



The Ripple Effect

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." John F. Kennedy

SHARING THE STORIES OF BCS STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

IN THIS ISSUE

Project Cope, Raising Hope!

By Claire S.

Project COPE is the cause we've been fundraising for all year. Whether it be the "Change for Chilupula Challenge" sponsored by the Spirit Committee, or gift card bracelets from last year, we all know that it's a big thing to take on. Project COPE was introduced last year by the Joberts 2012-2013 team, and has been carried on throughout this school year.

Project COPE raises money for a country in South Africa called Zambia. For those of you who don't know, Zambia is about 290,586 sq miles big, or about the size of Texas, which is 268,820 sq miles big. Zambia is a landlocked country, which means it has no access to the ocean in its own borders. There's the Democratic Republic of Congo to the north, Tanzania to the north-east, Malawi to the east. Also, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia are to the south, and Angola is to the west. That's a lot of land you have to go through to get to the Atlantic or Indian oceans, especially when you need to make money.

In fact, about 68% of all Zambians live below the recognized national poverty line as of 2010. To put that in perspective, the average income of a resident of rural Zambia is about

365 Zambian dollars, or Kwacha, a year. That's about \$250 in American currency. That means the national poverty line in Zambia converted to the American currency is right around \$456.25

Zambia fell into poverty when the price of copper went down in the 1970's. Since then, about 68% of all Zambians live under the recognized national poverty line. 78% of all citizens in rural Zambia live under this line. And that's exactly why we are helping!

As a school, our goal was to raise 12,000 dollars so that Zambians in Chilupula would have enough to buy two 2-Wheeled tractors and the attachments and supplies for the tractors. The money would be enough for a year, to help things in Chilupula to take off.

And it took off like a rocket! By selling t-shirts, gift-card jewelry and doing can drives, the Joberts 13-14 team got the school to raise about 10,000 dollars. By doing this, the project got BIG exposure. They got HUGE donations that put them over the top of their goal. One donor gave the project 2,000 dollars, getting them to their goal. Also, another donor gave 3,000 dollars to put them over the top.

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Project Cope, Raising Hope

George Sherman and Valerie Gallina accepting check on behalf of Project Cope. Mr. Sherman will be traveling to Zambia to oversee the beginning of this model to eradicate poverty in sub-sahara Africa. BCS students are making a difference. **Page #1**



Pillowcase Dresses

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed that's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

Project Cope, Raising Hope, (con't.)

By Claire S.

But the project is anything but over. In fact, "The project will be a commitment for at least six years," explained Pauline Roberts, one of two supervisors of the project. "And the next step is to get everyone in school a pen-pal from a Zambian school to create a bond between our students and the students out in Zambia. After that, the goal is to start sending students over to Zambia to see what work they've done."

People have already made it clear that the Joberts team has taken enormous, groundbreaking steps towards "eradicating poverty worldwide," as explained in an e-mail that was received last school year in 2013. We can only expect good things to come from this partnership and from the Joberts team. They've already changed the world multiple times. At this point, we can only wonder: How will Joberts change the world next?



"Good character is more to be praised than outstanding talent.

Most talents are, to some extent, a gift. Good character, by contrast, is not given to us.

We have to build it piece by piece---by thought, choice, courage and determination."

-John Luther

Zambian Farmer Video Game

On the Project Cope Wiki

STUDENTS USING TALENTS

TO EDUCATE OTHERS

A group of students organized a team of experts to help them design and build a video game about Zambian farming. The purpose of the Zambian Farmer Game is to raise awareness of the living conditions of rural Zambia. The game seeks to educate the player in realistic survival skills from the perspective of a subsistence farmer family. Challenges will include: land management; supervising crops and livestock; acquiring commodities like seed, livestock, land, tools, and medicine; seeking employment in mines; dealing with unexpected sickness, injuries to self/family, and insufficient rainfall. Through

this experience, the player will gain a deeper understanding of what life in a third world country is like. Not only are we learning about the world of the Zambian farmer through research, we are learning much about game design and how to write code, we are also learning about digital citizenship.

An Interview with Professor Sherman and Valerie Gallina

By Vivian Y. and Carly S.

This is an interview with George Sherman and Valerie Gallina, the CEO's of Project Cope.

Q: How did this event change the environment around you?

