

# Primary Circle!

Date: December 2007

Teachers' Names: Jane and Sara

Email: [sara@theschoolinrosevalley.org](mailto:sara@theschoolinrosevalley.org)

[jane@theschoolinrosevalley.org](mailto:jane@theschoolinrosevalley.org)



Dates to remember:

- Friday, December 7, 11:10, Sara's group hosts assembly
- Friday, December 14, 10:45, Special Assembly and PC Family Potluck Lunch (more below)
- Wednesday, December 19 - Wednesday, January 2, Winter Break



## Hunger~

Heifer International Penny Drive

The Primary Circle will give the gift that grows.

The next (and final) section of our food study is designed to expose children to a social issue and to the importance of becoming socially conscious and active citizens. While young students are not capable of independently working to improve the human condition, they can, under adult guidance, get a sense of what it means to contribute to society.

The goal is to help children to understand that, in extreme cases, people are unable to pay for the food that they need and to help students acquire a sensitivity for people in need and a desire to practice citizenship as it relates to assisting other people.

We'll develop the following ideas:

- Sometimes people cannot pay for the foods they need, and the result is that they seek assistance from organizations in the community (e.g., food stamps from social services, a food bank, a soup kitchen).
- As members of the community, we can contribute to organizations that assist people in need of food by donating time, food and money.

(over)

We will connect these lessons with a service-to-community project involving collecting pennies for the international sustainable development organization Heifer International, which provides income- and food-producing animals to poor families and communities throughout the world. This school-wide penny drive will be actively supported by the student government and by the Primary Circle as part of our integrated study of food, food sources, and food choices. The effort will replace, at least for this school year, SRV's traditional canned food drive to benefit Philabundance. We will address local hunger issues through some service learning mini-courses later this year.

Heifer International models a long-term, sustainable effort to end hunger and evokes feelings of hope. Children connect because they love and relate to animals. Heifer provides global perspective and addresses underlying economic causes of hunger. Primary Circle children have a uniquely thorough understanding of Heifer International since they now know so much about food production.

Primary Circle will launch the penny drive in early December. Primary Circle will handle the money: coordinating the overall penny collection—collecting from classrooms, counting, reporting, and donating—with support from Student Government and group teachers.

So, look between the sofa cushions and under the car seats. Start collecting those pennies, and have fun making a difference.

SRV believes that school-wide charitable drives should be driven by the following goals:

- To encourage the habit of active citizenship through community service, framed as problem-solving to “make things more fair.”
- To educate children about the underlying causes of inequality—in concrete terms with younger children, and in more abstract and complex terms with older children
- To provide students with leadership opportunities that unite the school community around positive social efforts
- To leverage the ample resources of our community to address authentic social problems within the framework of sustainability—environmental, social and economic.

**On Friday, December 14 at 10:45, please join Primary Circle and Main Circle (which is studying the culture of Ghana) for an exciting assembly showing what we've learned!**

**Stay afterward for a PC Family Potluck lunch.**

Check out this link for parent information and ideas concerning kids' gardening:

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/family.asp>

Please send in extra clothes for winter, including pants, long-sleeved shirt, socks, undies and shoes.