

# Building global citizens at Collingwood

Wentworth students collaborate with Round Square students in South America to explore service topics



**AS YOU MAY KNOW**, Collingwood is the only Round Square school in the Lower Mainland. Closely aligned with Collingwood's mission to inspire and support young people for meaningful lives, Round Square is an internationally diverse network of 200 like-minded schools in 50 countries on six continents that connect and collaborate to offer world-class programs and experiences, developing global competence, character and confidence in students. Round Square schools are like-minded in a shared understanding of the link between character education and academic success and believe that in order to equip students for positive, active and engaged global citizenship, it is essential to offer them more than academic knowledge and qualifications. Recognizing that positive, meaningful change starts with courageous conversations, Round Square schools connect students with their peers from across the world for open, honest and brave dialogue around some of the most difficult and sensitive issues facing our world today.

Throughout this fall, Wentworth Grade 4 and 7 students collaborated on an innovative service learning initiative relating to 2030 UN sustainability goals with students from fellow Round Square schools Colegio Los Nogales in Bogotá, Colombia and Aubrick Bilingual School in São Paulo, Brazil. Engaging via digital handshakes, Zoom and other internet-based platforms, students worked together on an inter-school project exploring sustainable development goals. Students participated in group activities, exchanges of information and ideas to identify actions they can take at school or at home to be more sustainable and find solutions to identified problems.



The project was divided into four research strands: my water use footprint, my carbon emission footprint, my fashion footprint and my foodshed footprint. The learning objectives of this project included practicing research methods, collaboration within teams to creatively analyze information on their selected sustainable development goal with peers in another country and proposals for viable solutions to an identified problem in their immediate context.

Building on the success of this experience, Gr. 1 and 3 students at Wentworth will begin a new pen pal collaboration with students in Bogotá, Columbia, next term. 

**SOME THINGS I LEARNED:**

- Last year 5.6 million acres of trees were burnt down
- 73.2% of carbon emissions are from the production of energy
- There is a carbon sucking machine in Iceland

**WHAT I FOUND INTERESTING:**

- Becoming a vegetarian can help reduce carbon emissions
- Cows fart methane

**THINGS I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT:**

- How can we reduce the number of trees being cut and burnt down every year?
- How can we create more reliable and sustainable energy for all?

- Chloe Zhang, Gr. 7



**THREE THINGS I'VE LEARNED:**

- There are two different types of water use: direct and indirect
- Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the global population
- 80% of waste-water is released to the environment untreated

**TWO THINGS I FOUND INTERESTING:**

- Proper hand-washing with soap and water can reduce diarrhea cases by up to 35%
- Schools can be a key factor in initiating change by helping develop healthy hygiene habits. Good hygiene behaviour learned at an early age can lead to lifelong positive habits

**ONE THING I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT:**

- How can I (as a student) impact direct and indirect water usage, and how can I change that?

- Aiko Ando, Gr. 7

