

Volunteering (Skype meeting 21st February 2017)

1. How a young man/woman, being a student, can help his/her community? Taavi

- Young people help their community with attending local events and being active, giving their opinion, expressing their thoughts, ideas and opinion in local newspaper. Expansion of horizons and attitude towards learning is also very important. Every spring students work together cleaning public places in their home village, mostly edges of roads. In Estonia in spring when snow melts much litter and waste can be found by the roads.
- School park is cleaned by students every autumn.
- We have planted trees. It was very nice experience.
- We have volunteered in catering and maintaining places for Tartu Skiing or Cycling Marathon. Skiing Marathon is a part of Skiing World Cup and our local authorities are responsible for organizing it.
- Every May we take part in relay races to support disabled children. These races are held all over the country.
- Our students clean up the grave of Aliide Ertel the writer in local graveyard. We keep alive the traditions that are important in history of our school, introduce the history of our school.
- Students have volunteered for different sports events. Last autumn we had special event on that topic. It was organised with Estonian School Sport Union.
- If somebody has had an accident (house has been in fire and home property has destroyed) people give things or donate money to support sufferers.
- People donate things they do not need themselves to others and needy families.
- We have had charity event to raise money for buying Christmas presents to children from needy families.

2. How can they raise funds to donate to charity associations? Brigitte Marie and Marchus Joonas

- We held fairs at school. Students sell self-baked cookies and pastries. It is a way how to get money to organise different events at school.
- Students from Form 11 are working on a project to found a school museum. To get money they sold Christmas trees. They have written several applications to get money for decoration of rooms and buying furniture. These students work for free.
- We have organised a concert to get money for children who suffered in earthquake in Japan. Children of Puka School have participated in different charity events during the years.
- On Fathers' Day events bird nest boxes have built by children and fathers. Conservancy has been an important issue in many years.
- We have much to think on it how to involve people to get community life better.

3. What can they do in case of natural catastrophes? Kaur and Kadi

- Natural disasters are very rare in Estonia. Last we can remember was in August 2010 when thunderstorm blew away the roof of a block of flats in Puka.

- We can help to protect environment and help wild animals. In hard winter when it is very cold or snow is too deep students can bring feed to animals. It is common to feed birds in winter.
- Blankets, pillows and others soft material is gathered and given to animal shelters.
- Puka Parish does not locate by the sea. In deep-snow-winter the roads might be blocked up by snow.
- Students from 6th Form are involved to the project called KEAT (Kaitse ennast, aita teisi; Protect yourself and help others). During the project children are taught first aid, helping drowning man, surviving in wild nature etc.
- In need older students can help younger. For example it is possible to gather into gym. Medical assistance and social activities can be organised to cheer people up. Catering can be organised. People can overnight in public rooms.