



CAMPUS NEWS

Eighth Grade Helps Global Literacy

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An eighth grade project will see used books recycled to children in Africa, thanks to a project spearheaded by parents association member Nuala Passannante. Each year the parents collect books to be recirculated to Peddie students, but there were always many leftover.

Passannante approached Community Service Director Nick Guilbert about the leftover books, and together they created a project to help others and earn community service hours. Since she is an 8th grade representative for the PPA, the 8th grade inherited the project. The Rutgers-based organization, Global Literacy Project (GLP), was chosen as the beneficiary of the books. The GLP is a non-profit organization committed to fostering community-based literacy initiatives.

"Illiteracy, as a cause and effect of poverty, reinforces long-term underdevelopment in many countries," said the GLP mission statement. "By acquiring the skills of literacy, people can empower themselves to better negotiate the practical demands of everyday life as well as the abstract world of ideas, two important arenas of struggle."

Last week eighth graders loaded up a GLP van with Peddie books and on Nov. 2 about 200 books were to be on a container headed for Port Mombassa, Kenya. The books are given to rural schools where there are no libraries. GLP is helping to build libraries. Textbooks went first, then paperback books.

English teacher Rosemary Gleeson suggested her eighth grade English classes write letters to accompany these books. In these letters, they talked about themselves and about Peddie. The ultimate hope is that they become pen pals with the students in Africa.

These books will be sent to Africa by boat, which will take about four weeks. African schools are not in session in December, so the students will receive these books sometime in early January, at which time it is hoped they will respond to the letters from Peddie's students. The timing on this should be perfect as it is expected to coincide with history teacher Dacque Tirado's coverage of the History of Africa.



From left Olubayi Olubayi, president and CEO of Global Literacy Project, and students Saarah Woodby '07 and Preston Combs '07.



Loading up the Global Literacy Project vans at Peddie.