Service Learning 2/29/12

1. The amount of homeless people in my town.

A#1: We can do fundraisers to get money to donate to the homeless shelters.

2. People using our block like a parking lot!

A#2: Put a No Parking sign on the block.

Initial Brainstorming

1. My new red shoes!!
2. Litter
3. Picking up after your dogs
4. Lorama living in Candalaria, Mexico
5. Pollution in ocean

1. There are lots of beautiful animals (ex. White Tigers) that are getting killed when I go by beautiful landscaping almost always the first thing I see is trash and the rest of the world can’t enjoy that pretty place anymore.

3. Same as #2 but with dog droppings.

4. When I saw Lorama I instantly felt bad and wanted to help her if she would except it.

5. The fish get hurt as well as other animals. The water gets dirty.

Solution: Book Drive.
Helping Homeless Children

What is a service learning project?
- Something to help our community
- Doing something nice for people
- You learn something like helping people that need us

Where did this idea come from?
- Observed our town and noticed homeless people or people who don't have homes
- Children don't have enough books and school supplies
- Homelessness

Day 1 with Library/Media team

What can we do to gather information?
- Internet
- Read non fiction books
- Dictionary
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- TV news

Talk to people
- People who work at the shelters
- People who have helped in the past
- Parents
- Homeless people
- People who were homeless who aren't anymore
- Experts
- Organizations who work with homeless people or shelters
Reducing Plastic Bag Use

What do you know about plastic bags?
- They don't break down
- They kill animals (Sea turtles eat them)
- Keep bike seats dry
- Used for veggies/groceries
- They help transport

How long does it take them to...

Why are plastic bags a problem?
- What is the % of people using paper vs. plastic.
  - Why do we like them?
  - What are some alternatives?
  - How can we help solve the problem?
  - Where do they go when we toss them?
  - Are they recycled or are they trash?

Day 1 with Library/Media team

Where might we get some info?
- Talk to SJ. Gov. officials, books
- Politicians, computer sites/electronic devices
- Wikipedia
- Trip to grocery store - people
- Come up w/ a schema
- Visit landfills - people
- Ask customers, teachers
Sample questions from the brainstorm

- Do they provide food in the shelter?
- Do the shelters have enough supplies?
- How many people go to the homeless shelters?
- Do the shelters have enough room?
- If homeless people can’t find shelters, where do they sleep?
- How do homeless people get food?
- How do they learn?
- Why did they become homeless?
- How do they stay safe?
- What kind of food do they eat?

- How do they make plastic bags?
- Why are they dangerous?
- Where do the plastic bags go?
- How long does it take for plastic bags to disintegrate?
- What is it like in other countries?
- Why do people like them?
- How many plastic bags do we throw out?
- Can we please go to a landfill?
- How can we help?
- What are some solutions?
Researching our Topic

- Reading articles
- Watching videos
Notes from Interviews 3/26/12

Hello my name is_____________. I am a 3rd grader and at our school we are doing a service learning project. We are trying to help homeless children by giving them some supplies they might need. Are you the person who would be able to help me? Is this a good time to talk to you because we have a few questions.

Shelter Network/Haven House
Do you have enough supplies?
What supplies do you need?
How many people visit homeless shelters? Are there a lot of people there?
Do the shelters have enough room?
How are they organized?
Where do you get money for supplies?
Do we have enough shelters in the area?
Do some stay at the shelter full-time?
Do the shelters have schools or places to learn?
What is the average age range of the kids who come?
Do grown-ups stay at the shelter?

Blankets for Kids/Project Night Night/My New Red Shoes
How much do people donate?
What do you need most?
What are things homeless kids need the most?
How do we find out about organizations like you?
About how much supplies do you get yearly?
What shelters do you donate to?
How can we help?
What the Interviewing people found out...

Notes 3/26

Hello, my name is _____________. We are 3rd graders and we are working on a service learning project about plastic bags. We would like to talk to someone who could answer some questions about plastic bags for us. Do you have someone I can talk to?

