PULASKI INTERNATIONAL INQUIRER

Principal's Message:

As mentioned in the last IB newsletter, the IB profile attributes are the cornerstone of the IB framework. The framework exists to enable and empower students to actively participate in an inquiry-driven, conceptually-based curricular experience that leads to active involvement in the world around them.

The focus on action represents the desire to expand student learning beyond the school building and encourage students to impact their community. The fifth grade exhibition represents the culmination of these efforts for the Primary Years Programme. I invite you to join us on Wednesday, May 4th as students share their self-chosen projects that aligned to their interests and connected to efforts to improve the world around them.

Upcoming Events:

PYP 5th Grade Exhibition:
May 4 @ 9:30am-3pm

Parent Tours:
April 29 and May 27 @ 9:30am

Action Cycle

By Rosabel Sanchez, IB Coordinator

Act: Carry through with your choices

Choose: Make choices based on your reflection

Reflect: Think about the local and global consequences of your action.

An essential component of the IB Programme(s) is the Action Cycle: Reflect, Choose, and Act. Student action should be a result of their thinking and reflection during the learning process. If we want children to make a difference in the world, we need to provide them the opportunities and the power to take action. Action doesn't have to be grandiose. It can begin at the most immediate and basic level. It truly begins with a student having a genuine concern or a desire to make a positive difference, so they take the initiative to act.

Please see examples below of ways families can take action on **Earth Day, April 22nd,** and everyday after…

- Adjust your thermostat- up in summer, down in winter
- Switch to re-useable items, such as cloth bags and lunch containers
- Use environmentally-friendly cleaning supplies
- Recycle paper, glass, plastic, electronics
- Turn off lights, appliances, & electronics, when not in use
- Bring a re-useable water bottle to school
- Walk, bike, carpool or take transit as much as possible

Please do share with your child's teacher any actions they are taking outside of the school. This newsletter will highlight one of our very own teachers, Mr. Wojciaczyk and Pulaski students taking action.

Second Grade in Action!

Here at Pulaski, we take great pride when our students or teachers take action, but we are even prouder when families take action outside of the school community!

During the March 9th IB Inquiry Day, 2nd grade students had to work together to build structures that demonstrated balance. They were posed with different challenges, then given an array of materials, while families assisted. Students and families then generated questions that would be investigated during their "How the World Works" IB Unit.

In Ms. Rosado's second grade classroom, Owen Schweer's grandparents were eager to support the student's inquiries while getting a better understanding of the unit. Owen's grandfather, who studied architecture, took some great pictures to share with the classroom of a building he had spotted that demonstrated amazing balance. He thought the classroom would enjoy seeing it and would find it useful for the unit. Thank you for taking "Action" and supporting our young learners at Pulaski!

We can remember that action comes in all shapes and sizes. Whether big or small, it is important to take action to support the growth of humanity. Something as simple as a picture or a compliment goes a long way!

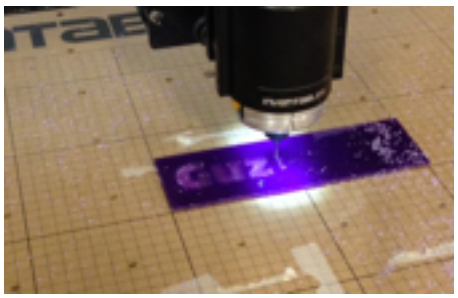
How will you take "Action" today?

IB Action Cycle in Action!

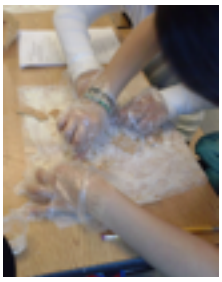
By Piotr Wojciaczyk, MYP Design Teacher

When I was offered the MYP Design teacher position at Pulaski I envisioned a true design studio that empowers students to be producers of knowledge and a place where they can create and innovate. My personal goal was to spark students' interest in design, manufacturing, and digital fabrication, as these fields are predicted to grow significantly over the next 20 years and inevitably have an impact on our students' futures. The MYP Design Program at Pulaski that I created focuses on teaching students problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration in various projects that often utilize real-world clients, so the students can practice their skill in a context. As an instructor, I hope to provide students with not only an exemplary class experience, but also provide them with a basis for future education and training in order to prepare them for various careers in the future that may not yet exist today.

