



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IBMYP April Newsletter

Learning Together to understand and improve ourselves, our futures, and our world.



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Communicators

We want students to be effective communicators. Communicating is a key objective for five of our eight IB MYP subject areas, including mathematics and language acquisition.



Our top student-selected creative and confident communicators are: **Dolphins-Ashley Burris, Dragons-Malek Ben Hammouda, Eagles-Brandon Zarakpege, Gators-Yabsera Negussie, Monarch-Ryan Cohen, Owls-Alexandra Ramos, Penguins-Amelia Geers, Phoenix-Estee Ruiz & Stingrays-Daniella Bonilla Gonzalez.** Source: [pixbay](https://www.pixabay.com/)

Written Curriculum

Our Year 3 Language and literature students had the opportunity to perform slam poetry in front of three classes in the auditorium. Students needed to be risk-takers to recite poems in front of their peers from memory. The poem could be one they wrote or a famous one, but they had to have it all memorized. Dozens of students used the opportunity to shine. We heard hard hitting poems about love, depression, darkness, neighborhoods and yes cats too. Again public speaking is among the hardest things to do, but some of our 8th graders have already demonstrated their fearlessness and creativity.

Assessment Policy: What's Next?



In February and March, we stated grading should be **fair, consistent** and **transparent**. Now the question is: how do we start? By mapping out all of our big assessments for the year. We must ensure that these assessments are aligned with all four IB subject criteria and that every criterion is assessed at least twice during the year. We want to have at least two big (summative) tasks per quarter. Every summative assessment should be assessed with an IB modified rubric. And these rubrics should be shared with students well in advance of the project or test being assigned. The great challenge is to ensure there are a range of summative assessments (from unit tests, presentations, papers and projects) throughout the year in each criterion. Our goal is to have the first quarter of next year mapped out by June.

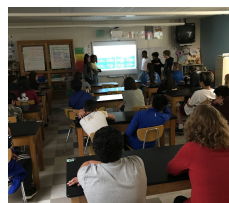
Freaky Friday

Our students with Ms. Riley, Mr. Banach and Ms. Bennett put together an amazing performance of Freaky Friday. The Disney play based in High School became Jefferson's own on Friday, April 5th. The students did a fabulous job playing the roles of a high school students and parents navigating the freak body/soul role reversal. The themes of love, popularity, and high school crushes were woven throughout the play. Not only was the acting superb, but also the singing was just as good. The students had the audience laughing all along and cheering at the end. Photo by Mr. Malinosky.



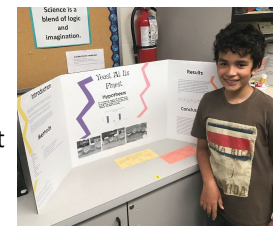
Community Projects Presented

The Community Project Exhibition day arrived on April 9. Nearly 200 8th grade Community Projects were presented on everything from helping animals to supporting wounded warriors. One student group in particular chose to highlight helping LGBT students at Jefferson. They presented to the entire administrative team about the needs of LGBT students. They had recommendations to help us become even more open-minded and welcoming. 6th and 7th grade students also participated by submitting more than 2,000 project evaluations. Already, projects are being planned for next year. Photo by Mr. Malinosky.



MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments

The Science Fair returned on April 24th for our 6th grade students. Students were finding their own projects on topics like friction and what makes yeast rise. Students had to create their own hypothesis and design the experiment. They had to explain their dependent and independent variables, note sources of error and write a conclusion. After their poster boards were complete, the students had to explain their work to adults assessing them with IB rubrics. We have some great scientific young minds on the rise. Photo by Mr. Malinosky.



International-Mindedness: Author Pablo Cartaya



On April 24 students received some first class entertainment from award winning young adult author Pablo Cartaya. He told his story in English and partly in Spanish too about the themes of family, culture and community. Pablo told of the pain of losing his language, and changing his name in order to get a job. Then he told the students how he reclaimed his Cuban identity and relearned how to speak Spanish. He told the students of his first romance with great humor and energy. He ended by asking students to chant "My Voice Matters!" Source: @JeffersonIBMYP

Upcoming dates/Service needs

- 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](#)).
- Every Friday, work community garden at TJ after school.
- [Service Learning Calendar is here](#)
- Stay tuned for upcoming school-wide activities.

