



2012 MAD Activities

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Geilston Bay High School

Geilston Bay High are implementing ruMAD? across the whole school with the support of Clarence City Council's Community Grants Program. You can read more about this exciting project – *Growing a "culture of MADness" at Geilston Bay High School* – on the [Geilston Bay ruMAD? webpage](#).

Project 1: Connecting with Community

Grade level of students involved: Grade 7

Teacher: Michelle Breen

Our Vision is for a future where people have their needs met and can have happy memories of loving friends and family.

Our issue of concern is the lack of connection between Geilston Bay High School and the Risdon Vale Neighbourhood House.

What we have done: After investigating needs and wants in light of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, students visited Foodbank and the Risdon Vale Neighbourhood House (RVNH). Following this visit, students decided that they would like to help young people connect with RVNH.

They organised another visit to the neighbourhood house where they read to the pre-schoolers. Along with books and iPads the students also took snacks along. In November, the Grade 7 students invited the pre-schoolers to Geilston Bay High for a final 'coming together'. At this gathering gym resources were shared and students had a lovely time playing with the pre-schoolers – who were mesmerised with the mats, bouncy balls and bubbles.

Project 2: Sexual Assault

Grade level of students involved: Grade 7

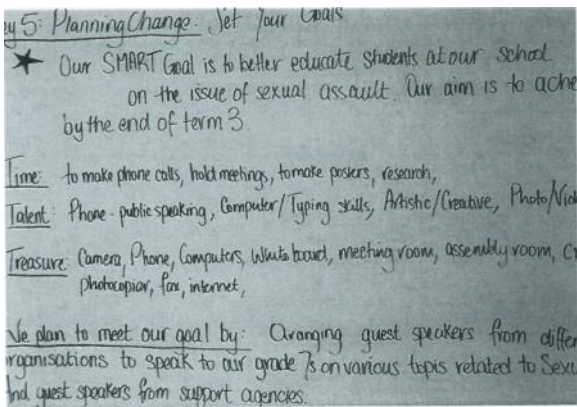
Teacher: Lauren Charlesworth

Our Vision is for a future where people have their needs met and can have happy memories of loving friends and family.

Our issue of concern is sexual assault



Clarence... a brighter place



What we have done: Students organised guest speakers from the Sexual Assault Support Service, Pulse, and Headspace to visit the school and speak about the issues.

Project 3: Bullying

Grade level of students involved: Grade 7

Teacher: Nina Bestwick

Our Vision is for a future where people have their needs met and can have happy memories of loving friends and family.

Our issue of concern is bullying

What we have done: Students collected statistics, researched websites then split into two groups for their project. The girls created eye catching and informative posters to go around the school, while the boys created their own website from scratch.

Project 4: Marine Conservation

Grade level of students involved: Grade 8

No. of students: 38

Teachers: Jill Clennett & Malcolm Orr

Our vision statement is: All marine life deserves to have a safe environment to feed, breed and swim in. This is important for the survival of all marine species.

Our issue of concern is the environment of marine creatures.

What we have done: After extensive research, including working with Rob Green, from Fishcare Tasmania, and Maree Bakker from the Environmental Protection Authority, students created and ran a marine conservation expo for primary students. The expo, run on separate occasions for grade 6 students from Lindisfarne and Risdon Vale Primary, consisted of eight separate fun learning activities including: a fish pond (fishing for marine conservation facts), a very clever board game, two short films and a PowerPoint with questions and answer sessions, a kiddies party corner and a treasure hunt. All activities seemed to involve lollies as rewards so the primary students left the school very happy!



Project 5: Sustainability

Grade level of students involved: Grade 9/10

No. of students: 60

Teachers: Laura Barrow, Mark Rasmussen, Jan Siejka, Colleen Stimpson & Megan Gunn

Our vision statement is: Senior school students at Geilston Bay High School value safety and security for all, affordable food and clean water and the opportunity for research to occur in order to reach this vision.

Our issues of concern are climate change, unsustainable use of resources and the health effects of a polluted earth.

What we have done: Students' research began with a three-day immersion in sustainability issues, including: an excursion to the Tahune Airwalk with Darcy Vickers from the Forest Education Foundation, to explore issues of forest management; a guided walk along the Bellerive Boardwalk learning about how the Bellerive Bluff Land & Coastcare group had restored their foreshore through thousands of volunteer hours and clever use of recycled materials; a tour of the Hobart Rivulet with Hobart City Council staff sharing the history of the Rivulet's pollution and restoration and; a bus tour of the McRobies Gully landfill where the impact of everyday decisions by individuals about what they buy, use and throw away was revealed.

