camp that will take place at Grant High School in July 2004. I hope to gain insight as to what it takes to put on a program of this magnitude so when it is our turn to host we are well prepared.

#### **Zoo Keepers Club**

With the advent of service learning, the need for volunteers at the Sacramento Zoo needed to take a new direction. Last year students chose to complete their service hours at the zoo. I needed to pool students to continue to help at the zoo even though they were not required to do so.

Presently, thirty students have signed up for this new club. Twenty of them signed up without thinking twice to help at ZooZoom, a 5K run to raise funds and awareness about the zoo, this requires students arriving at 6:30 a.m. VERY IMPRESSIVE!

Students will also have the opportunity to go on a tour of the zoo grounds, learning what it takes to run the zoo and gain informative background about the animals. These students will volunteer at main zoo hosted events during the year, and possibly work with Oak Ridge on a field trip with elementary students to the zoo and/or visiting the classrooms to share information about the zoo.

#### **Faculty In-service**

I am working closely with Mary Ann Mattos at De La Salle High School to prepare for the Oct. 20 in-service for Service Learning for our faculty. Prior to this in-service I will be providing basic information and coursework examples to the department chairs via the Curriculum committee so they can share the information with their department members.

### **Lasallian Youth**

I am working with Lincoln Snyder, Sara Headd, and Elizabeth Coyner to get this group going. Projects for the year include but are not limited to: Oak Park Clean Ups in the fall and spring, Oak Ridge Halloween Visit with candy bags, Oak Ridge Christmas Party hosted by our campus with donated gifts for the K-3 graders and several visits to other Lasallian Schools in the district for joint service days. I.e.: Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep BBQ for the homeless day in May.

### **VENAVER**

Brother James and I have chosen ten students to participate in the Montana Venaver to the Blackfeet Nation Indian Reservation. The first meeting with the students will take place on Oct. 1 with six week worth of meetings following. On Oct. 2 I will give a power point presentation to the parents of the chosen students so they are well informed about the varying aspects of the trip.