The process of creating the entire program was time consuming and had some obstacles, but now almost two years later I can honestly say it was so worth it. During the last two years we were able to accomplish a lot in terms of curriculum, equipment acquisition, and students' progress. Every day students amaze me with their ideas and I couldn't be happier with their innovations. One of our major accomplishments this past year was winning The Inventables 50 States contest for Illinois, and receiving a highly anticipated, and much needed, CNC machine as a prize. The entire competition was a three part process with the final stage being a video submission trying to convince the company that Pulaski is the school that deserved it the most. After 4 months of hard work it all paid off and now we use our X-Carve CNC machine almost daily. Moving forward we are looking to continue building our MYP Design Program and expand our design studio with new equipment and resources. Students are really looking forward to more opportunities and we are all excited for the journey ahead.



Fourth Grade in Action!

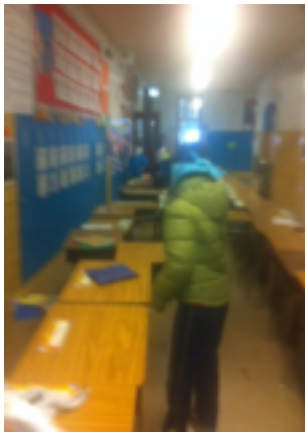


Fourth grade is just starting the inquiry into "How we share our planet?" through the study of Land and Water. Students are busy reading multiple texts on natural disasters, land forms, and people's impact on the planet through global warming. They're working on their collaboration skills through hands-on labs, as well as jigsaw activities to share their knowledge with others. Here's a picture from our Graham Cracker Plate Tectonics lab. We had the entire grade in the cafeteria together working on discovering the three types of plate boundaries. The hardest part of the challenge turned out to be not eating the graham crackers and icing!

Fifth Grade in Action!

Students in the 5th grade investigated the indigenous cultures of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations. They extended their investigation by visiting "The Ancient Americas" exhibit at the Field Museum and creating "time capsules" that depicted important artifacts and documents for each culture. Students took action by sharing their time capsules with parents and other 5th grade students. Each class created their own "museum" and invited the fellow 5th graders to go on a "gallery walk" through the three classrooms. Take a look at some of the amazing capsules from the 5th grade classrooms!

Third Graders in ACTION!



Central idea:
Adversity Leads to Scientific and Technological Advances.

The lines of inquiry are:
Interpreting the world through your senses (Braille & Keller)
Types of adversities (physical, emotional, cognitive)

Assistive technology and innovations
We began our inquiry with a provocation - a labyrinth was created using student desks. The students were blindfolded as they went through the labyrinth. After the experience, students had to reflect on how they felt and if they had a newfound empathy for individuals who's adversity was blindness.

As a grade level, we will learn more about different adversities - physical, cognitive, and emotional - through readings, media lessons, and inquiry-led experiences. Students will then research innovations and assistive technologies that assist individuals with specific disabilities. They will create a visual or physical model of a new innovation they would like to create/model. Lastly, students will write a commercial that promotes the device's form, function, and connection to an adversity.

Technology & Library Media Center

Students in intermediate technology continue to work on their computer science unit. After studying angles in mathematics, students applied their knowledge of angles to create repeating patterns and shapes in their computer program. They saw how changes in angle size alters the shape of an object. This application helped students better understand the rationale for learning about angles.

A selection of MYP students have been working on Community Projects with Ms. Magness in the Library Media Center. Each group had to plan a project with a measurable goal that was connected to a Global Context based on their topic of interest. The projects were also based in one of the four Service Learning Actions: Direct, Indirect, Research or Advocacy. Once these plans were developed, the students investigated the topic and how the information could be put to use. These inquiries have led to the students facilitating discussions on homelessness, environmental issues, the impact of litter on our lives, and victims of brain trauma. To further the impact of the projects, the students have gathered feedback from the classes that they presented to and reflected on what steps they could further take. These projects were a big undertaking and the students did a fantastic job being the first groups at Pulaski to do a Community Project!

