

"Day of Service" will be Tabor Academy tradition

May 11, 2013

MARION --- It's going to become an annual tradition.

That's the word from Tabor Academy in Marion which on May 1 held its inaugural "Day of Service."

In a news release, a school spokeswoman explained that the Day of Service brought together various groups to do community service in the local area.

"Conveniently, May 1 is in the middle of International Week; co-heads Hank Huang '13 and Helen Huang '13 (invited) newly-enrolled international students to get involved," the release said.

Lauren Corliss, director of community service, said many international students are already involved in community service.

Chan Kang '14 and Amy Park '15 visit New Bedford's Our Sisters' School once a week to teach violin. Venezuelan student Laura Ferreira-Cesar '14 participates in Big Brothers-Big Sisters and frequently tutors at Sippican Elementary School in Marion.

The news release goes on to say that for all students at Tabor, there are five hours of required community service each year. Many students volunteer routinely during the weekend for a host of events that are sponsored by local organizations

"Tabor is in a position where community service has become woven into the fabric of our weekly routine," Corliss said in the release. "Having this type of yearly event (Day of Service) will create some excitement."

"I hope that this day generates momentum for community service and a general sense of feeling good about serving the local community," Corliss said.

Tabor credits Claire Chatinover '13 and Mark Blackwell '13, co-heads of the Community Service Club, for helping to encourage student participation in different projects inside and outside of the Tabor community.

Said Chatinover, "I am excited for the whole school to work together. Every one of us should want to do more than the required hours. This day will get more people in the spirit of helping others."



Tabor Academy students are frequent volunteer tutors at the Sippican School in Marion



Tabor Academy students help plant a community garden at Our Sisters' School in New Bedford.

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Faculty are also enthusiastic about the Day of Service.

Conor Bozzi and Conan Leary and their advisees got involved with helping kids at Alma Del Mar, a charter school in New Bedford, by reading to children or helping in the classrooms, the release said. Rick DaSilva's group painted the playground at the Sippican School.

The "Read & Weed" from Hayden Library took part in the Tabor Day of Service. Thanks to a connection made through the Marion Council on Aging, the staff headed off to Delano Road to help a 96-year-old woman get her gardens in shape for spring, the release noted.

"It is really the advisers who set the tone for this day," Corliss said.

English teacher Chris White and his students cleaned trails for the Sippican Land Trust. Earlier this fall, White took students to the trails located behind The Wave.

The Land Trust "loved our work," he said. "This marked the beginnings of what we hope would be a long and fruitful relationship between Tabor and the stewards of the forest."