A: Mrs. Gallina: "I would like to start talking about change, because there are many types of change. Like social change. Your school has done something that we are frequently asked, and we take this as an opportunity to talk about the importance of caring about other people even those who live across the world from us. It makes people think 'Wait a minute, I should be doing this at my school.' or 'Wait a minute, I should be caring about other people too.' It really opens other people's eyes to caring about other people."

Q: BCS Touchstone represents education, environment and each other... how does Project Cope connect with the BCS Touchstone?

A: Professor Sherman: "If you take these 3 elements, and ask, 'How can I make these things real?' because in some schools they're just words on the wall. How can I really make these values a part of my everyday life? BCS students are showing the connection between these values and real life through this project. When you look at this project, you can see how we are creating a community of caring people that stretches across the globe. We share common goals with the people in Chilipula and these goals are changing the lives of the people there. The challenge is to continue following your values every day in all that you are doing."

Q: Do you see Project Cope continuing or growing in the future? What are your dreams for this project?

A: Professor Sherman: "Well, the project is model for how to help with poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. We're hoping as you document what you're doing, you'll help us recruit other schools to help other villages to spread this project across Africa. We're hoping that we can use your knowledge to teach other people what to do. And I think that speaks to sustainability. This project can

be repeated over and over again in other villages all over Africa. It truly helps students to put empathy into action."

Q: How do you feel getting this check?

A: Professor Sherman: "Oh My Gosh, I feel like jumping into the air, clicking my heels together, doing 2 back flips while screaming Yippee."

Mrs. Gallina: "Oh, you could practice right here I mean, we have room George."

Professor Sherman: "I could only do 1 back flip and then I would have to go to the hospital. This is a dream come true."

Professor Sherman shared with BCS students:

"When we were in Chilupula the old Chief said he did not believe we would actually help. He said the history of the village is that white people come and make promises and never return. I told him I was making no promises, but we would work with them to make it happen! And now a bunch of kids in Michigan have come through. I can only imagine what the villagers are thinking!"

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." -Mahatma Gandhi

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." -Aesop

LEARNING ABOUT CHILUPULA



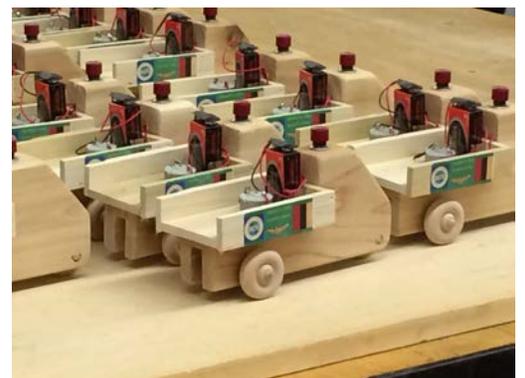
Professor Sherman's visit

Every grade level at BCS was able to learn more about the village of Chilupula in Zambia, Africa at town hall meetings.



Skyping with Victor, our Zambian Friend

Students refer to Victor as our friend. We have only met him through Skype. He was very excited to hear about the money we raised for tractors. Now, they can begin the next phase of helping a village to be self-sufficient.



Mr. Prisciandaro and the 3/4 Students Assembly Line Project

This year, as the 3/4 students learned about assembly lines, they made Zambian tractors. There were many different ways people were involved in Project Cope!

USING TALENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Pillowcase Dress

This cute dress will help a girl be comfortable to attend school.



The Choice Hour class who made over 50 pillowcase dresses to send to Chilupula.

Pillowcase Dresses

By Marlena B.

This year, girls from our school teamed up to sew dresses out of pillowcases. Run by Mrs. Armstrong and started by herself and Mrs. Stone, the choice hour *Pillowcase Dresses for Zambia* ran each quarter. Those who signed up worked hard all quarter creating the dresses in order to send them to Zambia at the end of the year. Many of the girls who signed up for this Choice Hour had to learn how to sew first prior to being able to make the dresses. At the end of June, the dresses they made will be sent to girls in Zambia.

But why, you ask? Why send dresses to Zambian girls at all? Well, many girls in Zambia can't go to school without nice clothes to wear. Giving them these pillowcase dresses would allow them to go to school and become educated. This in turn would allow them to help their tribes, possibly by educating others. So the choice hour was doing good things for Zambians.

