

## CLASSES FOCUS ON WORLD CULTURES, HELPING OTHERS

By Amanda Hart

These past couple of weeks have been especially interesting for LPA's junior high history and geography classes. Students have been participating in some pretty cool projects.

In Louise Whitworth's sixth grade History and Geography of the Americas, Australia, and Antarctica, students are learning about foods from Australia by fixing a special meal for their families. They and the family members then sit down to dinner and critique what they like and don't like. The students will report their discoveries and also bring in a sample to share with classmates!

This is a special and fun way to learn about the cultures of other countries and continents. Plus this assignment also promotes parent and student interaction, which is part of the Lighthouse mission statement. Whitworth commented, "What I enjoy most about teaching this class is that I get to learn along with my students and see everyone's excitement as they share what they've learned."

She pointed out that in addition to studying foods, the students have made bark pictures and travel brochures and have done research on native animals. "We are learning about God's world through exploration."

The seventh graders, in their History and Geography of Europe, Asia, and Africa, are taking their lessons beyond the classroom and family. When instructor Stephanie Herrick presented a possibility of raising money for Harvest of Hope, a Christian-based organization that helps people all over the world, her students enthusiastically went to work. They set up a two-day bake sale, during lunch, so that hungry kids and teachers could buy brownies, cookies, candy and other goodies for a good cause.

The stand was a hit. Our school administrator even put an "out of order" sign on the vending machine to lure kids to the bake sale. On the first day, students made approximately \$30. The second day, with some added in-house publicity, they raised \$40 more. All of this will go toward providing livestock and Bibles for families in Asia. The livestock helps individual families become self-supporting and the Bibles, which are hard to obtain there, are greatly appreciated.

According to Herrick, "Studying history and geography is much more than memorizing places on a map and dates on a calendar. It's about people. Being able to provide the class with an opportunity to have a significant impact in the lives of real people is incredible! If they realize that their choices really do matter, it may be the most important thing they learn all year."

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