

The 'Why' of Global Partners



We at Surrey Christian School are Global Partners in Christian Education because we believe...

- that a significant part of our identity as Surrey Christian School is tied up in our calling to be neighbors in this world, especially to those who are most vulnerable, those on the margins and those most in need of the gifts we can share.
- that our students need to experience in the most immediate ways possible what it means to be a neighbor, by being with, living with, talking with, eating with and sharing life with others in mutually enriching relationships.
- that those who live on the margins of our society, our world, have something valuable to teach our students about their relationship to God, others, the creation and themselves.
- that we have received this gift of Christian Education as an inheritance that must be shared with those who do not have it. We have experienced this in Canada with the growth of Christian Education beyond its founding communities and we are beginning to experience this in Central America, Africa, and beyond.
- that when you live within the confines of the dominant and affluent culture as we do in North America, it is difficult to know at a deep level what the 'other' experiences and thus the global partnerships which give us insights into this otherness.
- that we are called to be agents of change in the world, not just agents of talk. Our school partnerships show that we are also *doers* of the Word, that it has hands and feet.
- that the entire world and all that it contains, is a gift placed in the hands of humans to care for. When you are charged with caring for something, it needs to translate into something tangible and real like a school, a living relationship, letter writing, skyping, supporting with scholarships, etc.
- that poverty and development are extremely complex issues that require good teaching, careful listening, respectful frameworks and generous mutuality.
- that at the center of all things is a Trinitarian *relationship*, and that all things (schools included) are designed to flourish within the context of *relationship*.

The leaves of the Surrey Christian School logo are a daily reminder of the tree that stands in the middle of the city described in the book of Revelation as it comes to its Kingdom coming reality as a tree "whose leaves are for the healing of the nations." (Revelation 22.2)

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Global Partnerships' Impact on SCS Student Learning

We know that our Global Partnerships are having an impact on the students and SCS community at large...

- when we see the transformation in our students who visit our global partners
- when we observe the enthusiasm of primary school children for their Sierra Leone school friends in their similarities and differences
- when we see a community yearly participates in a walk-a-thon that has generated \$30 000 + annually.
- when we hear students articulate their own poverty in relation to their peers in the developing world
- when we see Bible 11 students wrestling with complexities of 'Mission' trips and learning better ways of global engagement
- when we see teachers using our global partnerships to teach with greater global sensitivity
- when we see the selflessness of SCS alumni in their continued global partner engagements
- when commitment is long term. We want to model for our students that development is slow work, and needs to be established over the long term.