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Putting Global Education First in Reform

Letter from the Director's Desk

In late February, a New York Times article entitled 'Obama Calls for Major Change in Education Law' drew praise and criticism from every angle, touching on one of the most controversial (and impactful) issues in K-12 education: the reform of No Child Left Behind and the system's dependency on a standardized test-driven approach to accountability. Regardless of your stance on standards, the article brought college and career readiness to the forefront as one of the primary goals of K-12, and lays out the administration's plan to prioritize this in policy reform.

For us at World Savvy, a critical aspect of improving education has been underemphasized: focusing on career readiness in an interconnected, global economy. In the 21st century, it doesn't just matter if American students outperform others on standardized tests, they must have the knowledge and skills to work in global, culturally diverse teams and apply their learning to challenges that cross borders of all forms. It is long past time to reset the bar for student learning and progress, and place the requisite global competency skills front and center in any definition of career readiness. Proponents of global education have long known that the narrowing focus on test taking over the last few decades has stamped out creativity, rigor and relevance....(cont p. 4)

Good News to Share

World Savvy gets a new website for FREE!

We're thrilled to announce that we won a full website makeover through the Nerderly Overnight Website Challenge! On March 20th, two of our staff were locked behind closed doors with a team of web developers and designers for 24 hours. The team is now putting the final touches on our new website, which should launch in the next month! Thanks to those of you who provided testimonial support! To learn more about the event, see www.overnightwebsitechallenge.com. Stay tuned in April for the debut of our new look!

We are so grateful for the foundations and businesses that have supported World Savvy thus far in 2010, including SAP America, Inc., Pacific Gas & Electric Company, the Best Buy Children's Foundation, the Pentair Foundation, the Chapman Family Foundation, the Xcel Energy Foundation, the Nelson Fund - a Committee Advised Fund of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, RSP Architects, and the American Red Cross. We are also grateful for numerous individuals who have provided financial and volunteer support to make our work possible. For a full list of supporters or to learn how to contribute, please visit www.worldsavvy.org/donate.

What's happening now in programs around the country....

San Francisco

Spotlight on Collaboration in the Schools: Marin Country Day School

Lead writer and researcher for the World Savvy Monitor, Cate Biggs, just completed a terrific collaboration with Marin Country Day School, with a team of educators there who sought to provide context for their middle school students about the root causes of poverty. The '5 Ps of Poverty' was a lesson created by Cate Biggs for 5th graders at MCDS. Cate's presentation on the 5Ps of poverty is available free for download on her new blog, www.graspglobalpoverty.wordpress.com.



Global Educators Program: School Partnerships

World Savvy's Global Educators Program is immersed in its second full year of comprehensive school partnerships –helping schools integrate global issues across the curriculum and broader school community. And exciting things are happening at each of our three partner schools this year! Youth from Roots International Academy in Oakland are participating in an ecology class and are growing their own fruits and vegetables for a spring farmers market, while another group of students will be participating in a brand, new geography elective in spring 2010. Students in the Academy of Public Service at Youth Empowerment School (Oakland) have also been busy this year delving into urban ecology issues, with the 11th grade students designing a proposal for a community garden and park space on an unused lot behind their school, and 10th grade students engaging in service learning projects on food and water justice issues. Students at International Studies Academy have been just as busy: infusing issues of identity and world culture into their dance classes, and preparing students for spring and summer trips to Italy, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, as just two examples.

In addition, on February 11, 2010, World Savvy hosted acclaimed writer and activist, Jimmie Briggs, at two of our partner schools, Roots and YES. Over the last decade, Jimmie has earned his reputation as one of the most respected human rights advocates in the field of journalism. His work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Essence, The Washington Post, LIFE, Vibe, and many more.

His reporting has ranged from writing about gang violence in the United States, to reporting on child soldiers and the violence against women and children around the world. It was these topics that he spoke to students about on his recent visit, making the links between the impacts of violence both locally and globally, and challenging students to get involved and stand up against violence. Find out more about Jimmie's work and his new youth initiative to stop violence against women and girls: the "Man Up Campaign". <http://www.manupcampaign.org/>

The World Affairs Challenge (WAC)

The 8th Annual World Affairs Challenge is around the corner in San Francisco!. We are expecting over 400 middle and high school students from 18 schools throughout northern California to participate in this year's Challenge on the theme of "Water Around the World". Students will come together at San Francisco State University on April 17, 2010 to showcase their research and propose solutions on topics such as water management and access, usage and conservation locally, nationally and globally.