Seventh Graders in ACTION!

Below are the nine 7th graders that were voted as Best Speeches by their peers. MYP Year 2 just completed a unit titled,"How Does the Constitution Adapt to Today's World?" After close reading the actual amendment and reading current-day articles on how the amendments apply to today's world, students chose one amendment about which they felt most passionate. After extensive reading and researching, they decided if the amendment should be left as is or changed. These nine students composed fabulous speeches and also became master orators! They presented their speeches to the entire grade in the auditorium on Friday, March 11th. Congratulations to: (L--> R) Viviana DeAlba, Elizabeth De Leon, Delilah Chavez, Sofia Salgado, Ruby Writer, Princess Ballog, Alyssa Salazar, Marc Mendez, Raquel Nieves

Español @ Pulaski

Kindergarten students spent the 3rd quarter learning about homes. We learned vocabulary for the rooms of a house, and practiced answering the question, "¿Dónde está?" using puppets in a model home. We also looked at different types of homes around the world, and discussed why people in different environments choose different types of homes, such as apartments, houses, yurts, cave homes, and houseboats.

1st grade students began investigating the passage of time. We learned the days of the week in Spanish and practiced talking about ayer, hoy, and mañana [yesterday, today and tomorrow]. Next, we learned the months of the year and practiced writing the date in Spanish using words and numbers.

4th Grade: Students learn about the country of Spain's celebrations. They discuss holiday customs, significant historical figures, and important dates in the country of Spain, and compare them with their own.

5th Grade: Students learn about the country of México. They also learn about Mayan inventions and culture, professions, and future-tense verb forms.

Physical Education

K-3rd Grade

Students in kindergarten and first grade have been working on their chasing, dodging, and fleeing skills by participating in various tag activities. Students in second and third grade have been working on the skill of passing. Students have worked with soccer balls, frisbees, and basketballs thus far. All students improve their cardiovascular and muscular strength systems during activities in physical education class.

4th-8th Grade

Students in 4th-8th grade have been receiving their CPS-mandated Sexual Health Education classes. Thru the CPS-provided curriculum, students are provided the opportunity to acquire information and the skills needed to make quality health decisions through out their lives.

In Physical Education class, 4th grade students are working on their teamwork and sportsmanship by playing the action-packed 4-corner soccer. 5th & 6th grade students have been introduced to the sport of volleyball and are currently working on their bumping and setting skills in groups. 7th & 8th grade students selected their own teams, team names and are currently in competitive games of floor hockey.

Visual Arts

Ms. Creswell is back from maternity leave as of April 11. She's looking forward to seeing all the student artists at Pulaski again, and meeting all the new ones! Kindergarten will be starting table centers, and exploring clay and 3D sculpture. All students will be working in all studios (drawing, collage, painting, 3D) for the rest of the year.

If you have recyclables, please feel free to donate! Saber Studio can always use such materials as: Toilet paper or paper towel rolls, newspaper, cardboard boxes, tops from food pouches, styrofoam egg cartons, and other plastic or paper items that would typically be recycled, and would be interesting for students to work with (please NO glass or metal items!).

MYP Design

The design students began working on their new projects this quarter. MYP Year 1 students are working on designing toys for children in foster care. Students are utilizing various simple mechanisms to provided entertaining and ergonomic wooden toys. Students in MYP Year 2 are currently in an interdisciplinary unit between Design and Math in which they are combining concepts of geometry with architecture. In Design students were challenged to design a building for a city extension using a CAD program. Once students complete their designs on the computer they will 3D print a prototype of their building. The MYP Year 3 Design students are currently creating their night light designs in which they apply concepts of simple electronics to create healthier alternatives to full spectrum light at night.