A Note from the IB Coordinator

Happy Holidays, families!

I am happy to say that the PYP program is in full swing at Whittier Wainwright. Our teachers are currently teaching great units of inquiry in the classroom. Outside of the classroom, we are collaborating as a whole staff on a year’s worth of inquiry and learning for our students. Read on to learn more about the IB curriculum, the planning process, and how your teachers are collaborating to make Whittier Wainwright a strong IB candidate school. Thank you for all of your support of our teachers, our students, and our school community.

Sincerely,
Ruth Schlattmann

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The IB Curriculum: Transdisciplinary Themes and the POI

The IB Primary Years Program is underpinned by 6 transdisciplinary themes. These themes are:

- Who we are.
- Where we are in place and time.
- How we express ourselves.
- How the world works.
- How we organize ourselves.
- Sharing the planet

These themes are selected for their relevance to the real world. They are described as transdisciplinary because they focus on issues that go across subject areas. The transdisciplinary themes help teachers to develop a programme of inquiry, or POI. Teachers work together to develop investigations into important ideas, which require a substantial and high level of involvement on the part of students.

Information from: http://www.ibo.org/programmes/primary-years-programme/what-is-the-pyp/how-the-pyp-works/
Whittier's Planning Focus

Our focus at Whittier Wainwright this fall has been to complete the Programme of Inquiry, or POI, across all grade levels. We are strengthening and reflecting on units developed in the last year, researching and planning new units, and aligning our teaching across all grade levels. During the late start mornings, our teachers are collaborating on these units to make them outstanding for our students. Additionally, we meet monthly after school for 2 hours to hunt for resources, strengthen our units, and learn from one another. The dedication of our staff to the IB planning process is tremendous.

Information from: http://www.ibo.org/programmes/primary-years-programme/what-is-the-pyp/how-the-pyp-works/

PYP in Action: 3rd grade

Left: 3rd grade explored the topics of weather and climate in their How the World Works unit. Special guest meteorologist speaking to and teaching 3rd grade students. Below: 3rd grade students experiment with 'Clouds in a Jar,' exploring the central idea ‘weather and climate impact the world around us.’

PYP in Action: 4th grade

In their Who We Are unit, 4th graders learned about artifacts and inquired into the central idea: People, places, and events of the past shape who we are today.

Left to right: 4th grade canoes, art display, moccasin making, and hand-woven baskets.