



IB AFRICA, EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST
REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2013

THE HAGUE 24TH - 27TH OCTOBER

Experiential Learning

Creating learning experiences
outside of the traditional
classroom

Allison J Barlow
Head of English
Anglican International School of Jerusalem



Introduction

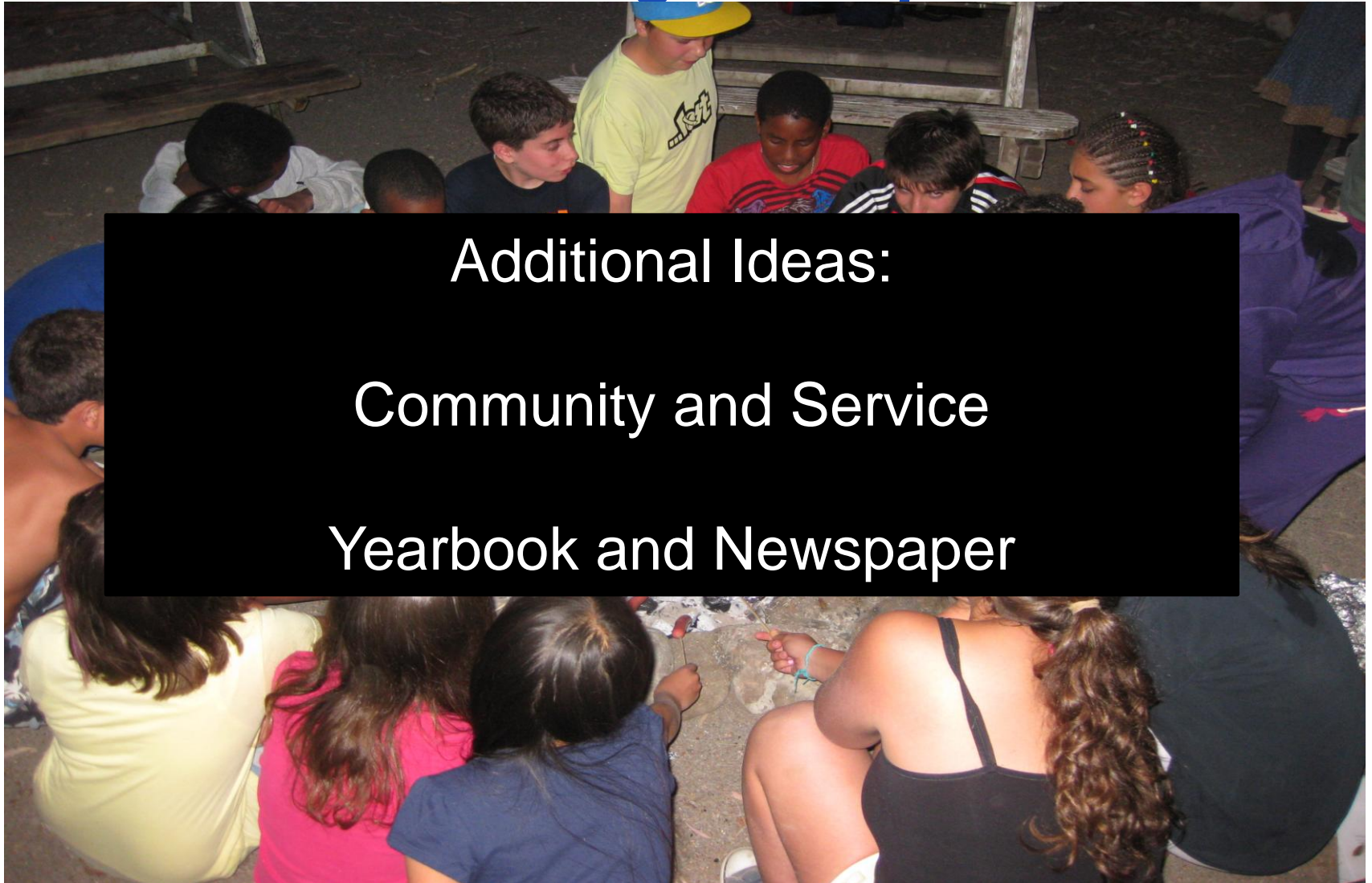
*We should be creating
educational experiential learning
opportunities*

Inspiring Students and Staff to Innovate

Roles

- Staff is challenged to create (the plan)
- Students are challenged to create (the activity)

Innovating: *Examples*



Additional Ideas:

Community and Service

Yearbook and Newspaper

Inspiring Students and Staff

Roles

- Staff is challenged to create (the plan)
- Students are challenged to create (the activity)

Results

- Learning together, improving non-traditional, practical skills
- Change activities to keep staff and students fresh
- Builds connection between staff and students, improving learning in the classroom

Engaging Students

- Works with alternate learning styles
- Creates opportunities for weaker students
- Academic students are challenged in non-traditional way
- Maintains student interest in school

Engaging Students: *Examples*

- Spelling Bee
- Movie theatre
- Sports Day
- School play



Holistic and Cross-curricular Education

- Overlapping disciplines
- Students are engaged academically, practically, and socially
- Kids and teens are active
- Integrates technology
- Bonds students across groups

Holistic and Cross-curricular Education: *Examples*

- Kiva
- Pen pals
- Yad Vashem
- Habitat for Humanity
- Old City tour
- Magazine Launch



Critical Thinking

- Skills are practiced that are necessary for life after school
- Students apply skills in a practical way
- To succeed, a student must think beyond the classroom
- Students *own* the material

Critical Thinking: *Examples*

- Poetry Competition
- MUN



Long-term effects

- Social bond and affection for school
- Stories are passed on
- Years later, students remember

Long-term effects: *Examples*

- Social trips
- Hiking
- Visiting Syrian children



Obstacles

Why don't we provide more experiential learning opportunities?

- Legal restraints
- Budget restraints
- Scheduling restraints
- Difficulty planning and organizing



Tools

- IB Learner profile
- Technology
- Plan in groups
- Integrate into curriculum
- Optional out-of-school
- Student funded
- Don't be afraid of failure
- Enthusiasm



Why should we make the extra effort?

It is worth it!

Conclusion

Experiential learning promotes emotional literacy

“Starting in the late 19th century, the philosopher John Dewey argued against the development of purely vocational elementary schools, insisting that the true purpose of schooling was not simply to teach children a trade but to train them in deeper habits of mind, including ‘plasticity’ (the ability to take in new information and be changed by it) and interdependence (the ability to work with others)”.

- Jennifer Kahn, “Can Emotional Intelligence Be Taught?”

Conclusion: *Summary*

- **Students and staff create together**
- **Engages students from top to bottom**
- **Education is holistic and can be cross-curricular**
- **Critical thinking goes beyond hypothetical**
- **Long-term effects**

Conclusion

What experiential learning opportunity can you create in your school?



Additional Examples and Ideas

- Have class outside
- Exciting activities
- CAS
- Take social trips

