

## ARBORG EARLY MIDDLE YEARS STUDENTS GIVE BACK!

*(Note: A few months ago, PSI published an appeal for support from Baao Central School in the Philippines. Students and staff at Arborg Early Middle School rose to the challenge. Here is some background about this generous school community. Submitted by resource teacher, Heather Gudmundson.)*

Students at Arborg Early Middle School in Arborg, Manitoba, Canada realize how lucky they are. They live in warm houses, have good food and health care, free education, and they live in the safety of a caring small town. Our students know that this is not the case for everyone, and through the student body and the Young Philanthropists Club, they are reaching out to help others.

A Positive Behavior Group (PBS) was formed by parents, community members, and school personnel to help our school reach its goal of being a Peaceful School (we joined PSI in 2005). This group meets once a month to develop a PSI theme of the month as well as to address any behavioral issues as they are brought to our attention.

Middle Years students have been split into groups with a teacher advisor heading each group this year. The teams meet once a week to discuss such issues as peace, respect and bullying.

Together, students, staff, parents and community members are working hard to make our world a better place. Over the past 2 years, students have participated in several initiatives to address the needs of their community, their province and of other countries. The following are some of their projects to date:

- ✓ They started out two years ago with a volleyball tournament fundraiser, and donated the proceeds to the victims of the tsunami.
- ✓ They have baked and sold cookies in order to supply Easter meals to the homeless at Siloam Mission in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- ✓ They have organized walks to raise funds for our World Vision sponsored child in South Africa, and to support cancer research in the Terry Fox Run.
- ✓ They have prepared basic needs bags of hygiene supplies to give to the homeless at the Siloam Mission.
- ✓ They have donated supplies for Christmas shoe box gifts for children in developing countries.

- ✓ They have made healthy soup and sold it to fellow students with the proceeds going to the Arborg & District Christmas Cheer Board.
- ✓ They have sold Little Traveler dolls to raise money in support of Aids affected families in Africa.
- ✓ They have completed a town cleanup, and donated their earnings to environmental agencies.
- ✓ They have brought in packaged food and “Pennies from Heaven” to donate to the Cheer Board.
- ✓ They have donated over 350 “gently used” books to the OSU Library in Africa. Students held a cookie sale and raised \$115.00 to help pay for the shipping.
- ✓ They have collected donations of school supplies to send to children in the Philippines.

When there is a need, the students at Arborg Early Middle Years School are willing to step up to the plate and help out. It is inspiring to see that our future leaders are people who, even at such a young age care deeply for their fellow human beings. Students and staff of AEMS challenge other schools to become involved in sharing their “wealth” and caring for others around the world!



**Mission Statement:**

The team at Arborg Early/Middle Years School aims to nurture the whole child by creating a caring school community partnership to fulfill students' needs, to develop

their ability to cope with a changing world and to cultivate learning, social and personal responsibility and environmental awareness.