



NEWS

# TJ students team with Australia as part of Global Learning Initiative



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by [GREG ALLMAIN](#), Federal Way Mirror Reporter  
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Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS) "Global Learning Initiative" was on display during the school board's Oct. 29 meeting, with students from Thomas Jefferson High School relating their experiences so far with Brighton Secondary College in Melbourne, Australia.

Sunwoo Kang, ASB Director of Technology at Thomas Jefferson, shared a short video of TJ students speaking with Brighton students via Skype.

"One of our ideas is to make a video with Brighton that would help show how we united for a cause," Kang said.

The two groups are attempting to coordinate bake sales where they'd sell the "cultural" foods from each country. For instance, the Brighton students would sell American foods, while the TJ students would sell traditional Australian foods.

"It will be similar to a bake sale, except it'd be a school-wide event," said Allen Lunde, ASB Secretary at TJ. "We've been communicating that, and that'd be the main source of funding."

The funding would go toward an idea of "Go Blue," said Andrew Min, ASB Treasurer at TJ.

"One of the issues at hand is 2.5 billion people on this Earth do not have access to clean water, whether it's for sanitary reasons or consumption," Min said. "And that's one issue we can hope to combat in cooperation with the Brighton school."

TJ and Brighton would support the idea of making sure more people have access to usable water by supporting a local charity that operates internationally.

"We are working with the school in Australia to raise money for a charity called [waterfirst.org](#)," said Jayden Zwick. "We're really excited about this because it's an international initiative. We're selling the Australian food here, the Australians are selling our food there. We're working with a charity that's based in Seattle but serves people in Ethiopia, India, Bangladesh and Honduras. We're very excited about that because it's an incredible international initiative."

Dylan DeTray, another TJ student in attendance on Oct. 29, also noted the partnership with Brighton is more than just this fundraiser.

"The sophomores at our school... 100 students have been assigned a pen pal at Brighton College, so they've been corresponding by email," he said.

"We're excited to see, the idea of being global citizens come to fruition," said board member Tony Moore. "You guys are the ones who will be the pioneers, so to speak, of that venture. So good luck as you continue to develop relationships around the globe."

Superintendent Rob Neu noted that Brighton was one of the schools that district and board officials visited in their recent trips as part of the Global Learning Initiative. Neu called Brighton's principal Julie Podbury a "pistol." Brighton itself is considered an international leader in developing relationships around the world, Neu said.

"They are a school who annually hosts 100 Chinese students a year, and have become a highly recognized school in Australia," Neu said. "The fact you are partnering with them and moving the work forward with them is extremely exciting."

# Food Swap Day

A group of five students from year ten, David Bourke, Samantha Beard, Dakota Pirruccio, Phoebe Butler, along with Emma Field held an American food day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2014. We sold America Brownies, Tater Totes and American Cookies and because it was close to Easter - hot cross buns. We were raising money for the charity [water1st.org](http://water1st.org), which provides clean water for developing countries. With the efforts of the whole team and the supportive staff, we raised \$263. This will combine with the efforts of Thomas Jefferson High School (TJHS), a school with which our year 10 students

have been communicating with via e-mail and Skype, to raise money for this charity together. They have also raised around \$200 doing an Australian Food day, which was held late last year. We have decided that these efforts in raising money for [water1st.org](http://water1st.org) will continue over the entire year, and more and more fundraising events will be held.

