

Barbara Britton

This is the 4th year that I've had the pleasure of volunteering for a month or two at Aikiyam School, helping to teach a variety of subjects to grades 6, 7 and 8 including democracy, the constitution, geography and emergency preparedness.

Working with the students and teachers is a wonderful way to connect with the local community, and learn about their lives and culture while sharing my own knowledge and experiences. I get to see the world through the students' eyes, which often takes everything I know from my life in Canada and turns it upside-down. This can be both exciting and challenging.

I enjoy the spontaneity and warm-heartedness of the children, and the generous welcome and assistance of the teachers. The level of commitment from the principal, teachers and volunteers is inspiring.

Over four years, I have had the opportunity to see the work at the school evolve as the principles of unity, harmony and integration are implemented. I've returned every year since then, for the simple reason that working at the school is meaningful, pleasurable and fulfilling in my life.