

THE PYP EXHIBITION

A Parent's Guide

The Exhibition is the collaborative, student-directed, research-based, action-oriented culminating activity of the Primary Years Program.

2015 Organizing Theme: Who We Are

Description: *An exploration of the nature of the self, of our beliefs and values, of personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; of our families, friends, communities and cultures; of our rights and responsibilities; of what it means to be human.*

Purpose

For students to:

- Engage in in-depth, collaborative inquiry.
- Demonstrate independence and responsibility for their own learning.
- Explore multiple perspectives.
- Unite with their school community to apply, take action on, and celebrate, their learning.

Process

I. Front-loading

The goal of front-loading is to activate prior learning, to motivate and to stimulate students in order to prepare for new learning.

- Students are introduced to the theme “Who We Are” by being exposed to a variety of relevant materials. This may include looking at current events, discussions about the organizing theme, provocations and/or talking with people in the community.

II. Exploring the Topic

- Students explore the organizing theme and determine possible topics.
- Students select a topic based on criteria.
- Students are placed in a group of peers who all share a similar area of interest.
- A faculty mentor who will support the learning process is assigned to each group.
- Groups create a mind map to help guide their inquiry.

III. Researching

- Students work collaboratively to find information to address their key questions from the mind map. They research using books, the Internet, informational interviewing, conducting experiments, etc.
- Each student completes an action component.
- Group members record their progress in individual learning logs.
- Teachers and students document the exhibition's progress through pictures, videos and learning logs.

IV. *Communicating Learning*

- Each student synthesizes his knowledge and research into an action plan.
- Each group prepares a “teaching others” presentation highlighting key learning from their research and action.
- Each group presents their exhibition projects to mentors and peers for feedback.
- Each student completes a weekly individual reflection on the exhibition experience.
- All students share their exhibition projects with the school community.

Parents’ Role

How can parents help?

- Respect student ownership of the process.
 - Encourage independent inquiry.
 - Understand the purpose and process of the Exhibition.
 - Support and encourage students, teachers, and mentors.
 - Listen to your son share his experiences.
 - Be informed. Read any relevant material that is sent to parents.
 - Help students access resources: people, places, media and information.
- Have appropriate media accessible around the house: books, newspapers, magazines, appropriate websites and television programs.
 - Parental input is especially beneficial in discussions about your son’s Exhibition topic and appropriate action. In the past, students have sometimes found it difficult to connect with primary sources or community organizations. Networking is a new skill for many. If you know an expert (or are an expert) in a relevant field or know of an appropriate site to visit or an appropriate organization to connect with, please notify the Form Teacher as soon as possible.

Come and celebrate by attending the Exhibition in the afternoon on
Friday, May 8, 2015, 1:00-3:00 p.m.