



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IBMYP December Newsletter



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: KNOWLEDGEABLE

We want all our students to be **knowledgeable**. Most subject areas have the IB objective of knowing and understanding. In every class, students work to develop new conceptual understandings. Learning ranges from local to global issues. Students also learn to apply their new knowledge in different contexts.



Our top student-selected knowledgeable students are:
Dolphins - Annie Madden, Dragons - Nour Ben Hammouda, Eagles - Luke Endo, Gators - Sassan Fiske, Monarch - Diana Rojas, Owls - Paige Haydasz, Penguins - Ava Fischer, Phoenix - Juan Sierra, & Stingrays - Matthew Abramson. Source: [JeffersonIBMYP](#)

Written Curriculum

Math Year 1 - 6th grade Pre-Algebra and Math Year 2 - Math 7 are moving mathematics into the real world. Pre-Algebra classes had to create a budget to make a major purchase. Given a random summer job, students had to complete a cost analysis consumer product they want to buy and a plan to purchase it. In Math 7, students completed a unit on International Foods. Students had to apply proportions to transform a home recipe for 4-5 people into a recipe for a whole class of 20-25 students. On December 12, students brought a myriad of international foods to math class ranging from Ethiopian injera to El Salvadorian pupusas.



Reviewing our Inclusion Policy



Now is the time to review our inclusion policy to ensure access to education for all. According to *Learning diversity & inclusion in IB programmes*, IB has several core beliefs about inclusive education. Among these are education for all is a human right. Second, every educator is an educator of all students. Third, all learners belong and experience equal opportunities to participate in & engage in quality learning. Furthermore, IB believes in teaching for learning diversity in the principles that affirming identity & building self-esteem, valuing prior knowledge, scaffolding, and extending learning. Over the next 5 weeks we will review and update our inclusion policy to ensure it reflects these ideas. Read [our current policy here](#) and give us feedback. Source: [pixbay.com](#)

MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments

Individuals and Societies - World Geography classes are taking a deep dive into an inquiry, debatable question: Is chocolate produced in the Ivory Coast of west Africa a good thing? Students are writing a Document Based Question (DBQ) essay on the topic. Students are put into different group levels to do their work. They are using an online tool that compels students to organize their information to make an argument into three buckets. It is assessed using the IB Criterion C - Communicating rubric. Does a love of chocolate conflict with human rights? Well just ask one of our many internationally-minded Jefferson 8th graders. Source: [fortune.com](#)



Community Project and Service Learning

It is the giving season and Jefferson is stepping up with service learning opportunities. All TAs are collecting cans for the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Ms Boda's classes made 50 sandwiches that were donated to the Arlington Street People's Network, which were gratefully received.

Regarding the Community Project we now have more than 245 submitted goals and 30 specific proposals for action. Our Yellow Jackets are making a difference. Source: [pixbay.com](#)



Jefferson in the Community

Jefferson 7th graders are taking a staggered field trip to Arlington's great Outdoor Lab. This is a 200 acre woodland in Fauquier County owned by APS. Our students get a short briefing on ecology and human impact on the environment. Then they go into the woods to act as a young scientist. They work in stations to observe and analyze life in a stream, a dead animal, the succession of tree life and animal foot prints. After this, students get to roast hotdogs over an open fire followed by a dessert of Smores. This was real world learning in action. Source: Photo by Mr. Malinosky.



Global Events



Happy St. Nicholas Day (which was December 6) from World Languages French classes! This day is celebrated across the world, but the specific French twist on it is that children put shoes out by the front door. Then they receive chocolate for good deeds

and twigs for bad ones. Our students created shoes & received chocolates and sticks (since everyone has at least a naughty moment). Source: Photo by Mr. Malinosky.

Upcoming dates/Service needs

- Every Wednesday Community Project help in the library
- Every Tuesday at 5pm volunteering at Phoenix Bikes to repair bikes, 909 S. Dinwiddie St ([full details here](#))
- Every Wednesday at 6:30pm volunteering at AFAC to bag chicken, 2708 S. Nelson St, ([full details here](#))
- Coordinating a Food Bus contact [Mr. Malinosky](#)
- [Service Learning Calendar is here](#)

