



August

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The school SCOOP

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO SCHOOL NEWS, INFORMATION AND EVENTS

Youth Humanitarian: Start Your Child Early Community Outreach and Yearly Can Food Drive

As the holiday season nears, many schools will begin canned food drives — or toy drives, or coat drives or other donation drives for the "needy." Some will even turn it into a contest to see which class can collect the most goods. Giving should be celebrated, yet charity projects can produce a damaging, unintended consequence: They can reinforce or exacerbate stereotypes students often hold about people living in poverty. To guard against this side effect and to enrich students' knowledge, many educators are turning to service-learning. The model combines inquiry into poverty with charitable activities — and helps foster connections between students and the human beings they aim to serve.

The result? An emerging generation of socially conscious students dedicated to empowering others, as well as themselves. Students at San Francisco University High School were used to the field trips to the poorer parts of town, to volunteer at the soup kitchen for a few hours at a time. The annual trips were intended to teach students about hunger and poverty in their community — but it turns out they were having the opposite effect.

"What we realized, when we were driving them back to school, was that (students) were saying the same things about hunger and poverty that they had been saying the day before," says Malcolm Singer, the director of community service-learning at this private, secular school for grades 9 through 12. "We realized we were reinforcing the same negative stereotypes." Singer decided that if teachers were going to change students' attitudes about poverty, they needed to involve students with low-income communities in more meaningful ways.

As a result, the school introduced a host of service-learning courses, including two classes designed to challenge student stereotypes about people in poverty.

**We're Looking for volunteers for the after school program!
Interested?
Contact Mrs. Callinhan at 678-986-9765**

What's Happening This Week:

Aug 25: Parent teacher conference for Mrs. Jackson's class. Snacks and refreshments provided.

Aug 26: Fall Play J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan

Aug 27: Parents Night Out: 6:30 P.M.- 9:30 P.M.

Aug 28: School Picnic. Parents Welcomed

Aug 29: School Closed for holiday break

Student of the Week:

Joshua Smith

Ms. King's Class

