

The Agassiz IB Communicator

International Baccalaureate Primary Years* and Middle Years Programme Newsletter



Academics



Arts



Athletics



International Baccalaureate
World School

The IB Mission Statement



The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.



Agassiz students helped plant new trees on our playground for the International Day of Peace on Friday, September 21, 2018.

Agassiz's Promise

Our promise is to provide a culture of academic excellence, foster a rigorous and nurturing learning environment, and instill within students a love of learning by identifying their positive distinctions, whether academic, artistic, or athletic, thus empowering them to be responsible, contributing members of a global community.

Agassiz Elementary School is a candidate school* for the PYP. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education- that we believe is important for our students.

*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme (DP), or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

Questions about the Primary Years or Middle Years Programme?

Contact Ms. Pirillis, PYP Coordinator, at fpirillis@cps.edu or Mr. Rench, MYP Coordinator, at djrench@cps.edu.

Meet Our New Student Council

Students in grades 3rd through 8th grade participated in Student Council Elections on Tuesday, November 6th 2018. For the first time, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students were able to run for Agassiz's Student Council. All students interested in Student Council spoke to their classmates about why they wanted to run and what made them a good candidate. Students also met with Ms. Pirillis and Mr. Rench to discuss the responsibilities and expectations for being on Student Council.

We had many amazing student candidates run and were excited to see such enthusiasm in our 3rd-8th grade students during the process. Our new Student Council members will serve a one year term beginning in November.

3rd Grade: Mylani V., Morgan W., and Heather O.

4th Grade: Georgia P., Bianca M., and Maisie M.

5th Grade: Julia K., Niev G., and Skye M.

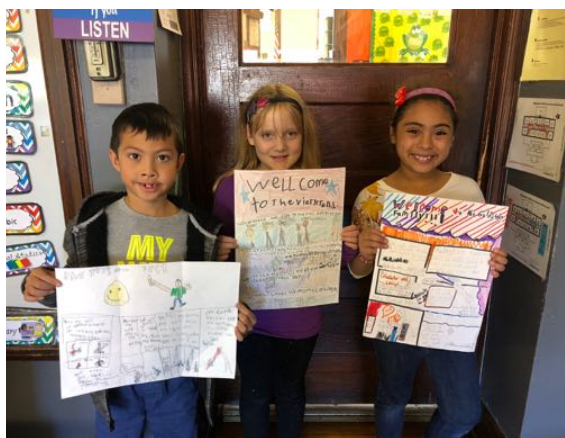
6th Grade: Max M., Adel P., and Gabby S.

7th Grade: Gio R., Maya L., Melissa T., and Grace M.

8th Grade: Kathryn H., Julia B., and Iliana P.

IB PYP

Units of Inquiry



Students in 2nd grade created advertisements about their family and culture as a part of their summative task.

In Pre-K through grade 5, teachers taught their first IB unit of Inquiry in first quarter under the transdisciplinary theme, *Who We Are*. Leading with inquiry in mind, teachers and students explored a variety of concepts, including responsibility, form, function, and causation to deepen their understanding of the theme during the unit. A summary of each unit's Central Idea is included below:

Pre-K: Family relationships can influence who we are and how we live our life.

K: We can develop friendships with people we meet.

1st Grade: A community is impacted by the involvement of its members.

2nd Grade: Culture helps us understand the functions of the world and our place in it.

3rd Grade: Rights and responsibilities are a reflection of a community's beliefs and values.

4th Grade: Earth's structure is constantly changing through processes and forces that impact society.

5th Grade: The environment in which we live impacts the development of living things.

Arabic: Language helps us connect with others.

Dance: The elements of dance are the building blocks that dancers use to learn, create, and perform dance pieces.

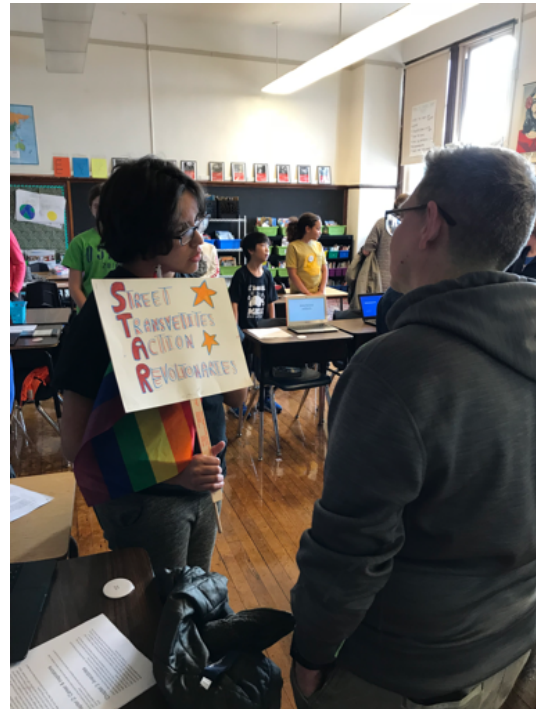
Music: We move with music to express ourselves.

PSPE: The relationships we establish with one another impact how group goals are met.

This school year, PYP teachers in 1st-5th grade will write and teach three IB units. Pre-K and Kindergarten will write and teach two units. Stay tuned for more information on these units in the upcoming quarter.

IB MYP

For their first unit in Individuals and Societies, Year 1 MYP students explored concepts of identity, community, and upstanding. Students were asked to take their understanding of identity and community, and to explore moments in which individuals stood up for injustices affecting their communities. Students wrote mini-biographies of their upstanders and on Monday, October 29th, presented their information to parents, students, and teachers by taking the perspective of their upstander through a "living museum".



First Grade Pen Pals



**Peace
Corps**

First Grade classrooms have partnered with the Peace Corps this year to help their students connect to other people and places in the world. Students in Room 203 and 206 wrote letters to 4th grade children in Ms. Burpee's class. Ms. Burpee's students attend a remote school in the mountains of the Republic of Georgia, a small country bordering Turkey, Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Agassiz first grade students are excited to learn more about their pen pals, including more about life in a small town, what foods they like to eat, and what school is like for them.

AGASSIZ FOOD DRIVE

Donations are being accepted at school between *November 7th-30th*:

- Canned goods (Soup, Fruit, Vegetables, Sauces, etc.)
- Dry goods (Cereal, Pasta, Crackers, Oatmeal, etc.)
- Jelly, Pasta sauce, Apple sauce, Salsa, Broth, Parmesan cheese, Salt/Pepper, Hot Cocoa, Coffee/Tea
- Toiletries (Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Deodorant, Shampoo, Tampons, Diapers/wipes)

