

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.

Becoming Ecosystem Experts

Third grade students began their Sharing the Planet unit by thinking about how people share finite resources, digging into where food comes from and what ecosystems do living things rely on. Throughout the unit, students chose the ecosystems they wanted to investigate and to gain expertise in while also planning for their action. Students debated issues such as, climate change, deforestation, animal poaching, potential mass extinctions, and were asked to take a stand on how they felt. As an extension to this unit, students will be looking closer at the Midwest ecosystem and our mussel population in the rivers/lakes. In partnership with the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, students will examine specimens and investigate phenomena to determine what impact humans have on our local ecosystem.



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 Ms. McNally, AP/ MYP Coordinator, at memcnally@cps.edu.

Student Council Fundraising Update

Thank you to our school community for ensuring our Valentine's Day fundraiser was a great success! We raised over \$700! We are thrilled to be able to help any 7th and 8th grade students who may need financial support towards the Washington, D.C. trip this spring! Great job to our Student Council and After School Student Council Club for helping fill the orders and deliver the gifts to students!



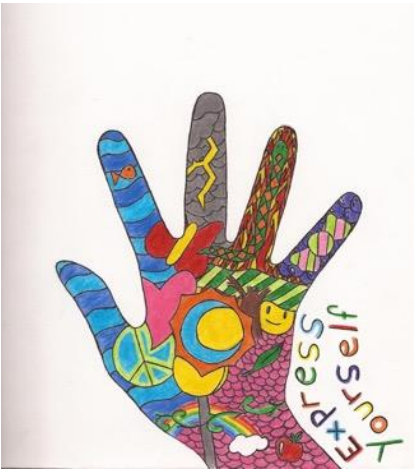
Pre-Kindergarten: Vehicles for Expression



Pre-Kindergarten students have been inquiring into why and how people express their feelings and the various art mediums that can be used. By exploring the work of artists like Keith Haring and Jackson Pollack, listening to and making their own musical instruments, and reading stories like *My Many Colored Days*, students have experienced the many vehicles that can be used to help people understand and express their feelings. Students created life size water color portraits of themselves and also went on a field trip with Mr. Hall to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

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Investigating How We Express Ourselves

In 2nd grade, students are exploring how identity is expressed in cultures around the world. Through the initial stages of their investigation, students created identity maps and described what makes them who they are using symbols, pictures, and words. In collaboration with Mr. Hall (Music) and our school partnership with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, students will continue this exploration by looking at how poetry and music can serve as vehicles for the expression of one's identity.

We Speaking Tour Visits Agassiz

Students in 7th grade participated in a presentation and workshop facilitated by the WE Organization in February. The goal of the WE Organization is to increase students' leadership skills while helping them identify the local and global issues they are most passionate about. Students learned about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and how they could use their strengths, hobbies, and passions to take meaningful action towards addressing one of the goals. For students and families who are interested in learning more about the WE Organization, visit:

<https://www.we.org/en-US/>

For the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>



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WE Community Project Update

Our 8th grade students actively worked on their classroom community projects, narrowing in on issues that affected their local community. Room 307 launched their **Pennies for Pets Drive** and raised \$200 to support the PAWS organization. Room 308 ran a **WE DONATE DRIVE** for toiletries and other hygiene products, which were donated to the Lakeview Pantry. Great job, 8th grade!



Interested in learning more about an IB Education?
Check out these links for parents!

Primary Years Programme: <https://www.ibo.org/information-for-parents/pyp-for-parents/>

Middles Years Programme: <https://www.ibo.org/information-for-parents/myp-for-parents/>

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