An Eco-Friendly Transport Expo was held, where students learnt how decisions about transport affect sustainability. Local experts visited the school to demonstrate transport alternatives such as a home-converted electric car; electric bicycles; solar powered transport and recycled bikes. Ensuing student projects included small groups raising awareness of the need to save power by creating a video clip, a PowerPoint and posters; clean-ups of Geilston Bay (collecting and removing rubbish and Pacific Oysters); the creation of a Facebook page to raise awareness of overpopulation; and one group who had previously travelled to Vanuatu chose to raise awareness of volunteer holiday opportunities.



Huonville High School

The inspiring Students Working Against Poverty (SWAP) have continued their MAD efforts, and the program has grown to become part of Huonville High School's curriculum. You can view the story of the amazing SWAP students at the [Tasmanian Department of Education youtube channel](#), read the [blog of their March trip to Vietnam and Cambodia](#) and follow the [SWAP Facebook page](#).

Project 1: Pumped About Poverty and Flash Mob in Anti-Poverty Week

Grade level of students involved: Grades 5-10

No. of students: over 50 SWAP students and over 500 student attendees from Huonville High, Huonville Primary, Franklin Primary, Glen Huon Primary, Dover District High, and Geeveston District High.

Teachers: Nicola Smith, Pam Lane

Our issue of concern is global poverty.

What we have done: Wednesday October 17th marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and our Students Working Against Poverty (SWAP) Group planned a day of learning and action, named "Pumped About Poverty". Supported by a grant from Bendigo (Huon Valley Community) Bank, we arranged for primary students from all over the Huon Valley and students from Huonville High to attend a day of presentations and 9 different workshops.

These focussed on giving students an understanding of the cycle of poverty, its impact on human lives, and what each person can do to make a difference. Some students were involved in making badges or calico bags with anti-poverty messages; others learnt about the use of child labour in the sports balls industry and the Fair Trade alternatives; a couple of groups learnt about the hardships of a life as a wallah or rickshaw driver as they took a Bangladeshi rickshaw for a spin themselves!

Jeff McClintock from World Vision presented an award recognising our performance in this year's 40 Hour Famine, then introduced the Wolfe Brothers (runners-up on *Australia's Got Talent* 2012) who rocked the school, bringing the whole day, and the whole valley, together for a great celebration in support of our work. The next day our SWAP'ers supported the Make Poverty History campaign with a lunchtime 'flash mob' performance in the quad. For nearly a week students in drama classes across all grades learnt the azonto dance, then gathered at lunch for an awesome performance with many onlookers joining in.



Make Poverty History Azonto Flashmo...



Project 2: Fair Trade & Rickshaw Roadshows

Grade level of students involved: Grades 8-10

No. of students: SWAP students visited and presented to the students of Huonville Primary, Franklin Primary, Cygnet Primary, Glen Huon Primary, Dover District High, and Geeveston District High.

Teachers: Nicola Smith, Pam Lane and Abi Roberts

Our issue of concern is fair trade and the Millennium Development Goals.

What we have done: After winning the Connections UnitingCare Anti-Poverty Award last year, we were awarded a prize which included a Jinta Sport Pack of Fairtrade balls and merchandise. We decided to put these towards further awareness-raising, developing interactive workshops to teach primary school kids in our area about Fair Trade. Across a number of weeks, our Grade 9/10 SWAP class took the Fair Trade Roadshow out to Huonville Primary (3 classes), Franklin Primary, Cygnet Primary, Glen Huon Primary, Geeveston District High and Dover District High, sharing our Fairtrade equipment and knowledge. The story featured on the Jinta Sport Facebook page!



We even took our Fair Trade message out into the heart of Hobart, setting up a stall at Salamanca Market to sell Fair Trade Cambodian carpets. We sold nine, and all proceeds went back to [Carpets for Communities](#) to assist their women's empowerment programs in Poipet.

Taking a leaf out of the senior students' book, our Grade 8 SWAP'ers created a primary school roadshow of their own, all about the Millennium Development Goals. The primary students were engaged in learning about poverty through videos, quizzes and a genuine rickshaw from Bangladesh which travelled to each school.

Riverside Primary School

Project: Fairtrade Awareness in the School Community

Grade level of students involved: Grade 6 team teaching all other primary grades

Teacher: Mrs Lindy Bailey (Chaplain)

Our vision is for the Riverside Primary School community, students, teachers and parents to buy fairtrade produce wherever possible so as to help students all around the world get to school instead of having to work.

Our issue of concern is lack of awareness. Many people want to help but don't know that little things like buying fairtrade products can help kids everywhere get to school and have a childhood and a future with hope.

