



Service Learning News

12.3.07

by Judy Brookhart

Dear Parents,

It has been awhile since I have written about service learning activities at Old Trail, so I have a lot to share! For some time we were awash at pink flamingos, and then it was hemp bracelets. Penny Frese from Hudson spoke with the seventh graders about an orphanage in Zambia doing its part to help children left parentless and homeless from AIDS. She instructed them in the weaving of hemp bracelets that students at Western Reserve Academy and Hudson High School will sell. All proceeds will go directly to the Ubumi Project.

Though the matter is serious, we are speaking about children, and much laughter has occurred as our students have been emailing and Skyping with the Zambian children. You can learn more about the project, check out a map, and see many pictures both of Zambia and our weavers thanks to Anne Riede and a display she has put together outside her computer lab on the seventh grade hallway. You can also see from the picture the solidarity as children from the Ubumi Project weave their own bracelets for sale here in northeast Ohio.

In the meantime, a group of seventh and eighth grade volunteers met with Beth Watson, our grants writer, and me on a regular basis during the fall to prepare grant applications to provide seed money for our hoped-for Middle School Foundation. Named "The Trail to Service Foundation," this student-directed organization would provide financial resources for Old Trail students and their teachers as they plan service projects. We hope someday even to provide this opportunity for service projects in other schools. We should hear the results of our applications in January, so we all have our fingers crossed! Thanks to seventh graders Ben F., Izzy H., Kyle K., Spencer O., Jeff T., Anthony V. and Christine X. and eighth graders Catherine C., Ann P. and Zach Z. for their participation in this exciting grant writing project!

More next week, but I have a question... are you familiar with Project Linus, which is a service opportunity where people make blankets for children? Our own Akron Children's Hospital gives away more than 30,000 a year, so they are always in need. The blankets can be crocheted, knitted, quilted, or from a simple fleece pattern of snipping and knotting. My question is... if I put this project out to our school community, would anyone be interested in helping to teach the children? Just let me know!
THANKS!!

Judy

