

## Curriculum Connections

### Character Education Leadership...

#### About the program ...

In order to promote leadership and development of character, core values of character education are integrated into a Grade 8 literacy class with a focus on anti-discrimination. Students read fiction and non-fiction texts to learn about the consequences of discrimination. A variety of media and other texts are used to understand and discuss genocide and, as a culminating task in the final term, students use a WebQuest (a web-based, inquiry-oriented lesson format) to research and write about a good person. In addition, the school has a character education leadership committee of students that supports Free the Children initiatives, which helps the students put their character education learning into practice in the wider community. The school promotes these activities through its [Character Education newsletter](#).

#### Be the Change library display ...



#### Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- In supporting Free the Children, the leadership committee's enthusiasm and commitment has acted as a catalyst for school-wide and community involvement. In its first year, the committee raised funds to sponsor the building of a school in Kenya and in the second year, for a water sanitation system. This was achieved in collaboration with both class and community events (e.g., Water Walk, dances, bakes sales, homeroom showdowns). Currently, Jack Miner students are sponsoring a Canadian volunteer who is teaching in Rwanda, following an on-line journal of their experiences and using technology to interact with the volunteer's students in Kigali, Rwanda.
- School passion for these events is wide-spread since the students have ownership over them, particularly over the local initiatives. For the past three years, the school has "adopted" a local family and provided all the trimmings necessary for a complete Christmas, including gifts for children and parents and gift vouchers for grocery stores.
- The school library has a "Be the Change" display with many featured books that get used in the Grade 8 literacy class and beyond. The hand-painted murals that show progress in fundraising for "Brick by Brick" and "Drip by Drip" are fantastic displays which illustrate the students' hard work.

#### Brick by Brick and Drip by Drip displays ...



#### To find out more, contact ...

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