**Severn Suzuki & the Environmental Children Organization (ECO)**

@ The United Nations Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro 1992)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCF0Yxkj9ws>

This video shows Severn Suzuki (Age 12) of the Environmental Children Organization (ECO) presenting at the UN Earth Summit in 1992. In the video Severn stresses our role as youth in protecting our fragile environment.

It is inspirational to see a young woman freely speaking her mind and sharing her strong opinion on what needs to be done to the UN. She uses wisdom bestowed upon kindergarten students to question the grown-up leaders of the world.

The video stresses that we should be grateful for the many things that we have in our lives but we should also never forget about the less fortunate and the impact that our lives have on our environment. The video is rather dated but the same statements made then, still apply today.

**The video highlights the following**:

* If you don’t know how to fix something; don’t break it!
* We are a single, unified world; all of our actions affect each other.
* Make your actions reflect your words!

***Many interesting questions are posed by Severn, including the questions below:***

Why do people who have everything act so greedily?

* Today as youth we need to be aware of our actions and try to change the way we think and live in order to make a more positive difference. People who have everything are often not willing to share, which makes the world in which we live in poor and selfish. People may be reluctant to share because many powerful people and companies who could afford to share and make big difference without a large sacrifice, don’t. If more of us put in an effort to make a change in the world, others would get encouraged to put in their part as well. Together we can make a difference!

If the adults teach us how to behave, why do they do the opposite?

* When we were little all of the adults in our lives told us to behave, not to fight with others for any reason, to be honest, and to respect each other. However, it seems that they do the exact opposite. They fight wars just for a piece of land, they lie to us through the news, they don’t respect other countries just because they have a different flag or government. All the wars that the world has participated in don’t make any sense. We are humans. We have the same blood, but different backgrounds. As future adults we have to think about the world where we live. We are the future, we can’t lie or disrespect people because they are different.

Is this a world that you want for your children?

* You don’t want your future children to breath in the smog that’s in the air or drink water full of pollutants. Therefore, we have to change this world because if we don’t, who will? Our everyday actions should not have a negative and harmful effect on the world. We need to live in a manner that will create a better future for everyone on our planet.

Are you making an effort to change the world in a better way?

* Severn said, “If you can’t fix it, don’t break it!” Concentrate energy on finding ways to improve the current state of our environment and dedicate yourself to studies that will benefit mankind and the planet we inhabit. Encourage other students to get involved in the SABIS Student Life Organization® and use the very tools that you’re developing to make a positive difference!

Through the SLO® Social Responsibility Department we are able to promote charity and concentrate energy at each of our respective school’s on being more eco-friendly. We have been given a special opportunity as members of the SABIS Student Life Organization® and it is our responsibility to ensure that we are paving the way for a brighter tomorrow!