



Years 5 and 6 Beach Clean-up

Thursday, November 27th 2014

At around 08:30 on Thursday morning, All Year 5 & 6 students were eagerly lined-up and ready to board the buses, and about to embark on their first Community Service Project for the year.

We were heading to a popular beach in the Mangaf area, unfortunately renowned for being polluted with garbage washing in from the sea, as well as litter being left behind by the community from a nearby restaurant.

This project was part of our fortnightly theme in the Primary Department, which for this period was Environment Awareness.

Upon arrival at the beach, students were lined-up, dressed in their PE uniforms, and all issued with latex gloves and garbage bags. They couldn't wait to get started!

At the teachers' signal, they were "set free" and literally ran towards various parts of the beach to see who can fill up their garbage bags first. They were so eager to clean, that they were even loading rocks and driftwood into their bags, only to soon realize that the bags were getting very heavy, very fast. After explaining to a few groups that rocks and wood are not actually garbage, they emptied these contents and started loading the real garbage.

Within 30 minutes, most of their bags were full, so we called all the students together, and piled-up around 40 large garbage bags on one spot.

Water break! Every student was given a bottle of water, and upon their request, they were allowed to have some free time on the beach, under the watchful eyes of all the staff involved. It wasn't long before many students were around the water's edge; collecting sea shells and tiny hermit crabs, where they conveniently and very cleverly converted their empty water bottles into mini-aquariums, having a tremendous educational experience in the process.

Some boys decided to turn their empty water bottles into footballs – filling them with sand and having a great time playing football with them.

We were amazed at how creative they were and how much fun they were having without technology and screens. At the end of the day, they were all children again, engaging in children's games, as children should.

At 11:00 am, we rounded them all up, did a quick head-count, loaded them onto the buses and headed back to school. They were sad to leave, but then again, all good things must come to an end.

One thing is certain, and that is that fun was had by all, while in the process of learning. It was a day that they will not easily forget. Thank you to our supportive parents for allowing your child to accompany us on this trip, and help rid the environment of its unwanted litter. Until next time . . .