

Action

An Inquiry: What action have you initiated or participated in?

In the *Primary Years Program*, it is believed that education must extend beyond the intellectual to include not only socially responsible attitudes, but also thoughtful and appropriate action. An explicit expectation of the *Primary Years Program* is that successful inquiry will lead to responsible action, initiated by the student as a result of the learning process. This action will extend the student's learning, or it may have a wider social impact, and will clearly look different within each age range. *Primary Years Program* schools can and should meet the challenge of offering all learners the opportunity and the power to choose to act; to decide on their actions; and to reflect on these actions in order to make a difference in and to the world.

Action should be seen as a voluntary demonstration of a student's empowerment. Voluntary action must remain precisely this if we truly believe in the values we advocate. Furthermore, we must remember that today's complex issues do not often suggest simple or self-evident solutions, and that inaction is also a legitimate choice and sometimes may be the best choice. In the *Primary Years Program* it is believed that every student, every year, should have the opportunity to be involved in such action. This action may be taken by an individual student or by a group of students working collaboratively. *Primary Years Program* advocates a cycle of involvement that provides students with opportunities to engage in purposeful and beneficial action.