

Curriculum Connections

Awakeover: Learning about Global Education and Character ...

About the program ...

Awakeover is an annual school fundraiser that teaches Grades 4-8 students about being good citizens, both at home and globally. Students collect pledges and then have a sleepover at the school where they learn and talk about poverty issues as well as take part in games and activities. The students give up something they need – their sleep – in order to help other kids get what they need. Funds raised go to support the Upper Canada District School Board's Champions for Kids Foundation and various global relief projects. The school has raised over \$40,000 in donations in the past seven years. The event is organized and run by Grade 8 students who research economic systems and then give presentations in both French and English to the rest of the school about global poverty and what they can do about it. The planning of the event is part of their math projects, also based on expectations from the curriculum. Most importantly, students learn to care both for people in their own community and for others around the world.

Parent Testimonial ...

"I have been pleased with how the school staff sees its role as teachers of more than just the traditional curriculum but also of raising conscientious and compassionate people. [The school] team has just taken this new holistic approach to the next level. Our children have come to realize that it doesn't matter how old they are or where they live, they must be socially responsible and they can make a profound contribution. The pride our daughter feels for participating in and contributing to this event surpasses all the A's on her report card."

– R. Tait Mackenzie Parent Volunteer

Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Students are engaged in real-life learning in geography, math and character education. They decide which country and organization/cause to support and how to run their chosen event. They also see that what they are learning can be used to make a difference in the world.
- In addition to supporting the event with pledges and other donations, parents and community members share with students their experiences volunteering in various countries in need.
- This annual event raises money for worthy causes, teaches students compassion and unites the school community by identifying the school as a place that cares for others. The program teaches students to go beyond having empathy for others by taking action to help those they have empathy for.

Teachers, educational assistants, custodians, office administrators and trustees ...

- volunteer their time and energy as they stay up all night with the students
- take lessons from the event and extend them to classroom and school-wide learning activities

To find out more, contact ...

Upper Canada District School Board
R. Tait Mackenzie Public School
175 Paterson Street
Almonte, ON K0A 1A0

School website: <http://rtait.ucdsb.on.ca/>

Contact: Ron Ferguson (Event Coordinator)
Phone: (613) 831-3434
Email: ron.ferguson@ocdsb.ca