

Spotlight On Learning

Group 1

With the sun being out more frequently, we have been spending more time outside in Group 1 enjoying the beautiful Spring weather. As part of our new unit, we have also been busy learning about the forest. We were starting off our unit by building our own forest in the classroom! The children have been exploring different woodland animals and their tracks and have been talking about how to take care of the environment. Our new class story is "No Dinner!" We have been practising to express our thoughts and predictions using freeze frames and wrote our own poems that we performed using instruments. Come have a look at our display in Juniper Class that shows our fantastic work!



Group 2

In Group 2 we have had a busy term diving deeper and deeper into our IPC theme of Green Fingers. The highlight must surely be our field trip to a beekeeper last week. The children got to experience the beauty and fascination of seeing a working bee colony in a safe and controlled manner. They picked up lots of new knowledge about the life of a bee and the importance of bees in nature. (The trip on a coach to get there was equally exciting, leaving school with school friends on an adventure!) When we returned to school, we all enjoyed our special Spring lunch. We had enough goodies left afterwards to send a goodie bag home as well so thank you all for your contributions. An egg hunt then followed in the afternoon with Spring crafts and fun activities to complete a thrilling day for all. We are excited for you all to step inside the school building and explore it for yourselves.



EAL

In EAL we have been learning vocabulary and concepts being taught in class ahead of time to better understand the lesson in class.

Ms Kristi has been supporting the Group 2 EAL students with their reading and comprehension skills by working on small tasks based on interesting texts. The children have also worked on writing a persuasive letter based on the Jack and the Beanstalk traditional tale. They reviewed describing vocabulary for characters, used these words to describe well know characters and wrote these words inside and outside an outline of the characters.

The Group 3 EAL students have also been focusing on letter writing, based on the film of Encanto! Furthermore, they practiced recognizing halves, thirds and quarters through making paper pizza with toppings in those fractions. The students are well prepared for lessons of these types when experiencing them in their classroom.

Ms Clare has been supporting the Group 1's in small conversation and social group activities in our quiet library space!



Group 3

Group 3 students have been working in IPC on Treasure Islands. They have covered topics in History, Geography, Art, International, Design and Science. They have been busy making treasure chests out of boxes and other materials, coins out of salt dough, making maps, and much more. In Maths students have been working on fractions, while in English we have been reading the book "The Pirates Next Door!" We have been writing letters to the Pirates and Jack Lad about how they are missed as well as writing letters persuading members of the community that the pirates should stay. In Phonics we are continuing to tackle digraphs and homophones.



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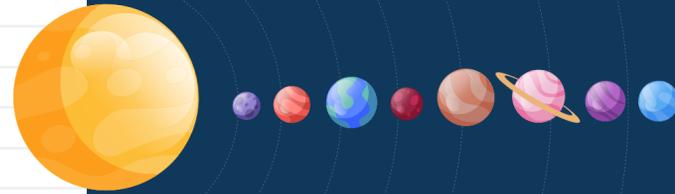
Group 4

In Group 4 we have enjoyed our book, 'Traction Man meets Turbo Dog! We created our own characters from household items and then produced a graphic novel featuring these characters. This tied in nicely with our IPC topic, Inventions that Changed The World.



Group 5

As part of their IPC topic Time and Place, Earth and Space, Group 5 have been learning all about time, places on the Earth and also about Earth and Space. We have looked at how we measure time and how there are different types of calendars across the world. We were lucky enough to have some experts come in to talk to us. Professor Vincent Icke and PhD candidate Catherine Slaughter talked to us about their jobs at the University of Leiden and all about space and the planets. The children got the chance to create a representation of the Sun and all the planets in the hall. The distances between the planets were quite surprising!



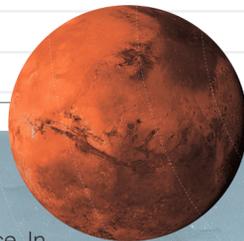
Music

Group 4 continue to enjoy learning to read music. We have been exploring how to know which note is which on the musical stave and have played several games. We are now beginning to learn about the different notes that we can use to record music (you can see this in the photos). Group 5 enjoyed music based upon the theme of islands and shared their favourite music in a special "Desert Island Discs" lesson. They are now learning all about Minimalist music and creating their own ostinato patterns. Group 6 meanwhile have been learning about the different ways we can make music using our voice and in doing so learning some new songs. Group 7 are in the middle of creating their own Creation myth stories using call and response songs.



