



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP January Newsletter

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

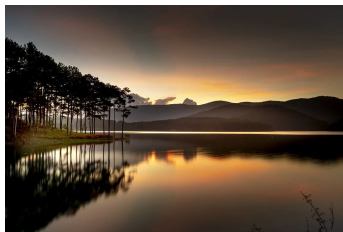


Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: REFLECTIVE

All learning involves reflection. We consider the world and our own ideas, experiences and those of others as well.

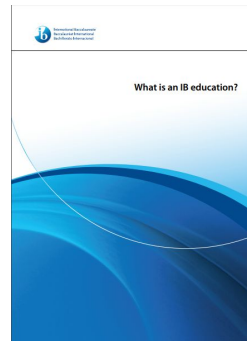
Our top reflective students are for the **Dolphins - Miia Kreek, Dragons - Ryan Collins, Eagles - Grace Olivera, Gators - Malek**

Ben Hammouda, Monarch - Jawan Sbeitan, Owl - Unayza Aziz, Penguins - Alondra Martinez, Phoenix - Samantha Levy, and Stingrays - Sam Brown. Source: pixbay.com



UPDATED: What is an IB Education?

The IBO has published an update to one of the key documents: What is an IB education? It focuses on creating a better world through education. It unpacks International Mindedness, Approaches to Teaching and Learning, conceptual learning and the Learner Profile. This document really describes how IB teachers should teach: through inquiry, concepts, global contexts, collaboration, removing barriers to success, and informed by assessment. [Read it here.](#)



Parent/Community Assessment Workshop



We held a student panel to give teachers feedback on how they learn best during our January PD. Students said they want feedback and time to practice learning before getting a grade. This is exactly what we aim to

do with criterion based grading. We held a parent/community workshop on January 21 directly before the PTA meeting. We discussed summative and formative assessments and how to determine grades based on criteria. Furthermore, we looked at samples of what ParentVue in Synergy looks like with standards mode on. And we answered lots of questions, [see it here](#). Source: <https://twitter.com/MrsBennettELA/status/1217540880074190848?s=20>

MYP Classrooms & Authentic Assessments



Our Year 2, 7th grade, Math teachers held their annual International Foods unit proportions assessment. The results were delicious with dishes from Salvadoran pupusas to Ethiopian injera. Students had to apply the concepts of relationships and justifications to scale recipes intended

from 4-5 to 10-12 people. This year we were particularly heavy on desserts with more than enough cookies, cakes and brownies to go around. This was assessed using Criterion A: Knowing and Understanding and Criterion C: Communicating. Source: <https://twitter.com/MrsBennettELA/status/1207349977288187906?s=20>

Community Project

We are finishing our second rotation of Community Project YJPs. By far, the most popular topic chosen was helping animals. We have students helping animals largely by holding bake sales to support shelters. Helping animals in Arlington, however, is not the only cause that our students have sought to take on. Students are focused on endangered species around the world from orangutans to red pandas. Our kids are raising awareness about the threats these animals face. Large groups of students also focused again on helping the homeless and mitigating global warming. Another group of students is focused on tutoring and we already have a few students tutoring at Fleet Elementary.

Service Learning

Our Year 2 Language and Literature teachers held their annual Civics town hall with County Board Members Christian Dorsey and Erik Gutshall, School Board Members Monique O'Grady and Barbara Kanninen, and APS Sustainability Manager Cathy Lin. Students wrote about issues ranging from the minimum wage to the environment. Students both presented to and asked incisive questions of our local officials. Source: <https://twitter.com/JeffersonIBMYP/status/1218171316068589574?s=20>



National Geography Bee

Our Individuals and Societies students demonstrated International-mindedness with an intense National Geography Bee competition on Jan 14. As Dr. Nolan tweeted, "Congrats to all contestants! They were all positive risk takers." And after three elimination rounds, presided over by Ms. Jordan, Dan Meyer was declared the winner. Source: <https://twitter.com/MrsNolanTweets/status/1217190689806655488?s=20>



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 Thursday join Mr. Malinosky for the Jefferson Environmental Club in room 264 right after school