

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: WOODSIDE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: SHARON LACROSSE, LIBRARIAN/COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR

CC: STEVE FRANK, SUPERINTENDENT
LAUREN PETREA, TK-5TH GRADE PRINCIPAL
MARTA BATLLE, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES
WALY NDIAYE, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

RE: MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATE

OVERVIEW:

Woodside Middle School embraces service-learning to enrich and deepen students' experiential education. Each 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student should participate in community service each year, and a minimum of 30 hours is highly encouraged by graduation. This community service can be focused on our school and local community, as well as on neighboring communities and beyond.

Students have opportunities to earn hours by serving their own school in the form of teacher aides, recess and lunch peer leaders, assistant coaches for school sports teams, and various other leadership roles. In these capacities, the students will have the opportunity to cooperatively assist teachers, lead younger students, acquire administrative skills, and develop leadership skills, while at the same time learning about what it means to serve others. The goal in providing these opportunities is to help students gain confidence and satisfaction in serving others and to explore their interests and passions in leadership and service beyond Woodside School.

Outside of the school-sponsored projects, Middle School students are encouraged to develop their own special interests in community service. Students may earn hours by working individually with their families, youth groups, or any other organization that performs community service.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Middle School students have multiple opportunities to earn community service hours. The Peer Leader program consists of roughly 20 Middle School students who spend their lunch recess with primary students. Peer Leaders actively engage with lower grade students during lunch, providing the younger students with support, coaching on the fields, and general assistance to the yard duty staff. This is a great opportunity for the Middle School students to develop their leadership skills by helping the younger students. Several of them are helping with supervision at the labyrinth this year. Many of the Peer Leaders take part in an elective class that engages the students in how to be leaders with their younger peers.

This trimester the elective class is working on a collection for the Samaritan House, in San Mateo. (See picture below) The students expressed their interest in doing something local and I was able to take them on a field trip there to find out more about it. The students viewed an informative slide show and presentation from one of the volunteers. Then the students were split into two groups to tour the facility. At the end of the tour, we met in the conference room and came up with an idea of

how to help. Back at school the students made their own slide shows and presented them to all the classrooms, and put out bins for the collection. We are working on creating a structure for the elective students to work with first graders on Readers' Theaters and Jr. Great books for trimester two and three. The elective students also assist teachers, and assist with projects like the Original Art fundraiser, and certain aspects of the Book Fair.

In collaboration with the Student Council, the Community Service program supports one philanthropy each school year. This year the students voted again to support **Stop Hunger Now**, a nonprofit organization introduced to them by a parent in the community. Their mission reads as follows: *Stop Hunger Now gets food and life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable people, and works to end global hunger in our lifetime. Established in 1998, we have provided over 225 million meals in 74 countries.* The second semester CS elective students will be actively engaged from start to finish to raise money to support a meal-packaging event, and then host the event. At the event middle school students will be involved in unloading the materials, setting up assembly lines, measuring, weighing, sealing, packaging the meals and loading up the truck. This was a big success last year and we are set to host this event again on March 19, 2020.

We will offer our Reader Leader program again in January 2020 for the duration of the school year. Reader Leader is designed to pair up middle school students with primary students who need extra assistance with reading and homework. The middle school "Leaders" act as 1:1 tutors for "Readers" who are students in kindergarten through second grade. Primary grade teachers assist in identifying students who could most benefit from participating in this program. This takes place on early dismissal Wednesdays at the Town Library. The students meet at the school library and walk together to the Town Library for the tutoring session that lasts over an hour. On average we have six pairs of Reader Leaders.

NEXT STEPS:

Continue to monitor the Community Service program and evaluate the opportunities for Middle School students both inside and outside of Woodside School.



Knitting for Veteran's Project 2018-2019

Students wrote individual notes and wrapped their gifts, and then Mr. Myrtetus and I delivered them to the VA Hospital.