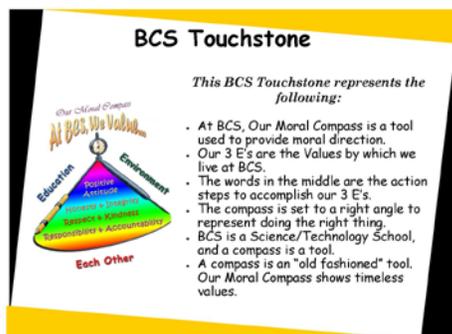
Also, Pillowcase Dresses for Zambia is teaching girls here in BCS the life skill of sewing. According to Mrs. Armstrong, most of the girls couldn't sew at all. But soon they learned and were turning recycled pillowcases into nice dresses. And because the choice hour was able to continue each quarter, many of the girls returned. The progress of the dressmakers improved amazingly from the first to last quarter, says Mrs. Armstrong. This choice hour helped do good both here at BCS and all the way to Zambia, Africa to the village of Chilupula.

In many ways, the choice hour's mission reflects the Education and Each Other parts of our BCS Touchstone, as Mrs. Armstrong thinks. First, the girls in the choice hour were being educated. They both learned more

about the Zambian girls, and how to sew. And the girls in Zambia also are going to get the opportunity of education because of the choice hour. Also, the choice hour taught them about each other. The girls sewing the dresses learned about the girls in Zambia, and were able to do something kind for them. Pillowcase Dresses for Zambia is truly a choice hour that strongly reflects the BCS Touchstone.

The choice hour also represents BCS's yearlong theme "Learn Locally, Serve Globally." After signing up for the choice hour, girls locally learned how to sew. Then they took their projects and served globally by sending them to Zambia. This strongly reflects the theme. They have been an example to all of us how we all can learn locally and then serve globally. This year's phrase was represented by Pillowcase Dresses for Zambia.

Pillowcase Dresses for Zambia is a fantastic choice hour. It has taught girls here at BCS how to sew, and continues to do something good for girls—and possibly whole villages—in Zambia. The BCS students who participated in this class can pass on this message of global cooperation to their friends, then, those friends to their friends, and those friends to their friends. And the ripple effect goes on and on.



BCS Moral Compass Touchstone

We Value Each Other, Our Education, and Environment at BCS. These are the values we live by at school and work to practice through-out each day.

"Real education should educate us out of self into something far finer; into a selflessness which links us with all humanity." –Lady Nancy Astor

Creating Music

By Guest Author, Teresa A.

It all started when I was singing at the Joberts Valentine's Day Talent Show. I decided to sing a song that I wrote. A couple of days after the show, Mrs. Roberts asked me if I would write a song for Project Cope! I was very surprised that she picked me because there are amazing singers in Joberts 5/6. After knowing that I had the amazing opportunity to write the song for Project Cope, I started to write the lyrics to the song. I was getting so many ideas. I had so many things to write about and just an overwhelming amount of inspiration came from the small groups that were trying their best to help the people in Chilupula. First they helped by raising money for the two wheel tractor and second, by looking out for others in the world and helping the environment. Before I came to BCS, I didn't really ever think I would get to work on such an amazing project with amazing people. The next class Mrs. Roberts and I were brainstorming on what the lyrics should be about and what things to include in the song. The next thing I knew I was coming in at lunch time to work on this song! I was very dedicated to the song and the project. They were both very important to me. I finished writing the lyrics to the song, and then I was asked to sing the song in front of the whole school! At first, I was very nervous and kind of scared about what other people would think of the song. I was mostly nervous about messing up and just making a fool out of myself, but after my friends encouraged me to do it, I was ready. After singing my song in front of the whole school, Mrs. Roberts had the amazing idea of trying to get an agent to help me produce the song and see if it needed any changes. Mrs. Roberts had my friends, Clayton, Fawaz,, Riley and Cory help me find someone who could help with producing my song. We all sent an email to a man named Jason who works at the Detroit School Of Rock. We told him what we were doing and that we were wondering if he could help us. He was amazed at what we were doing and was ready to help us with the song! The next day or so he came to BCS and helped me with the song. We got a lot of information on what to add to it, and it really helped. After that Mrs. Roberts contacted another man named Grant Anderson. He helped me with the song, and he is still helping me now! I am very excited for what the future holds for me and everyone at BCS.

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Fitzgerald's 5/6 classes are passionate about raising awareness

BCS Bees

By Guest Author, Nick H.

about the potential extinction of the honey bee. They have made their own hives, and are raising bees. The goal of the Fitz-Brown team is to prevent the bees from going extinct, and to share their knowledge about the bees with others. They have presented their project to several groups to educate them about how they can help to save the bees, too. They have built hives at an environmental center, but don't get too close because bees will guard their hives with their lives.