What we have done: The Grade 6 Fairtrade Team have completed many activities towards their vision during the year. These include:

- Building on 2011 understandings amongst staff, students and parents through newsletter articles.
- Holding awareness taster days for fairtrade milkshakes and fundraising days selling fairtrade hot chocolates. These enabled us to fund fairtrade parties with Grade 5/6 classes. At the parties students were challenged with fairtrade quizzes, balloon pop games and pass the parcel with fairtrade questions. They enjoyed fairtrade party food and party bags with lots of information and tasters to share with their families.
- Presenting the Fairtrade story to Grades 2, 3 and 4 classes through drama and the Zapizapu story.
- At a whole school assembly the links between Fairtrade and the Make Poverty History rickshaw were presented. The fairtrade team then helped take students for lunchtime rides on the rickshaw, answering lots of questions as they went over a period of four weeks.
- Writing letters to each of the four major chocolate companies requesting their immediate attention to eliminating child labour and becoming fairtrade as soon as possible. The students supported this letter with a petition that they gathered signatures for from the entire school community of students, teachers and older students.
- Writing to the Hawthorn Football Club, outlining the benefits of being the first AFL club to go fairtrade.
- Joining other students in the 40 Hour Famine - sharing rice lunches and going without furniture and technology to raise funds for World Vision.



In recognition of their work and achievements, Riverside Primary School was awarded the [2012 Tasmanian Human Rights School Award](#) for "the students' and teachers' continuing passion in raising awareness about, and taking action on, human rights issues and in particular their work on encouraging the adoption of fair trade, access to education for girls and addressing poverty".

Riverside High School

Project: ruMAD? Day

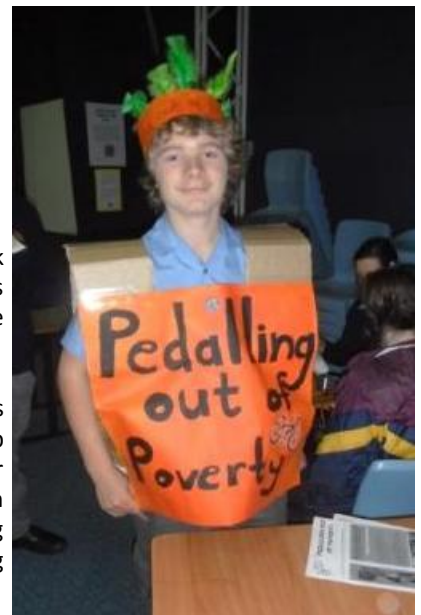
Grade level of students involved: 8

Teachers: Julie Brazendale and Rob Lewandowski

Our issue of concern is health and well-being.

What we have done: This year Grade 8 students at Riverside High School took part in a wide range of activities with a great range of community organisations supported. We held a celebration day where all students set up stalls and spoke their message to the school community.

The highlight of the day was the cream "pie in the face" of a teacher, with funds raised going to the children's ward of the Launceston General Hospital. A group of basketball boys did 27 hours of continuous layups in support of the Cancer Council raising over \$700. Some students ran the BBQ at the Northern High School's Football Grand Final held at Aurora Stadium with their \$400 going towards Camp Quality. One group of students went around the school putting up positive messages of support for students.



Rose Bay High School

Project: Anti-Poverty Week

Grade level of students involved: Student Representative Council

Teacher: Greg Sawyer

Our vision is to make a difference and help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Our issue of concern is poverty.

What we have done: On 4th October, we were extremely lucky to have Jeremy Picone, from the Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning, deliver *1.4 Billion Reasons* to our school assembly. Jeremy's excellent presentation opened everyone's eyes to the many problems facing people in less developed countries. He educated us about the [Global Poverty Project](#), the causes and effects of poverty, and what we in a lucky country can do to help those affected by poverty. The presentation reinforced the work that Grade 10s had been doing in their Society and History classes and encouraged us to want to make a difference and help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Following Jeremy's presentation the SRC decided to organise a BBQ during Anti-Poverty Week to raise some funds for a poverty project. Time was short so it was agreed that we would 'look local' this year and use the day to raise the awareness of students by providing them with information about possible projects at home and abroad, and to donate the funds raised from the BBQ to The Smith Family Charity; an organisation that helps Tasmanians and Australians living in poverty. Next year we hope to start early to further raise awareness in the school about Global Poverty and what we could be doing about it.

St Aloysius Catholic College

Project: St. Aloysius Social Justice Day

Grade level of students involved: Grades 5-10

Teacher: Mrs Leanne Prichard

Our vision is to do something to help those less fortunate in our world.

Our issues of concern are poverty and homelessness, child labour, fair trade, bullying, racism, and over-fishing.



