



# Thomas Jefferson Middle School

## IB MYP November-December Newsletter

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



### Principal's Message

Dear TJMS Families,

As we wrap up this year, I want to take a moment to thank our entire TJMS community for your hard work, support, and unwavering commitment to our students. Your efforts have made this first semester remarkable, and I am deeply grateful for each of you.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our "Angel Families" for your incredible generosity and kindness this holiday season. Your contributions to our Holiday Wish Lists initiative have made a profound difference in the lives of families in need. Because of your support, many children and families will experience the joy and warmth of the holidays. Your willingness to give not only meets immediate needs but also reminds us all of the power of compassion and community. Thank you for making the season brighter for those who need it most.

Now, it's time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the holiday season. I hope every Yellow Jacket family enjoys a winter break filled with joy, relaxation, and special moments with loved ones. Whether you're traveling or staying close to home, I wish you a safe and peaceful break.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, ready for the opportunities and adventures that lie ahead.

Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Boggan

### Community Project: Day of Service



On Tuesday, November 26 we held our second annual Community Project Day of Action. Students were able to choose from 15 options to help the community and learn about our local service organizations. We took field trips to five different locations including Phoenix Bikes, Central Library, Area2Farms,

### IB Evaluation Report for Jefferson



In December, we received our IB Evaluation Report for the years 2020-2025. Jefferson received an outstanding report. Measured by IB standards and practices, we demonstrated 16 overall school strengths, 5 opportunities for further development, and zero matters to be addressed. This is a significant improvement from our last report in 2020 which reported 9 strengths and 9 recommendations, and zero matters to be addressed.

#### Strengths

We will not go into all the strengths here, but just discuss the highlights. We have identified strengths in every standard for IB

Lubber Run Community Center, and the Water Pollution Control Plant. Then we had guest speakers from five different organizations come to the school including the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Path Forward, Eco Action Arlington, Arlington Thrive, Doorways, and our own Jefferson Garden. Students got to learn directly from organizations helping people and animals in Arlington and beyond and participate in meaningful service activities.



Our next step for the Community Project is to complete the Investigation packet in Geography courses. Students will need to research the Global Sustainable Development Goals or another international source, a local source, and a current events article about the community they want to help. It is due at the end of January.

schools: purpose, leadership, student support, teacher support, culture, curriculum, lifelong learning, approaches to teaching, and approaches to teaching. In purpose, the evaluators wrote, "The concepts of community, diversity and inclusion permeate and frame the work of all members in the school community. Students and parents describe the school as a friendly, international, dynamic, and inclusive center of learning." In culture, they wrote, "The school's commitment to educational equity and access for students of all backgrounds and abilities is highly evident from the inclusion policy and the systems in place to support diverse learning students. The school strives to be an inclusive and multilingual community where all students fully participate." In learning they wrote, "Students are actively involved in their own learning and are provided with multiple opportunities to explicitly develop approaches to learning skills to become lifelong learners."

### Opportunities

Of course, we have opportunities to get better. The evaluators suggest we promote international mindedness and the learner profile in the curriculum, that we teach more interdisciplinary units, and we work to embed teaching conceptual understandings set in global contexts into daily lessons.

### Conclusion

The evaluators concluded: "Thomas Jefferson Middle School prides itself on being an inclusive, diverse and welcoming to all school community, providing a student support system and a family atmosphere." Our challenge is to continue our strengths and meet the opportunities to make our school even better.

### **Learner Profile Attribute of November: Inquirer**

We want all students to be inquirers every day at school. We want to ask meaningful questions and show a love of learning. The following students and staff were chosen as the November Inquirers of the month: 8th Grade - Ian Aguilar, 8th Grade - Merryn Donovan, 8th Grade - Avery Coco, Dolphins - Valentina Mateos, Dragons - Connor McDonald, Monarchs - Maddie Creed, Owls - Kareena Blum, Penguins -

Jaxon Lamothe, and Stingrays - Nahom Solomon. We are also recognizing our staff members: English Learner Teacher Ms. Coe, Geography teacher Mr. Decker, and History Teacher Mr. Gladney.

### **Learner Profile Attribute of December: Knowledgeable**

This December we focused on the learner attribute of being knowledgeable. This means we explore learning across every subject area in local and global contexts. Teachers are encouraged to make international connections whenever it is authentic and meaningful. Students are asked to transfer their learning to new and different contexts. We will nominate students and staff until Wednesday, January 8th. Please be on the lookout for students and staff demonstrating a

wide range of knowledge, in different subject areas.

## Arts Musical Performances



On December 11, our students were treated to in-school performances by our Band, Chorus, and Orchestra. Individual students got to be risk-takers introducing international and historic songs to the whole school. They followed the full performances of each

group with transition music provided by a smaller group of Orchestra students. The kids got to celebrate the winter holidays and coming break in style.

## Student Council Advisory (SCA) Update



The Student Council Advisory team took a field trip to Capitol Hill on December 17. Our students got to see the halls of Congress with a guided tour. Then they got the opportunity to ask questions of Congressman Beyer's staff about issues

coming before the new Congress. We ended the trip with students getting to observe the House Representatives opening day session. It was enjoyable to see our government at work.