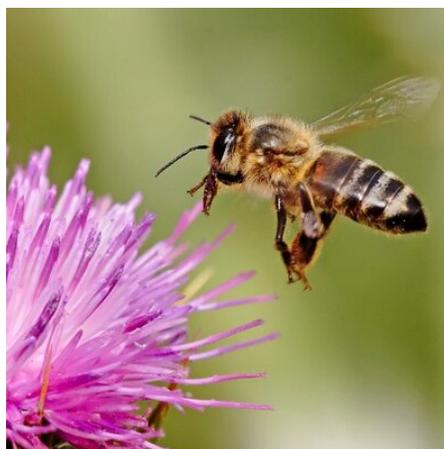
There are a lot of different diseases that honey bees can get that threaten the bee population. Together these classes are creating projects to inform the public about saving bees. They help others know to plant bee friendly plants and flowers. If someone sees a hive in their yard, instead of calling an exterminator, call someone who is an expert with honey bees and can move it to a safer location.

Last week, these students built new hives and extracted honey. They bottled up the honey and are still deciding what to do with it. They had to merge some hives this year, because of the winter being harsh. They are exploring options on how to keep the hives alive during the winter. Currently, they have one working hive and are trying to get a second one up and running.

You can keep up with their progress through social media accounts they have set up to share their learning with others.

On Twitter : @bcsbees

On Instagram@FitzBrownbees



VALUING THE ENVIRONMENT



Bee Hives

5/6 student manage the bee hives and work to preserve the honey bee.



Students have to wear protective gear to be near the bees.



*"Our character is basically a composite of our habits. Because they are consistent, often unconscious patterns, they constantly, daily, express our character."
--Stephen Covey*

Partnership with Waterford Village School

By Guest Editor Jenny A.

Mr. Burdick and Mrs. Burns' 5/6 classes have a partnership with Waterford Elementary School. They have been working together for several years now. Recently, the 4th and 5th graders from Waterford Village came to BCS. The theme for the day was, *Building Bridges*.

Mr. Brown taught students about building bridges using a free computer simulation where students drove a semi truck over the bridge they created, to see if it would hold the truck's weight. The students were in pairs with one student from each school together. The Waterford Village students were using the computers as the BCS students mentored them and the students were collaborating together sharing ideas about what to do to make their bridges stronger and keep the costs down.

In Mr. Prisciandaro's lab, students actually building bridges with K'Nex. It was amazing to see what the students could build together in 25 minutes and then see how much weight their bridge could hold. Every group encouraged each other as the weights were placed on the bridge. One bridge held 35lbs. of weight. It was nice to see how each group was reminded of the learning that takes place from mistakes made and that it is OK to make mistakes.

Mr. Burdick and Mr. McCloud taught the students about teamwork. At this station, students were building "social bridges". They learned again about the value of making mistakes, but trying hard not to repeat those mistakes.

The other half of the students were in Mr. Burdick and Mrs. Burn's rooms doing a history lesson about building bridges. The students learned that elephants were used to test bridges in the early days of bridge building. Many of the students didn't know that elephants intuitively know if something will hold their weight. The elephants wouldn't go on the bridge if it wouldn't hold their weight. There was a great video tutorial for the students and then, they wrote about what they learned. The insights about building both real bridges and social bridges the students conveyed were amazing!

One student from Waterford Village said he didn't realize he was going to be able to make friends with students from another school.

Another girl said she learned so much about building bridges that she didn't know before and didn't realize you could build social bridges with people too.

What a great time the students had learning together!

Tiny Town

Students in Mr. Melton's 6th grade Art elective class created a Tiny Town to be sent to Waterford Village, a school we partner with at the 5/6 grade level. The students created the town out of wood, and every year this class donates the town to a group of children. This year the kindergarten classes at Waterford Village are very excited to have this town. The teachers were very touched that BCS students cared about them to create this for their students.

What an incredible year at BCS serving locally and globally!



How can you Make A Difference this summer? Let's see how many ripples BCS students can make in the world as we Learn Globally and Serve Locally!



Mr. Brown helping to build bridges.



Tiny Town created by 6th grade Art elective students. They made a difference by helping others.

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then, there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

--Mr. Rogers