



NEWS FROM THE



Students Take Charge and Implement Change

Who says that young people cannot make a difference? This past autumn, the Primary 5 class from the Swiss School in Singapore challenged this notion with some remarkable results.

STUDY OF HEALTHY LIVING

It all started when the students were engaged in a discussion about healthy meals during a science lesson that focused on healthy living. In the course of debating what constitutes a healthy and green lifestyle, the conversation turned to how they view the 'Mittagstisch' service at the Swiss School. To further understand the situation in other schools, the students then watched short clips about the lunch services in France and in Louisiana, USA. This prompted the students to ponder over the possibility of making a positive change.

In their English class during the following week, students continued the debate and went on to discuss in more detail what types of changes could be made and the best way to implement them. They developed suggestions for potential menu changes and the use of more environmentally friendly materials, and discussed logistics issues and general improvements that could potentially benefit both their peers and the environment.

MARKET RESEARCH

The students went to great lengths and even conducted surveys among their peers and the staff to gauge the stakeholders' responses to the proposed changes. From the

information obtained, the students finessed their proposals and pitched them to the Swiss School management.

FROM IDEAS TO IMPLEMENTATION

The students received rave reviews for the professionalism and maturity they showed in the course of their pro-active campaign. Furthermore, their efforts resulted in some immediate changes. For example, the Primary 5 students now drink from washable plastic cups instead of disposable ones. In addition, the younger students now use plastic utensils in place of the larger, metal ones.



Finally, the students met with Mr Adrian Vogt, the Executive Chef at the Swiss Club, to discuss potential meal changes. Again, the students showed a great deal of maturity in this matter and were able to present some potential changes that would be warmly accepted by the student body. Mr Vogt was very gracious and generous with his time and took their ideas seriously.

From a simple discussion in class to an excellent example of teamwork, the Primary 5 students at the Swiss School should be extremely proud of their work and the changes they have helped implement. It goes to show that no matter what age, people can make positive changes in their daily life if they work with the right attitude.

Photos courtesy of Swiss School in Singapore

Article courtesy of Jimmy Nolan