

School Mission Teams!

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Mission work is great not to mention fun! Here at the Ottawa Adventist School we are experiencing some of the great benefits of mission work. We have started a school mission team. The SWAP (Service With A Purpose) team is an active group of young people who invent ways of serving others.

Our mission team has attractive team shirts to enhance school spirit and generate conversations pertaining to our mission.

Ottawa Adventist School (OAS) students learn the art of mission work in a progressive manner. First, students learn to serve in their homes. We did a service project which involved giving service coupons to a family member. For example, a coupon may be redeemable for one wash of the dishes or one vacuum of the house etc. They also did a secret mission for someone in their household without allowing anyone to see them do it. One student secretly made his parents' bed while another anonymously left roses for her mother to enjoy.

Second, OAS students learned to serve within the school. They participated in the school Apple Pie Fundraiser by peeling and coring apples. They also planned various school assemblies on topics such as bullying, reading, and charades. In addition this mission students planned a winter carnival for the younger elementary students.

Third, OAS students learned to serve their church community. The students can -collected for the Community Services Program within the church. They also cleaned the church grounds.

Last, is their present phase in which they are preparing to go out into their local community. The SWAP team plans to collect items and distribute them to shelters, visit shut-ins and do light yard work for the elderly.

We are continuing our legacy. H.M.S Richards Sr. took a step to be a missionary in his own land. He is perhaps one of the most well known Adventist Missionaries via Radio ever! His influence touched our school in a personal way. His first official ministerial call was Ottawa, Canada, where he met the young teacher, Mabel Annabel Eastman in 1919. He later became a missionary on air by starting the Voice of Prophecy Broadcast and Bible School which are successfully running to this day.

Church members such as H.M.S Richards had faith. We need that same "faith of our fathers". Missionaries often go out on a limb; often giving up paid professions in North America such as doctors, teachers, carpenters, etc. Perhaps not all of us are called overseas but I believe all of us are CALLED. That means that we are to be missionaries in our own land.

Jesus was a missionary in His own land. He met people's specific needs. Can we take that same concept and be missionaries in our own land? Let us continue the legacy of Jesus who tended our needs.

During service many needs are met. People feel loved, healed of hurt, distracted from their problems, and

encouraged to return acts of kindness.

From working with OAS students since the SWAP team training, I witness the development of strong leadership skills, confidence in Christianity, creativity, outgoing behavior, and independent readiness to serve. Students have enthusiastic responses to the service projects and participate well. They have fun serving Christ! I encourage you to develop a school mission team at your school.