

Youth Changing the World! Bringing water to its people

Dear parents,

This year, our school is participating in the *Youth Changing the World (YCW)* project as a way of engaging students in an action of solidarity with developing countries.

In many countries, a lack of safe drinking water affects the quality of life of millions of people. This project enhances students' understanding of the importance of water and exposes them to the problems associated with a lack of safe drinking water. At the same time, it allows them to be part of the solution by helping communities in India construct wells in their villages. This project is being undertaken in collaboration with SOPAR, a non-profit international development organization founded since 1977.

The purpose of this project is to:

1. Introduce youth to global issues;
2. Foster values of solidarity and cooperation;
3. Instil confidence in youth and their ability to improve the world;
4. Enable youth to gain a greater appreciation of cultural diversity.



The steps of the project

The project begins with classroom activities designed to increase students' awareness of water issues and India.

Following these activities, the students will engage in extra chores, or other activities, as a way of raising funds for the construction of a well in India. Students can submit their contribution to their teacher and the total monies raised will be used to construct the well in India. The cost of constructing a well in India is \$900.

Once your school has registered, SOPAR will start the construction of the well in India. A plaque with the school's name on it will also be placed at the base of the well. One well provides drinking water to approximately 150 people. It improves health and hygiene and it relieves the daily burden of hauling drinking water over long distances, a difficult task usually undertaken by women and children.

At the end of the school year, the school will receive a sample thank you letter along with a photo of the well they helped construct. The school will also receive a commemorative plaque.

The Children's Project!

The aim of this project is for students to feel that their actions can have an impact across the planet. Student participation in this project is voluntary as it is important that they feel a sense of ownership. We encourage children not to ask for money outright from their parents but to *earn* their contribution by taking on extra household chores or other activities.

Through this project, we hope to encourage youth to become responsible and involved citizens who are confident in their ability to positive contributions in the world around them.

Thank you