

Building Service Leadership @



Service leadership, what's that? Here's how the Builder's Club at Beaver Lake Middle School defines it: "*The heart to serve ... the call to lead ... the courage to engage.*" That's also the club motto.

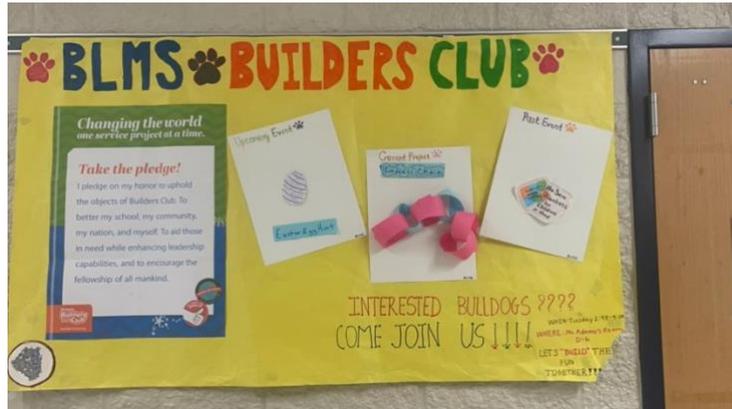
The more than 1,600 Builder's Clubs across the United States sponsored by local Kiwanis Clubs are aimed at creating future generations of service-oriented leaders by involving 6th, 7th and 8th graders in projects serving mainly children, but also elder adults.

The club at Beaver Lake Middle School (BLMS)- which began in the fall of 2021— is the brainchild of three people: Kevin Adamo, then the faculty advisor; Kathryn Coffin, the principal; and Mudra Machewad, the 6th grade instigator of it all. Coffin wanted a community-centered student organization. Adamo was aware of the Builder's Clubs and had already started one at another school. And Machewad was the dynamo who recruited and organized the student members.



"I was shy as a kid," she says. "Participating in the Builder's Club helps me build confidence, leadership skills and learn how to manage projects. My motivation is to help people in need.

During the 2021-2022 school year, Machewad and the 34 other members of the club conducted a project nearly every month—from making and sending holiday cards to sick children and the elderly to making no-sew blankets for people in need to sponsoring an easter-egg hunt for local children. Perhaps their most innovative project was a kindness chain for students at the school. Each time a student offered a kind gesture or gift to a fellow student, a link was added to the chain. At the end of the year, the chain stretched around the four walls of the gym.



“The students run the club,” says Adamo, who this year has since been promoted to vice principal of a nearby high school. “It is amazing the ideas these students have and how much they care about other people.”

Says Heidi Hodges, president of the nearby Sammamish Kiwanis (and sponsoring) club: “We provide a liaison to their club as well as financial support for their projects. By empowering our youth to build a sense of service to their school and community, Builders Club members develop life-long skills that will benefit them and their communities as they journey through life. I am personally very proud to be part of an organization that supports developing future service leaders.”



Today, Beaver Lake’s Builder’s Club is firmly ensconced into the school culture. It is filled with young people with the energy, enthusiasm and desire to make a difference.

This year’s faculty sponsor is math teacher Tiffany Bahall. “Beaver Lake Middle School prides itself on the value of ‘where everyone belongs,’” she says, “and having Builder’s Club bring the focus of community service and helping others is frosting on the cake.”



As for Machewad, what’s her goal? “To become the president of the United States so I can serve all the people.”

Well, why not?



Reference Link for 2021-2022 BLMS Builders Club overview -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXFQ3ScID1o>