



Thomas Jefferson Middle School

IB MYP December Newsletter

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



Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Knowledgeable



This month we are pleased to recognize our students who are practicing the IB Learner Profile attribute of being knowledgeable. This means students who show understanding of issues and ideas

in local and global contexts.

The knowledgeable students of the month are for the **Dolphins** - Juliet Thorn, **Dragons** - Cate LaGarde, **Eagles** - Cameron Rickie, **Gators** - Hasna Abdelkarim, **Monarch** - Olivia Grossman, **Owls** - Edan Goldenpine, **Stingrays** - Kaya Gadhia. Source:

<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/thinking-open-mind-6488086/>

Winter Concert



On Wednesday, December 8, Jefferson students hosted a school wide assembly for the Winter Concert. Every student got to watch or perform in the show.

Mr. Bannach's chorus classes sang three songs including Riu Riu Chiu is a Spanish holiday song. Ms. Gomez's orchestra classes performed three songs, including Dragon Hunter by Richard Meyer. Finally Ms. Tangchittsumran band classes finished with three more songs, including "March Across the Seas" by Bruce Pearson and Ryan Nowlin. The students, despite not seeing a concert in 2 years, were well-behaved and enjoyed the show.

An IB Policy explained: Assessment Policy

The IB MYP assessment policy is based on the principles that learning and master are instrumental in grading.

Teachers should: map out their assessments for the year with IB MYP and Virginia criteria/standards. They share rubrics with students and grade work together for greater consistency. Teachers should offer retakes/revisions and mandate them for scores below a three.

Students should: strive to complete every formative and summative task. They should check grades regularly, make up for missing work or tasks they didn't score well on and ask for help if they are struggling.

Families should: check parentvue and check-in with their students. [See the full policy here:](#)

MYP Classrooms Gifted Curriculum Highlight

Now that we have almost two quarters under our belts, teachers have gotten to know their students' strengths and interests quite well. As we focus on the strengths of our advanced students, **we often differentiate by giving students different work, not more work.** This means students might complete the same assignment, but study and demonstrate mastery of a more complex concept. For example, in 6th grade science students are studying energy sources. A group of advanced students showed complete mastery of grade-level material on a pre-assessment, so this group of students is studying nuclear fusion, the [ITER reactor](#) and its energy producing capabilities. These students will turn in the same final assignment, but the content and concepts are more complex.

Community Project

We are now moving into the planning of the Community Project. Students have hopefully been able to investigate a community need and practical ways they can address those needs.

We hope that students will be able to plan meaningful actions to help communities that need it. Examples of these actions could include starting a food donation drive to AFAC, making sandwiches for PathForward, promoting adoption days at the Arlington Animal Welfare league or petitioning the federal government to pass new laws about climate change.

Again, we want students to be creative, collaborative as they carry out this project, which will be due in June.

Learn more about the [Community Project here.](#)

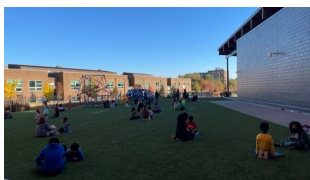
SCA Service-Learning



After a two year hiatus, our Student Council Advisory is back in business with Candy Cane sales fundraisers. Students spent two weeks selling messages attached to candy canes that will be delivered on Friday, December 17 during TA.

More than 500 candy canes were sold. SCA members organized the sales, sorting and delivery of all the candy canes. Students wrote hopeful messages to one another and teachers. The hope is that in these tough times the candy canes and messages will bring some good cheer. The SCA will use the proceeds to help fund school activities and donations to charities.

After School Activities: Reading Buddies



Almost every Friday, Ms. Dunbar leads the Jefferson Reading Buddies clubs. Jefferson Yellow Jackets read after school to the 2nd graders at Fleet Elementary School. And reading to the 2nd graders is

popular, more than 30 Yellow Jackets have joined the club.

Upcoming dates/Service needs

- Anime** Manga Club: Meets Thursdays in Ms. Mann's room.
- Art Club**: Meets Mondays in Ms. Shepardson's room 61.
- Jefferson Environmental Club**: Meets Thursdays with Mr. Malinosky in room 277B.
- Reading Buddies**: Meets Fridays with Ms. Dunbar, room 272
- Jefferson (GSA) Gay Straight Alliance**: Meets Thursdays in Ms. Calhoun's room 206.