

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. Crownover

Unit of Inquiry (UOI):

Our Unit of Inquiry is **Culture**.

The central idea is that: Our personal and cultural identities are unique and shape who we are and how we live. We will take a look at what makes individuals and cultures unique. We will also look at how our identities shape our lives and impact the culture of our school.

An inquiry into

- Unique personal and cultural identities which are shaped by environment
- How our beliefs influence behaviors
- What religion is and how it impacts our cultures and society

Learner Profile and Attitudes: During this culture unit of inquiry we will focus on being open-minded to various cultures, religions and ways of doing things. We will become inquirers and ask about our own family cultures, as well as, our culture at ISU. We will also work on being reflective and hopefully inquire how we can help improve ourselves and our ISU culture. In this unit we will work on fostering the attitudes of tolerance and curiosity.

English Language: English language will be incorporated in all subject areas and units of inquiry. We will be setting up literature circles in the classroom. Another name for literature circles is book clubs. Students will be grouped based on reading levels. They will be given a book to read. I will help them map out how much they will read everyday. Somedays, they will read as a group and other days they will read quietly. They will have jobs to perform based on what they read (connector, vocabulary enricher, summarizer, literary luminary). After jobs are completed, students will then discuss what they read and share their jobs. In addition, I will use the 6+1 writing traits to assess the students writing.

German Language:

We will repeat/ deepen our knowledge about how to write an essay. Furthermore, we will focus on presenting a book by using effective criteria. As far as grammar is concerned, we will concentrate on terms like "Wortbausteine, Wortfamilie und Wortstamm". We will also learn more facts about the use of the past tense (1. und 2. Vergangenheit) and the 4 cases of a noun: "Wer, Wessen, Wem, Wen oder was". Learning words will help the students to

write dictations, but there will be less help than last year. Thus, the students should be able to apply their spelling skills according to their prior knowledge. We will integrate the 1st UOI whenever suitable by reflecting on the topic "culture".

Every Thursday the students will get homework for one week.

We work according to the Bavarian Curriculum, Grundschule Klasse 4. Materials: Das Sprachbuch 4 - Vereinfachte Ausgangsschrift; Das Sprachbuch 4 – Arbeitshefte; Hefte mit Linien für Klasse 4;

Ordner mit Arbeitsblättern

Ms. Gebhardt

German as a foreign language:

In DaF we will work on "Tamburin 1" (from chapter 3 on), Huber Verlag: textbook and workbook.

The advanced students will get challenging work in addition, whenever it is required.

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

Mrs. Bauser-Maier/ Ms. Gebhardt

Mathematics: We will use a program called "Mathletics" along with some additional materials pulled from other resources that will help foster inquiry. Students need to study multiplication facts 0-12 each night as this will help them throughout the year and in the grades beyond. We will begin the year with reviewing numbers, place value up to the millions place, rounding to various place values, comparing numbers and adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers. We have textbooks that may occasionally be used but not very often. Your student will have a math notebook that can be used during math exercises or for taking notes. Each student has a login to Mathletics on the computer. Occasionally, homework will be assigned online. Students will have to complete homework before any math games can be played.

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 learning powerful songs, songs representing different cultures, work on improving pitching, inner-hearing, musical memory and repeat groups of music instruments.

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. Sokyrbá-Kostyrko

Art:

In Art, students will explore self portraiture as a means to depict their own identity. They will study the basic rules of facial proportion and include the use of symbols to represent aspects of their cultural and individual identity.

Miss Thomas

How Parents Can Support Learning: Please help your students practice their multiplication facts nightly. In addition, it is very important that your student reads at least twenty minutes each night.

Also, for our cultural unit, I would love some parents to come in and share about their culture or religion. If you are interested in presenting, please contact me.

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 Photos
October 2	School Holiday, No school
October 7	End of 1st Unit of Inquiry
October 28	Parent - Teacher Conferences