

Service learning in Lutheran schools

Snapshot! Service learning stories from our schools St Mark's Primary School Mt Barker SA

Background

St Mark's Lutheran School is located in Mount Barker, South Australia. The school has a student population of 350 from Reception to Year 7.

Context

St Marks has a Social Justice Policy which underpins and gives focus to the values, learning and action that takes place in the community. This 'snapshot' shares how the policy 'lives' in the school community (locally, nationally and globally).

Local (excerpt from 'Creating Community Links by Loredana Saracini). It's always a heartfelt experience watching our students in action. Our ongoing relationship with Eldercare Sash Ferguson Mt Barker has seen our senior students take on the challenge of working on the intergenerational arts project. Students together with residents used the individual pieces of a mandala to record the seasons of the Adelaide Hills. The final piece is a celebration of all that can be achieved when the young senior members of your community come together. During our afternoons together there were any stories shared of how the Adelaide Hills has changed over the years. Students were taken on a wonderful journey or oral history and one that we know will continue to shape them in their understanding of the vast contributions residents have made to the local area.

Our commitment to community service sees all students participate in projects where the social justice agenda is explicit. We want each and every child in our care to know that they can make a difference.

National (excerpt from 'Foodbank Australia Walk-a-thon' by Loredana Saracini). Our focus this year has been on planting the seeds of social justice within the hearts of our students and going beyond the collection of monetary funds. We are asking our students to participate in a walk-a-thon for Foodbank Australia. This will allow students to grow in their understanding that for many people in our community good nutritious food is not always at hand. The walk itself is also a symbol- that in many countries there are adults and children just like themselves who walk many kilometres for a handful of rice.

The walk-a-thon will begin after assembly... where a volunteer from Foodbank Australia will provide information about the organisation. The students move off in their class groups carrying non-perishable food donations in a back pack. We ask that the weight of the back pack be relative to each student's size. Extra non-perishable food items will be placed on wheel barrows and carts so that the older students can transport these. Foodbank Australia will collect our food items upon the completion of our walk.

We thank you for supporting this event as we together recognize that caring for the poor is a shared responsibility.