Class I Student Works with Youth in Mexico’s Yucatan

What did you do this past summer? Senior Andrew Delosh traveled to Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula to work with fellow students ages 6-16 on a service learning project.

Traveling to Mexico with Amigos de las Americas, through the Summer Search Program, Andrew was able to make a significant impact on the lives of underserved Yucatan youth.

It was not an easy assignment for Andrew. He was equipped with a basic knowledge of Spanish and limited experience working directly with young people, but after arriving in Mexico with a group of 30 volunteers, he jumped right into the work.

“I studied Spanish at BLS,” said Andrew. “My teaching partner was from New York and was fluent in Spanish. I used my hands a lot and used different teaching techniques.”

“That’s exactly what Thaisha Bells, a member of the BLS girls’ swim team is doing on Saturday mornings at the Holland Community Center Pool in Dorchester.

The Holland Community Center Pool is part of the Serving Just Swimmingly Summer Search Program. This program provides opportunities for students to volunteer and work directly with autistic kids in the Special Olympics.

“I loved trying the different foods, and after doing all the work I gained a lot of confidence,” stated Andrew.

Students Make an IMPACT

Members of the Boston Latin School Community can be found volunteering at agencies and events throughout Boston on an almost daily basis.

What makes this particular volunteer experience unique is that the students perform community service on Saturday mornings, have post-service processing meetings on Saturday afternoons and bring the spirit of service back to Boston Latin School.

The program, which is run by the Boston YWCA, takes students to sites like Rosie’s Place, Community Servings, the Home for Little Wanderers and Dana Farber. After they complete their weekly service, the students and their mentor meet to discuss and process their work.

“We connect with people that deal with serious issues,” stated Junior Pauline Suncar. “I really like attending, and the workshops make the service more powerful.”

The students continue their work at BLS through the group IMPACT, a service group that supports student volunteers.

Serving Just Swimmingly

Play a sport? Interested in coaching? Want to volunteer? How about volunteering to coach your favorite sport?

“It’s difficult working with autistic kids,” said Thaisha. “Sometimes it can be frustrating, so you need to be patient.”

Since she is on the school swim team, Thaisha can transfer a lot of the routines from the BLS practices to the Special Olympics practices.

“I need to speak loudly and clearly so the swimmers will listen,” she stated.

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