Developing a Global Perspective

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The Engagement Spectrum

Thirst for Understanding

Cloistered and ignorant
Exposed, engaged and enlightened

Australian International Education Conference 2008
www.aiec.idp.com
All in the Family: “Buddha Bless You”
http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=CDMQPfGYTwU

WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS TEACHERS THINK?

IGNORANT
• People speaking in a foreign language don’t make sense.
• Others should communicate with us in English.
• Everyone want to be like us.
• Other cultures are inferior.

THIRST FOR UNDERSTANDING
• My lack of understanding exhibits my ignorance, not theirs.
• I need to attempt to communicate with others.
• Other cultures are rich, and they often have a richer history than ours.
• We collaborate or they will dominate!

Develop a Global Perspective
Where did we sit on the spectrum?

- Ignorance
- Understanding
- A Thirst for

“What do they say when they sneeze in China?”
- Recognising common values as well as cultural differences
- Celebrating Custodians of

NOT SURPRISING!

- Very few long stay or short stay international students, but a large number of migrants from interstate, New Zealand and South Africa.
- Very few opportunities for students or teachers to travel overseas.
- No teacher or student exchange programme.
- Few digital or other collaborations with students in other countries.
- We did support Tsion Marian school from afar.
A COMMUNITY OF WASPS:
Student Population 2001 – International Students Circled

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WHY BOTHER TO CHANGE?
The Social and Political Imperatives

• As educators we have a responsibility to promote mutual understanding and respect.
• There is no such thing as ‘my issue’ or ‘your issue’, they are all our issues. We must face common challenges such as economic crises, climate change and the promotion of human rights together.
• This matter is important and urgent!

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WHY BOTHER TO CHANGE?
The Economic Imperative
*The tremors of change come from far off places.*

- The pace of change is rapid and emerging powers (China and India) will dominate the world economy. (ref *The World is Flat*)
- These new players value education and are serious about exerting their influence.
- Thriving in a globalized market will require people to have healthy global relationships.

WHAT IS ENGAGEMENT?

- Engagement is NOT the same as Connection.
- We are all digitally connected (as the last few weeks demonstrated), but that does not mean we are increasing our understanding. Digital connection is necessary for various reasons, but it is not sufficient if we want to promote understanding.
- Engagement requires the application of all senses. We need to ‘see, smell and feel’ as well as hear and read about the global village.
MOVING ALONG THE SPECTRUM?

Ignorance

A Thirst for

Digital connections
(Mathletics, EPGY and traditional studies)


Partnership collaborations, Teaching Fellowships, Teacher and students exchanges. Tsion Marian, GYLC, GF Global Leadership Programme

“What do they say when they sneeze in China?” as well as cultural differences.

Recognising common values as well as cultural differences

Celebrating.

No senses employed

All senses employed

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Platforms

- Possibility of hitchhiking on their global network
- Student and teacher exchanges
- 75 full time international students from China, Korea, Japan, Russia, Iran, Germany.
- One of their staff present at SSC
- Students attend SSC for one year

The Harker School

Global Young Leaders Conference

Stanford University Maths

Okayama Gakugeik

Tsion Marian School, Ethiopia

Teaching Fellowships

‘World Studies’ collaborative unit

Investigating global issues with students from around the world

On-line learning

Financial support and practical visits

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Tsion Marian School, Ethiopia

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WHERE DO WE SIT ON THE SPECTRUM TODAY?

Ignorance Understanding A Thirst for

"What do they say when they sneeze in China?" Recognising common values Celebrating as well as cultural differences Custodians of

We have probably stretched the top but only nudged the bottom

THE NEXT TWO YEARS

- More on-line courses from around the world.
- Better use of technology for collaborative learning with international sister schools.
- Additional sister schools in India and South America.
- Greater diversity in the mix of FFPOS.
- More educational tours.
- More teacher and student exchanges as well as the Fellowship Programme.
- The Goda Foundation’s Global Leadership Programme.
THE GODA FOUNDATION’S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

• Supported by The Goda Foundation
• Within three years a group of 20 students from various schools on a 10-12 week programme that investigates art, architecture, religion, politics, language, business practices and philosophy.
• The aim is to spend at least two weeks in each of Japan, China; South-East Asia, and India after briefing and team building on retreat in Australia.

DRAFT PLANS FOR THE 2009 PILOT

• 10 students from various schools (Probably 4 or 5 from SSC and 5 or 6 to be drawn from partner schools).
• Programme commences with a one week retreat in SE Queensland before Christmas (briefing, teambuilding etc.)
• Group to leave just after Christmas to spend two to three weeks in Japan and in India. The main focus will be on peace studies at the Hiroshima Peace Centre and the Gandhi Smriti.
• The Goda Foundation will pay $10,000 each towards the total cost (estimated at $13,000). It will provide additional support to students in financial need.
HOW DO I SEE THIS DEVELOPING?

- A group of at least 20 Australian students, possible more if we get other sponsors.
- Joined by a group of students from overseas.
- On a 12 week programme that would include some practical community work (eg. at Tsion Marian)
- That would be recognised for some form of credit by an Australian (and overseas) university.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

- If you are interested in learning more please contact me via email at jdorrington@ssc.qld.edu.au
- I will arrange for a meeting at SSC before the end of this year.
Remember the things we have in common...

We all need friends
We all like to be involved and to be recognised

We all need a lift sometime

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We all want to be nurtured and encouraged.

We come in different sizes.
Smiling is an international language

And we all lose our front teeth some time!
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