

IBulletin Launch

Welcome to our first edition of IBulletin, a publication that features student learning experiences at Des Moines IB schools. We hope you find it engaging and a reflection of the dynamic learning that takes place each day at our eleven IB schools.

In my new role, I'm thrilled to support building leaders and teachers in creating student experiences built upon IB values -- global mindedness, inquiry, conceptual understanding, community, and student action, among others. Thank you to each of you for your continued support and commitment to IB programming at Des Moines Schools.

Olivia Howe, Des Moines Schools District IB Coordinator



Walnut Street School Students Share the Planet

Second graders at Walnut Street School are researching biomes for their sharing the planet unit of inquiry. They are looking through magazines to find pictures that represent the variety of biomes to record in their inquiry notebooks. They are also allowed to bring in items from home to add to their notebooks.

“Being a change-maker means being the difference between what the world is and what the world deserves to be.” – DMPS IB student

IB Impacts Climate and Culture at Goodrell

Goodrell staff and students are currently in the process of deepening implementation and understanding with the look, sound and feel of the learner profiles in action. Teachers are including the learner profile(s) that they will specifically engage students with in their daily lesson plans. It's also playing a role in strengthening climate and culture. Students who are “caught” displaying a learner profile are publicly recognized with a photo and statement to their character.

The next step is to implement a system where teachers recognize students individually for displaying specific learner profiles. These recognition awards will be added to our display.



Hubbell Investigates “Where we are in Place and Time”

Second grade students at Hubbell became amateur cartographers during the “Where we are in Place and Time” unit as they learned how geography influences our experience of the world. Students engaged in learning experiences to discover unfamiliar geographic features/landforms and how they are formed. Students culminated their learning by building a three-dimensional model of a selected geographic feature.



Hoover Learns with International Visitors

Last week, Hoover hosted a group of educators from China. They were on a whirlwind tour of the United States looking at a variety of schools. The group's focus was on international education and inclusion of diverse groups in a traditional setting. While at Hoover, our guests toured MYP classrooms, visited with staff members and met with our foreign exchange students to discuss their experiences with international education. Also discussed were Hoover's unique learning spaces and how these spaces are used to engage and motivate students in every subject area.



Chinese educators with Hoover's foreign exchange students in the MYP Inquiry Studio.

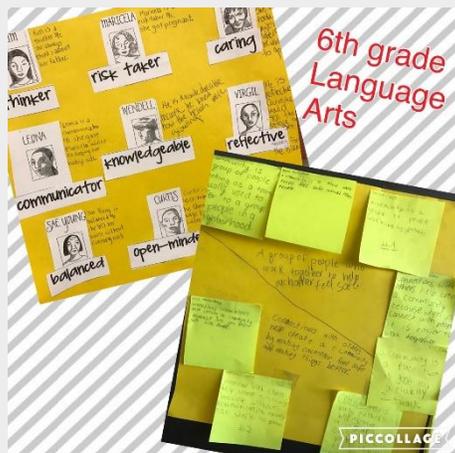
Service in Action at Brody

Brody Middle School is kicking off service learning for 2016-17 with students making treats for the furry residents at the Des Moines Animal Rescue League. Students will assemble snacks from recipes provided by ARL in Family and Consumer Science classes and deliver them.



At Stowe, Inquiry Matters

Second graders at Stowe Elementary inquired into matter and how it changes during their "How the World Works" transdisciplinary unit. They made "cloud dough" and were given the task of determining if the ingredients and final product were solids or a liquids based on their knowledge of the properties of matter.



Merrill Sixth Grade Students Build Community

As we kick off the 2016-17 school year at Merrill, we have been welcoming our 6th grade students to the world of IB with instruction on Learner Profiles, the concept of "community" and how to embrace their role as an IB learner. Our Language and Literature courses began the year with a lesson on what it means to be a "community." The students' insight was profound as they worked together to create a common understanding.

Their words hang on the classroom walls as a daily reminder of the benefit of coming together, working as a team and being a community of learners! Through their reading of "Seedfolks" they have also been working to identify traits of being an IB learner, applying the Learner Profiles to themselves as well as recognizing them within the context of the characters in their book. The 6th grade class is off to a great start as they dive into their Merrill IB adventure!

Meredith Action Impacts Local and Global Communities

Meredith 8th grade students are taking action in their communities. Student groups in Jamie Cochran's 8th grade Husky Learning Community have identified community needs and are inspired to fill those needs through small-group service learning projects. Service activities include organizing a food drive, re-stocking our clothing and student supply closet, planning an 8th grade dance with funds going to Meals from the Heartland, collecting supplies to give to the homeless shelters, and organizing a fun afternoon of games with residents at Beaverdale Estates retirement home. We appreciate their efforts to think globally and act locally.



Creative Expression Shapes Student Identity at Moore



Fourth grade students at Moore learned about how we can express ourselves through our creativity. The unit began with everyone being given a plain white t-shirt to wear for the day. This provocation really caused students to reflect and wonder about the purpose. Some students felt uncomfortable being the same as all of their classmates. This led to rich discussion and exploration about how our personalities are formed and

how we express them. The unit concluded with an “identity fair” where students had taken the same white t-shirt and turned it into a statement about themselves.

Park Avenue Embraces the Fruits of Gardening

Last spring, Park Avenue created a school garden in a plot of land next to the playground. All grade levels spent time in the garden planting fruits, vegetables and flowers. This fall the students have reaped the rewards of the garden in numerous ways. Several grade levels harvested potatoes and pumpkins. The pumpkins were then used in art class where second graders took inspiration from the pumpkins to create still life paintings. Now the pumpkins are being used by the Kindergarten classes for their “Who We Are” unit in which they are studying senses. The Kindergarteners will open the pumpkins so that they can make sensory observations of the seasonal fruit.



The watermelons that were harvested were handed out as part of Pick A Better Snack. In addition, our new student Food Corps harvested sweet potatoes with staff members. The sweet potatoes are being cured and then will be made into chips to sample at lunch. The planting has continued this fall with the addition of radishes and garlic. Our students enjoy getting their hands dirty and benefitting from the beauty and flavor of our new school garden!

Afghan Ambassador Sparks Conversations in the DP about Multiple Perspectives

A group of IB Diploma Program Juniors pose with Afghanistan's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Hamdullah Mohib, prior to his talk to students at Central Academy on the morning of October 27th. The opportunity provided a springboard for discussions in Theory of Knowledge regarding the importance and difficult work of diplomacy, as well as the critical need for seeking alternative perspectives.



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Thank you to building-level IB coordinators for providing submissions for the content of the IBulletin.