Grocery Store/Stores
- About how many plastic bags do you give away each day?
- What percentage of people choose plastic bags over paper bags?
- About what percentage of people bring their own bags?
- In your opinion do you think plastic bags should be in your store?
- How much do you pay for plastic bags?
- Which bag costs more - paper or plastic?
- Does your store recycle plastic bags?
- Do you ask your customers if they want plastic or paper bags?
- Who do you buy your plastic bags from?

Recology
- Do you reuse plastic bags and make them into other things?
- Where do the plastic bags go?
- About how many plastic bags are recycled each week

Environmental Protection Agencies
- Are they dangerous?
- Why are they bad?
- What would we use if we didn’t allow plastic bags?
- How long does it take for a plastic bag to disintegrate?

Landfill people
- What do you do with the plastic bags?
- Would we be able to visit you?
- About how many plastic bags do people throw out?

Safeway Menlo Park- won’t give us any information
Safeway HQ - Yes they recycle plastic bags
They now sell reusable bags for $0.99
In the San Francisco stores they only have paper bags or reusable bags
Advanced Polybag Incorporated makes their plastic bags - apicorp.com
Willamette makes their paper bags
**What do you expect to happen?**
- They might be a little scary to you or act strange
- Children will find homes and supplies
- We will make more people feel safe and more cared for
- To talk, field trips, and phone calls
- Maybe we will have a book or toy drive to donate
- Some plastic bags will not be used
- That people will start taking their own bags
- Some people will change their habits about using plastic bags
- Nothing—it’s such a small school and a big world

**How do you expect to feel**
- Good because you made a big difference in your community
- Excited that we are helping people
- Nervous and excited
- Uncomfortable
- Scared of talking to homeless people and happy because I know I am going to to do something to help
- Good for trying to help
- Happy that we are making a difference
- Hopeful that people will stop using plastic bags
- Good and sort of proud

**What do you expect to learn**
- To do your best at helping people that need you and be thankful for what you got
- That helping homeless people can really help
- No matter how young or old you are you can make a difference
- How children become homeless and what the shelter does to help them
- How plastic bags are bad
- Where plastic bags go
- I’ll learn to help out by telling people about it
- How many people use plastic bags instead of paper
- Hope to help solve problems you see happening in the environment

**Other**
- How do they survive
- Why are they homeless
- Are children born homeless or do they become homeless
- Why do people like them
- How long does it take to disintegrate
- People that do and people who don’t use plastic bags
Helping Homeless Children Homework

MY HOME

What I like best about my home is …

A place where I feel safe …

A place that makes me feel good …

A place where I spend time with my friends …

A place where I go for privacy …

Now think how your life would be if you didn’t have a home. Ask yourself:

• How would I feel? ______________________________________________________

• What are some things I would not be able to do? _____________________________

• Where would I play with my friends? ______________________________________

• Where would I stay? _____________________________________________________

• Where would I eat dinner? _______________________________________________

### Reducing Plastic Bag Use Homework

**Paper or Plastic or Reusable? Homework Sheet**  
ASK: Do you prefer paper, plastic or do you bring reusable shopping bags when you go grocery shopping? (use tally marks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Plastic</th>
<th>Reusable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbors</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Your conclusions:**

ASK: What do you do with your plastic bags when you are done with them? (use tally marks)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Throw them in the trash/garbage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throw them in the recycle bin?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Your conclusions:**
Reducing Plastic Bag Use

**Action ideas**

From what you studied, what do you think is the most important information for people to know in order to change their habits? (small groups--put checkmarks neatly with pencils)

You came up with some ideas:

- Make signs for stores that say: Did you remember your recycled bags?
- Write a person at the government level of Menlo Park to ask them to make Menlo Park a bag-free shopping environment.
- Make signs/stickers for individual’s cars that say: Don’t forget to take your shopping bags.
- Put information in a public place about plastic bag statistics—like on bulletin boards or on Facebook.
- Survey others in other towns and countries.
- Make a big sign for a public place: Don’t forget to bring your bags.
- Make signs to put around the school about using recycled bags.

