

Growing Global Competencies – UNESCO Schools

Developing future-ready learners who possess the global competencies to excel in any area their interests someday lead them is a priority of Anglophone South School District (ASD-S). By teaching our students empathy and good citizenship, encouraging creative thinking, and empowering them to make a difference in the world, our young people are developing the skills to make positive changes as our future leaders. The UNESCO schools program (United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization Associated Schools Network) is a great facilitator of such learning, and we are pleased to congratulate Loch Lomond School on becoming a candidate school.

As a member in the network, Loch Lomond School is connected to more than 11,000 schools in 182 countries (90 in Canada) who are equally committed to teaching for international understanding, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development, and local community engagement.

UNESCO in Canada focuses its activities and initiatives around strategic directions such as:

- targeting global competencies: critical thinking; innovation, collaboration, communication, self-direction, and global citizenship
- supporting the implementation of classroom, school-wide, and community projects (e.g. on poverty, climate change, identity, cultural competency);
- establishing opportunities for collaboration between schools in Canada and abroad

Loch Lomond School joins six other ASD-S schools in the network: Forest Hills School; Hampton High School (full member); Lakefield Elementary School; Saint John High School; St. Malachy's Memorial High School; and St. Stephen Middle School.

As candidate or member schools, students and staff uphold UNESCO's values and principles and commit to certain requirements, such as participation in global or regional UNESCO school projects and participating in two projects associated with their thematic priorities.

Lakefield Elementary School for example, focused on *generosity* through the month of December and supported a local and global cause this year. They supported the Joshua Group in Saint John with both food and gifts, and through their efforts of student led fundraising, donated \$4040.90 to a village in Nepal to help with clean water and sanitation. Representatives from the Joshua Group spoke to the students about global awareness and the importance of generosity. These causes will help students better understand the United Nations Sustainable Goals of No Poverty, Zero Hunger, and Clean Water and Sanitation.

High school level members, such as Hampton High School, are continually involved in activities that support UNESCO priorities, such as participating in climate rallies, tree planting, and building school gardens. Hampton High's Climate Action Team recently developed a climate action mission statement for their school.

ASD-S is proud to support our UNESCO Network schools and applauds their commitment to teaching through exploring and understanding global challenges.

UNESCO Schools Network <https://aspnet.unesco.org/en-us/Pages/Default.aspx>
CCUNESCO ASPnet <https://en.ccunesco.ca/networks/associated-schools-network>

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