



IB Newsletter #3 March

Principal's Message:

On Friday, March 1, we had a fantastic Read Across America Day with a visit from Dr. Seuss's the Cat in the Hat! We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with cupcakes and Mt. Pleasant police officers as guest readers. Classroom activities included hat making, cooking (and eating!) green eggs and ham, and a door decorating contest won by Mrs. Sweeti's 2nd grade class. Thanks to our title teachers Mrs. Mielcarek and Mrs. Hansen for making Dr. Seuss week at Westridge one to remember!

IB Update:

Our March Learner Profile Attribute is **Risk Taker/Courageous**. Students that demonstrate this attribute will be willing to try new things, explore new roles, ideas, strategies and activities as well as to be brave. The 5th Grade students are hard at work on their Exhibition research. They are researching topics that relate to the theme HOW THE WORLD WORKS. This is a cumulative project of their years in an IB Primary Years Programme.

Wildcat Way



Important Dates:

March 7 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
3:30 - 7:30 pm

March 8 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
1:30 - 3:30 pm

March 18 - WI Forward testing window opens
for grades 3-5

March 29 - End of 3rd Quarter

4K

Where We Are In Place and Time

Central Idea: Buildings display various features and play different roles in a community.

Lines of Inquiry:

1. Colors, shapes, sizes, patterns and parts of a building (form)
2. Various types of buildings in our community (function)
3. Materials and tools used in construction of building (causation)

Key Concepts: form, function, causation

Learner Profile: Thinker, Knowledgeable, Reflective

Approaches to Learning: Thinking Skills and Self-management Skills

2nd Grade

Where We Are In Place and Time

Central Idea: People create maps and use map skills to explore and learn about the world.

Lines of Inquiry:

1. Locations of community, city, state, country, continents on a map or globe
2. Interpreting maps
3. Classifying landforms

Key Concepts: form, change, causation

Learner Profile Attributes:

Inquirer, Thinker

Approaches to Learning:

Thinking Skills, Social Skills, Self-management Skills

5K

How We Express Ourselves

An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs, and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic. Our central idea of our unit ideas and feelings can be expressed and interpreted through the arts.

3rd Grade

How We Express Ourselves

Central Idea: We can discover a variety of cultures, beliefs, and values expressed through folktales, fables, and legends from around the world.

Lines of Inquiry:

1. Elements of folktales, fables, and legends (form)
2. Connecting the message to daily life (connection)
3. Why folktales and legends still exist today (connection)

Key Concepts: function, form, connection (reflection)

Learner Profile:

Inquirer, Reflective

Approaches to Learning:

Thinking Skills, Social Skills, Communication Skills

1st Grade

How the World Works

Central Idea: Earth's natural cycles and patterns influence behavior of living things in our world.

Lines of Inquiry:

1. Days vs. Night (change)
2. The ways patterns of time influence daily activities (connection)
3. Phases of the moon (causation)
4. Seasonal Patterns (causation)

Key Concepts: change, connection, causation

Learner Profile: Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Thinker

Approaches to Learning:

Communication Skills, Research Skills

4th Grade

How We Organize Ourselves

Central Idea: Unique physical features of various regions impact the cultural, social, and economic structures of the populations who reside there.

Lines of Inquiry:

1. Elements that define a region (function)
2. Physical features of a region (form)
3. Regional growth and change (connection)

Key Concepts: function, form, connection

Learner Profile:

Inquirer, Reflective

Approaches to Learning: Communication, Research, Social Skills

5th Grade

Sharing the Planet

Central Idea: The ecosystems in which living things are found determines the necessary adaptations for their sustainability.

Lines of Inquiry:

1. Components of an ecosystem (connection)
2. Adaptations of plants and animals within an ecosystem (causation)
3. Cooperative nature of biomes (connection)
4. Conservation and protection of ecosystems (responsibility)

Key Concepts: causation, connection, responsibility

Learner Profile Attributes: Inquirer, Thinker, Reflective

Music

K- we are working on our singing skills.

1- we are learning to read and write music rhythms

2- we are learning a Dr. Seuss musical

3- we are starting to play the recorder!

4- we are working on our singing/dancing skills

5- we are preparing for the annual symphony field trip

Grades 3-5 are also learning some folk dances from around the world

Visual Arts

In the art room students of all ages continue to experiment with different art supplies. They are also working on how to use the visual language of art to express themselves. Most Recently all students have started to work on a piece of art to be displayed in the halls for our upcoming art night in May!

Spanish

Students are reviewing colors and numbers. Also, students are learning the names of the parts of the body in Spanish as well as asking and answering, "What hurts you?".

Physical Education

K-2 Exploring with different equipment. Learning how to catch and throw.

Introducing new tag games.

3-5 Finished the Mid-Year Pacer Test.

Introducing different games through stations. Continue improving on stretching and cardiovascular fitness.

Media Specialist

Students visit the library to borrow books on a wide variety of topics. The librarian also teaches students using an inquiry-based model.

Students use Chromebooks to learn content about their units of inquiry they are working on. Researching 5th grade Exhibition projects has begun, and our new, IB-themed Battle of the Books reading has also started.

"Empowering students to achieve academic and social success."



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