

August 29, 2016

Primary Years Program Classroom and Curriculum News

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you about some of the things we will be learning in the next six weeks of school. You will find below each of the Primary Years Programme essential elements of the curriculum: knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes. You might like to ask your child about what they are doing in the different subject areas. We look forward to seeing the children take action following what they are learning!

-Ms. Leaderhouse

Unit of Inquiry (UOI):

Our Unit of Inquiry is ***Making a Difference***

The central idea is that: **People help and inspire each other**

An inquiry into

- role models and their inspiring qualities
- factors that determine positive actions
- how we make choices to help ourselves and others

Learner Profile and Attitudes:

LP: caring, open-minded, principled

A: empathy, integrity, respect

Students will discuss what makes someone an inspiration to others. They will learn about a person who they see as a role model to discover what choices he/she made to help others, how his/her actions changed others, and what qualities the person had or has that inspired others. They will write a small report and create a PowerPoint to present to their classmates. Students will also plan an activity or create an item that will enable them to “Make a Difference” around the school and in the classroom.

English Language:

Reading: We will be reading short stories and biographies to link with our Uoi.

Reading strategies such as *predicting, re-reading, and reading on* will be introduced to aid in reading comprehension.

Writing: Reflective, persuasive, and expository writing will be the focus for this Uoi.

The traits of *Inspiring Ideas* and *Shaping Organization* will be introduced to help with writing skills in all areas.

Speaking/Listening: Students will practice strategies to gain knowledge aurally (listening). They will have many opportunities to share and discuss ideas in small

and large groups. Picture books will be used to help develop a working knowledge of the PYP learner profile, attitudes and concepts.

Viewing/Presenting: Students will gain information from pictures, websites, and posters. They will also create a PowerPoint for the UoI.

Daily Five: During this time I will work with small groups of children on reading instruction. Students will work independently on: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Work on Writing, Listen to Reading, Spelling/Word Work.

German Language:

We will learn about abstract nouns and deepen our knowledge about verbs and adjectives. Furthermore, we will write stories about pictures and also texts about personal experiences.

As far as spelling is concerned, we will have “learning words” to practice for dictations. From grade 3 on, there will no information letters handed out any more before we will write a dictation, but I will tell the students in advance which homework will be important for a test.

The students will learn “Cursive Writing” which is also the topic in our new books. We will integrate the 1st UOI whenever suitable by discussing how to make a difference.

Every Thursday the students will get homework for one week.

We work according to the Bavarian Curriculum, Grundschule Klasse 3. Materials: Das Sprachbuch 3 - Vereinfachte Ausgangsschrift; Das Sprachbuch 3 – Arbeitshefte; Hefte mit Linien für Klasse 3; Ordner mit Arbeitsblättern

Ms. Gebhardt

German as a foreign language:

In DaF we will work on “Tamburin 1”, Huber Verlag: textbook and workbook. At the beginning we start with general questions, numbers, colors and animals.

In order to deepen their knowledge, the students who are new to the language will work with the workbook: “Willkommen in Deutschland”, Mildenberger Verlag.

Mrs. Bauser-Maier/ Ms. Gebhardt

Mathematics:

The focus over the next few weeks will be on reviewing, learning, applying strategies in addition and subtraction. Place value and the meaning of large numbers will also investigated. As a link to our UoI, how we gain meaning from charts and graphs, and time and date will also be discussed.

PE:

Our first unit in P.E. this year will be Individual Pursuits and Athletics; running, track and field, and cross country. Students will participate in events such as long jump, relays, sprinting, etc. They will also have an opportunity to learn about pacing, not racing in cross country running.

Mr. Eide

Music:

This Unit we will repeat our last year's repertoire and start building a new one. We will focus on listening to the music from famous composers and express our feelings on the paper, will work on improving pitching, inner-hearing and musical memory. At the end of the Unit we will have a Talent Show, when every student can have a chance to present a song, a joke or play the instrument of his/her choice in front of the peers. These days are really loved and popular between our students. This opportunity boosts the self-confidence and gives the chance to open new talents.

Mrs. Sokyrba-Kostyrko

Art:

In art we will look at the portraits the artist Shepard Fairey has made of some powerful and influential people around the world. Students will identify the stylistic characteristics of these works and apply them to create their own original portraits.

Miss Thomas

How Parents Can Support Learning:

- Look for people making a difference in the world, people who could be a role model. Children and adults who are making changes or are doing good works. Sources may be newspapers, magazines, websites, and television.
- Look for large numbers and discuss what these numbers mean (ex) 5 million people - population, 1483 km - distance travelled, etc.

Dates to remember:

September 6	Back to School Night 7 pm
September 12	After School Activity Program (ASAP) begins
September 17	Einstein Marathon – optional for students
September 22	School Pictures
October 3	School Holiday, No school
October 7	End of 1st Unit of Inquiry
October 28	Parent - Teacher Conferences