

The Common Good

Saint George's School is in the middle of a study of 21st century education, asking, "What are the essential ingredients for a school in this transitional era?" Through wide-ranging personal interviews with key community leaders, followed by a more focused survey of additional community members and SGS parents, we've found some surprising results.

When we asked these community leaders about the educational preparation required to take advantage of future opportunities, all three groups agreed. The essential ingredients for leadership and participation in the current century are the same as for the last:

1. Writing, reading analytically and problem solving;
2. The ability to think critically and creatively;
3. A commitment to the common good.

Not only have we as a school focused on the academic fundamentals noted above for more than 50 years, but we have long had a commitment to building good local and global citizens through our community service program. We introduce our students to giving back through volunteer service starting in the Lower School. In fact, the school was recognized for this focus at the recent YWCA Women of Achievement banquet where both Dr. Elizabeth Welty, one of our steady friends and supporters, as well as senior Laurel Fish were recognized for all that they have given to this community through their commitment to service and unending support of the common good.

This year we amplified our commitment to service in hiring our new Director of Outdoor and Community Service programming, Melanie Mildrew. Talk about a woman of achievement. Melanie jumped into our K-12 service program immediately on arrival in July and within a few months

has added new and provided support for existing activities in Lower School through Upper School.

Melanie organized a half day of community service with the high school students—sending advisor groups of 10-12 students out to volunteer in service organizations throughout the area. But she didn't just send them out. She worked with the organizations to ensure the students had a project that would truly benefit the organization and allow the students to see the difference made by their contribution. I continue to hear from volunteers in these organizations about the impact our students had in their one morning of service.

As we move into the 21st century as a school, we will remain fully committed to teaching the fundamentals that are still so important for a strong work force and citizenry—and we won't lose our focus on service and giving back to the community. We may be located way out on the Little Spokane, but we have a crucial role as a key resource for Spokane and an enduring commitment to the common good.

— Mo Copeland, Head of School



Laurel Fish was honored for her extensive community service involvement as the local YWCA Young Woman of Achievement at a banquet in October. Her involvement extends from Saint George's food drives to supporting a high school for refugees in El Salvador. See a full profile of Laurel on page 11.