

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.

Third Grade Concept Maps: What do we already know?



Students in 3rd grade began their IB unit by creating concept maps around three key concepts: Form, Change, and Perspective. Students recorded their ideas related to each concept, then compared their maps with one another to determine commonalities, as well as differences in their thinking. The students will spend four weeks investigating changes in urban wildlife while also thinking about how these key concepts can connect their learning across subjects and local/global issues.

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.

Music from the Arab World

Ms. Kachaochana (Ms. K) took Agassiz fourth grade students on a field trip to Senn High School in May. Students attended a performance highlighting music from the Arab world and watched the musician, Rahim AlHaj, play music on the oud. Students also had an opportunity to ask many questions about the music he played, his instrument, and the Middle East.



Kindergarten Explores Culture through Storytelling

In Kindergarten's current IB unit, students have been inquiring into the ways different cultures use stories to express their beliefs and opinions. Students have read many versions of Stone Soup from countries like Poland, Mexico, France, and China, as well as compared the stories for elements, such as character and setting. Kindergarten families were also invited into the classroom to share with students their culture and traditions using children's books, oral storytelling, music, clothing, and artifacts. Throughout these parent presentations, the students learned more about the countries Taiwan, Canada, Ecuador, Poland, Germany, and Israel. They even had a parent share their family traditions from growing up in Wisconsin! Thank you to all the families who participated in making this IB unit so rich and educational.



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CSO CONNECTS

Agassiz Bulldog Buddies in third and seventh grade worked on a collaborative unit in conjunction with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's CSO Connect Program. Throughout the 2018-19 school year, 3rd and 7th grade teachers attended professional development, wrote an interdisciplinary unit on the history of Chicago, and worked with Mr. Hall, as well as the CSO Civic Fellows to design a performance highlighting student learning through art, music, and drama. Agassiz students also visited the Chicago History Museum and a Civic Fellows performance. Agassiz students presented their culminating performance to other CPS schools during the CSO Showcase at Sullivan High School in May. We're proud of all the work our students and teachers dedicated to this collaboration: a true illustration of arts integration!



On Monday May 20th, MYP year 3 students took a trip to the Skokie Holocaust Museum. The event is one of the culminating events of the student's IB unit on the Holocaust. In groups of 10, students experienced and explored the museum with a docent led tour. Many of the docents shared stories of how the Holocaust personally effected their families. The last portion of the trip was a 40-minute presentation and discussion with a Holocaust survivor named Barney. After some insightful questions, Barney encouraged students to come up and shake his hands or receive a hug; something all students wanted to be a part of. Two students even stopped to converse in Polish. It was a memorable experience for all who attended.



MYP Students visit the Holocaust Museum