The success of the Challenge depends on support from community –please volunteer today! Show your support to our youth as they develop and hone their presentation skills and critical thinking needed for the 21st century. Join us and sign up as a volunteer judge. For more information, contact regina@worldsavvy.org

The Global Youth Media and Arts Program (MAP)

After two energizing professional development institutes this past fall, San Francisco's Global Youth Media & Arts Program (MAP) is in full swing. In classrooms across the Bay Area, MAP teachers are leading students on some very exciting journeys as they study the theme: "Immigration and Identity". While working closely with World Savvy staff, Bay Area teachers are making local to global connections through pertinent and rigorous hands on learning, many of them using the city as a classroom. From comparing whether neighborhoods in Hayward and San Francisco are more or less racially and socioeconomically integrated, to exploring the poetry of Chinese Immigrants who came through the Angel Island Immigration Station in preparation for a field-trip there this spring – students are growing more and more inspired by the theme. This inspiration has led to learning new ways of expressing their personal identities – all the while gaining a better understanding of other cultures and nations. Inquiry based projects are beginning to take form, facilitating much critical thinking, global literacy, collaboration and creativity - a perfectly balanced integration of the arts and global education. We look forward to showcasing student work in the MAP youth's creative responses to the theme through artwork and media at this year's Festival, taking place at Zeum on Saturday, June 5. Save the date, and we'll see you there! Email Katina@worldsavvy.org to find out how to volunteer or donate to support the event.

Minnesota

The 2nd annual Minnesota World Affairs Challenge was a huge success! On Saturday, March 6, 2010, over 400 middle and high school students, volunteer judges, educational leaders and community guests from around the Twin Cities convened at Macalester College in St. Paul to participate in Minnesota's Second Annual World Affairs Challenge™, hosted by global education non-profit World Savvy in partnership with Macalester College's Institute for Global Citizenship.

The theme for this year's World Affairs Challenge™ was Water Around the World. Students from 17 schools around the Twin Cities

prepared comprehensive presentations with proposed solutions to issues as diverse as the environmental impact of bottled water to the need for clean water in disaster situations like that following the earthquake in Haiti.

See the results and find out which schools took home prizes in every category here: <http://worldsavvy.org/minneapolis/2010-wac-results.php>



New York

We are midway through another year of global education programming in New York, and in 2009-10 the Global Youth Media and Arts Program (MAP) has reached more than 1,000 youth from 11 schools in four boroughs of New York City. Students have been exploring all aspects of the complex theme of Immigration and identity, and venturing out into the local community to explore the impact of this global issue. Students at Art and Design High School in Manhattan grappled with "What it Means to become an American" in a series of panel discussions with immigration attorneys and immigrants in various stages of the process of acquiring citizenship; students will create illustrated children's books and graphic novels related to their perspectives, and share these with the community at this public exhibition. Students from several schools have had a chance to learn about the immigration history of the Lower East Side, by visiting historic sites as varied as the Madina Masjid Mosque, Saint Bridges Roman Catholic Church, the First Houses and tenements, the Nuyorican Poets Café and the German American Shooting Society. You can read more about students' explorations and exciting work in progress at our partner schools online at: <http://worldsavvy.org/new-york/>

This spring, World Savvy's Global Youth Media and Arts Festival will again showcase exceptional art and media created by MAP students. The week-long Festival at NYU's Commons Gallery, from May 19th to 26th, 2010, promises to be a thought-provoking exhibition. The Opening Celebration of the Festival will be on May 21st at the Gallery, where youth bring to life their perspectives on the theme through live performances, visual art, and multi-media projects.



Please join us! If you are interested in supporting World Savvy's programs in New York as a member of the Host Committee for the exhibition or to find out other ways to get involved, please contact Carissa@worldsavvy.org.

Call to Action

Volunteer and Donate this Spring!

Our Spring Fundraising Campaign begins April 1st! This year, our goal is to increase the number of Savvy Sustainers – individuals who give monthly or quarterly throughout the year. This helps to stretch your contribution much further, by conserving our resources (we have to contact you less!) and generating greater financial stability over a longer period. This spring our goal is to raise \$60,000.

Please consider becoming a Savvy Sustainer in 2010! Donate today!

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in the classroom - keys to student engagement, and ultimately preparation for a global workforce that is no longer dominated by western cultural norms, ideas or dollars. American students need to be critical thinking, multilingual and culturally competent global citizens to excel professionally in the 21st century. While their command of basic skills such as math and science are necessary, we can't in the process cut out what it takes to help them develop into productive, contributing global citizens.

It is long past time for schools of the 21st century to move out of the 20th century. As policy makers grapple with defining career readiness, we're hopeful that global education is considered as central to every student's personal and professional success. As the world around us changes rapidly, the skills and knowledge provided by global education generally - and World Savvy specifically - are critical to real, genuine career readiness.

Thank you for the support of our work, each and every day. It inspired us all here to work toward a future in which K-12 education does the job we think it can: preparing students with knowledge, skills and values for responsible global citizenship.

Dana Curran Mortenson
Executive Director

Mission: To educate youth in community and world affairs, so they are prepared to live, work and learn as responsible citizens in the 21st century. www.worldsavvy.org

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