



# Building a better global community

IB World Schools are putting the community theme into action as teachers gear up for a groundbreaking 'global lesson' in October

"Sharing our humanity" isn't just about reaching outside the IB family – it's also about strengthening bonds within the IB community itself, which is why IB teachers around the world are collaborating in a community-wide initiative to prepare and teach an "IB global lesson".

Throughout October, schools are invited to contribute lessons exploring the ethical issues surrounding global poverty. These will then be made available online, to generate discussion among IB students, teachers and other members of the IB community.

In the meantime, IB World Schools are busy extending the IB global family by building relationships with schools outside the IB as they celebrate the community theme. The Southbank International School (SIS) in London, UK, has an ongoing project to help the Mwereni School for the Blind in Tanzania. Since 2004, SIS students have been visiting the

school on annual CAS trips, during which they divide their time between teaching English, mathematics and sports lessons, and working on improvements to the school's facilities. This year SIS students, teachers, parents and their local community collaborated to raise funds for a water irrigation system, providing the Mwereni children with a vital source of clean water.

"The experience teaches students the value of their own education, and the things they take for granted – such as water," says CAS coordinator Philomena Clancy. "They also get a real sense of achievement, of having done something really useful." There's still plenty of work

**Students get a real sense of achievement, of having done something useful**



Southbank International School students have built lasting bonds with children at a school in Tanzania

to be done: the next stages of the project include plans for a library, extensions to the boys' dormitories (which currently sleep three to a bed) and on-site shower and toilet facilities.

Elsewhere, PYP students at Brandon Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia, US are sending books to children in Malawi – and not just any books, as these are written and published by the students themselves. Other schools can get involved in the 'Kids 4 Kids Publishing' project through the IB community theme website. The IB continues to address the theme at conferences and events across the community.

For more information on the initiatives above and to get involved in the global lesson visit <http://communitytheme.ibo.org>.