What we have done: On Friday 10th August, students and staff at the St. Aloysius Catholic College Huntingfield Campus were inspired, challenged and asked to take action in a variety of ways to respond to issues that affect our local and global community. From the [Global Poverty Project](#) presentation, which encouraged Grade 5 & 6 students to find ways to end extreme poverty, to workshops on the power of letter writing, through to a child labour simulation, where students experienced the pressures and hardships of working in a sweatshop, the second annual St. Aloysius Social Justice Day was a very powerful way of sharing the important message that we can all do something to help those less fortunate in our world. Students were encouraged to take on challenges during the day, including the furniture challenge and the canned food challenge, with all donated food being given to Vinnies.

The theme of the day was "I'm tired of words, let's have some action", a quote from Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This theme was explained at the campus assembly via a special YouTube message recorded especially for the day by Dan Ryan, the UN Youth Ambassador of Australia. The assembly, which included guest speakers from the [Oaktree Foundation](#) and Caritas, finished with a flashmob - with students singing and dancing to "Power to the People" by John Lennon.

One of the highlights of the day was the Action EXPO where some Grade 8 students and visiting agencies invited students to sign petitions, write letters, and complete surveys on a variety of justice issues including Fair Trade, Bullying, Homelessness and the Supertrawler. Agencies that attended included Vinnies, Caritas, [Go Fair](#), Edmund Rice Camps and the Oaktree Foundation. We were also very happy to welcome Senator Catryna Bilyk to this EXPO. Perhaps the most powerful presentation of the day was by the Students Against Racism, who presented the very moving "[Living In Between](#)" session to Grade 8, 9 and 10 students. These young people from refugee backgrounds dispelled some of the

myths about refugees and asylum seekers, and shared their own stories with honesty and frankness. Some of the students' comments about this presentation included the following:

"It was amazing, and really opened eyes up about racism and refugees."

"It was great. I really felt as though my opinion about refugees and asylum seekers has changed."

"After seeing this I realised how lucky we all really are to be in a safe place with no war and bad things happening. All of the people running this were all so friendly and open about everything and were happy to share life experiences with us, it was all really good!"



This Justice Day was organised by members of the St. Aloysius Vinnies and Mini-Vinnies groups who spent many lunchtimes this term preparing for this important day. They are an inspirational group of young people who are enthusiastic and committed to making a difference in our world. These students' comments about the day say it all:

"I think Justice day this year was excellent and obviously well planned. Good job Vinnies :)"

"The day was just a really good day it open my eyes to see what I can do to help its a day I will never forget."

We look forward to a bigger and better Justice Day at St. Aloysius next year!

Trevallyn Primary School



Project: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Grade level of students involved: Grade 4

Teacher: Mrs Peg Smith and Mrs Janine Davis

Our vision We wanted to make a difference in our lives and the lives of other people by helping others, animals and the environment. We wanted to help reduce pollution and help clean up our world. By learning some ways to reduce, reuse and recycle, Grade 4A has tried to improve the health of our environment.

Our issue of concern is the environment.

What we have done: We have looked at REDUCING what we use, REUSING as many things as possible and RECYCLING things that can be recycled. In groups, we completed different activities that taught us about the environment. We examined different types of compost for decomposers and tested the effectiveness of each type by planting lettuces in each of them to see in which compost the plants would grow faster. We researched healthy food and water and experimented with filtering dirty water.

We wanted to encourage every class to reduce the amount of rubbish they made. We collected the rubbish in each classroom, weighed it and graphed our results so that everyone could see which classroom had created the least amount of rubbish. We recycled rubbish to create things that were useful to protect our environment. A temperature

thermometer was created from a plastic bottle, a straw, plasticine, food dye and water and, from a milk bottle, a large tube, a plastic bag and sticky tape, we made a watering can which worked.

Wynyard High School

Project: iMADgine Day

Grade level of students involved: Grades 9-10

Teacher: Ms Sue Heart

Our vision is: a world where everyone is treated equally and fairly, is safe and gets along.

Our issues of concern are poverty, inequality, discrimination, violence, animal cruelty and selfishness.

What we have done: Due to the impact of [last year's very successful ruMAD? Day](#), we have undertaken to build on this program and include these days as part of our learning offerings. Our mission for our 2012 ruMAD? Day (April 5th) was to raise awareness about social issues, and our theme was "iMADgine".

The theme was decided after a group of Year 9/10 students shared their concerns about society and the world. They explored what they were frustrated by and what the world might look like if these problems no longer existed. They decided that they would like to make the world and their community a more peaceful and understanding place to live.

Workshops for this year included a presentation on Animal Welfare by Emma Haswell, and the 1.4 Billion Reasons presentation by Jeremy Picone from [Global Poverty Project](#). We invited artists and musicians and had the cast and crew of the stage play Namatjira on site and working with some of our students.

Parents and community members were also invited to participate in the workshops and organised activities.