**Action Plan**

**Group 1**

Write a letter to the city officials about making Menlo Park a plastic bag free city.

**Group 2**

Begin to put together a brochure about facts that we want to share with people about plastic bags.

**Group 3**

Meet with Amy about making cling-ons and then think about signs to put around our school about using recycled bags.

All

Make signs to remind people to bring their own bags to put out at grocery stores.
Plastic Bags

- In landfills, it will take a plastic bag 700 years to begin to break down. (Plastic Bag Action Network)

- 900 marine animals are killed because of plastic bags in the ocean. (Earth Resources Foundation)

- Turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish so they eat them and die.

- On average every person in the United States uses about 500 plastic bags a year. (Earth Resources Foundation)

Paper Bags

- Each year the United States consumes 10 billion paper grocery bags, requiring 14 million trees. (National Cooperative Grocers Association)

- Using paper bags cuts down the oxygen in our environment because trees give you oxygen.

- Paper can only be recycled 4-6 times.

Other ways to use your paper bags:

- Decorate them and turn them into wrapping paper.
- Make origami.
- Use them to store other things.
- Make paper bag puppets.

Plastic Soup

- Did you know that Great Pacific Garbage Patch is as big as the state of Texas? We think this is heartbreaking and disgusting.

Reusable Bags

- They’re good because they don’t pollute or cut down trees as much.
- They are usually bigger than a plastic bag so you can fit more things in them.
- They’re stronger than plastic and paper bags.

Other ways to Go Green

- Take shorter showers.
- Remember to turn the water off when you’re not using it.
- Turn off the lights when you’re leaving a room.
- Bike or walk when possible.
- Play less video games to cut down on electricity.
- Use reusable water bottles.
- Bring leftovers from lunch home instead of throwing it away.
- Carpool when possible.
- Use both sides of paper.

Stop

Did you remember your reusable bags?

Go Green

Image from https://pixabay.com

Other

- Go

- Green

Image from https://pixabay.com

BYOB

Image from https://pixabay.com

Rowan

Image from https://pixabay.com

Gingers

Image from https://pixabay.com

Other way to Go Green

- Did you remember your reusable bags?
Helping Homeless Children

Action ideas

• Visit My New Red Shoes

• Set-up a pajamas and book drive in coordination with Pajama Program

• Work with homeless shelters, like Haven House, to collect supplies in need

Questions brainstormed for Becca Moos from My New Red Shoes

• What would be the best way to help with My New Red Shoes?
  • collect shoes
  • put bags together
  • make cards

• Where would we put the bags together?
• How does she donate them?
• Does it have to be an Old Navy gift card?
• How does she feel with her success?
• How did she get started working with homeless children?
• How many people actually thought it was a good idea?
• How many people supported her?
• Did she have trouble getting her idea going?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What did you learn from this experience?</th>
<th>How are you making a difference?</th>
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<td>UVYTFUFTTFTFUVFTFTUFTFTFTUFTFTFUVF</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In one word describe how you felt about this unit:</th>
<th>If we had more ______________________ it would have been nice to ______________________.</th>
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<td>UVYTFUFTFTFTFUTFTFTFUVF</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did you learn anything about yourself and how you work with others from this experience?</th>
<th>Other thoughts:</th>
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I learned that you could quadruple shorten the time you need if you work together.

That doing one thing for the community can do a lot for yourself and make you feel proud.

I learned that over 1.5 million children are homeless. It really blew me away.

I was really wondering how we could help and now I am thinking there are many ways to help. We can donate, we can make stuff – there are so many ways.

I learned that there are more than 1 million homeless people in the Bay Area.

I learned that if a lot of people do a little thing, it can make a big difference.

I learned that it feels really really good to help other people and that teamwork is way better than working alone.

I learned that everyone can make a difference, big or small.

I learned to appreciate what I have.