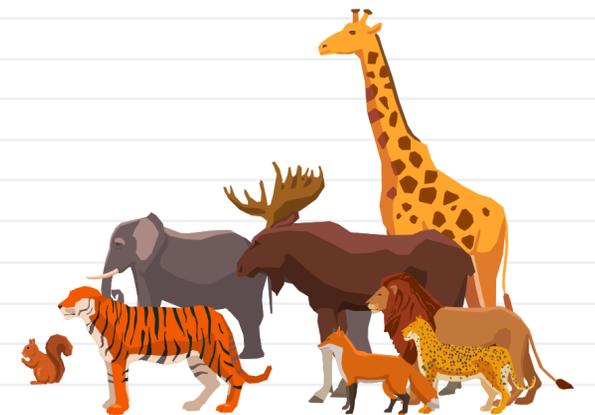
Group 6

Group 6 has spent the term thinking all about outer space. In our "Mission to Mars" unit, students learned all about the conditions on Mars and explored the technology and expertise needed for humans to one day explore the planet. Students learned about the history of space travel and spent time organising those events chronologically and geographically. We used the knowledge we gathered throughout the unit to design a shelter suitable for Mars. In our book "Cosmic" the characters have been preparing for their own mission to outer space. Students kept their own reading journal to track events in the book and record their questions, predictions and connections. We made connections between their learning in IPC and the experiences of the characters from the book.



Group 7

Group 7 has been hard at work this term. Following our Extreme Survivors unit, the students learned about the different adaptations animals and plants need to survive in extreme heat, cold, darkness and pressure. The students made "blubber gloves", field journals and even an aquascope. We continued our studies, learning about different endangered animals. We were even able to go to the ARTIS zoo for a field trip! In English, we read the book Floodland by Marcus Sedgwick. We were able to really investigate our characters, their motivations, and their decisions. We also visualized the book's setting and used our map skills to investigate it. It was a great book. We finished the term with a unit on poetry. We immersed ourselves in reading, writing, and thinking like a poet. We even published a book of our own poetry.



Spotlight On Learning

Design MYP 4

As students in MYP4, what we value the most about Design is how exceptionally interdisciplinary it is. While completing a unit, we use our writing and research skills, critical thinking and problem solving, and these are only a few of the many - prime example being our latest and biggest unit, the Board Game project. In the very beginning, we were given the seemingly simple task of deciding on the topics our board games would be about. I say seemingly, because while searching for ideas, we came to know of the potential board that games have in terms of functionality, audience and purposes. Soon enough, we had a couple dozen different concepts of fully or partially original games. Some of us decided to recreate an already existing board game, focusing on either fixing a problem it has, like a lack of proper representation, or changing its purpose or topic and maintaining its original functionality. From the research paper and design brief, through planning and creating, to the final reflection and presentation, our year group has created a total of 40 board games. Happy and exhausted, we finished the unit after a large amount of work in terms of aesthetics, functionality, customization and more. At that moment, we could not simply put our board games in the classroom closet and leave them there forever. A few days later, we presented them in the school aula, for the teachers and students from all year groups to see and play. I do not want to brag, but they were truly impressed! Some people suggested we should sell them to real board game companies. Perhaps that will be our next project?

Written by Inga, MYP4T



Visual Arts MYP 1

MYP 1 in VA has been working with the unit called "micro-world" which is about exploring natural forms in artmaking and the use of technology in creating art. We look at the natural world as a theme and the techniques of printmaking, as an artmaking process. Here are samples of our mono-printing sessions.



ELL MYP2

In MYP2 ELL, we are on a journey of discovery, exploring perspectives and unpacking what the world is like through the lens of a curious young boy. Christopher Boone, the narrator of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, is unique. Everything about the novel – its plot etcetera – takes its cues from this unusual and engaging narrator. 'Normal' is different for everyone, and by investigating and exploring the writing style and the theme of truth in this book, we can learn to understand what it's like being neurodivergent. We can also gain a greater appreciation for diversity and celebrate that we are all unique and different!



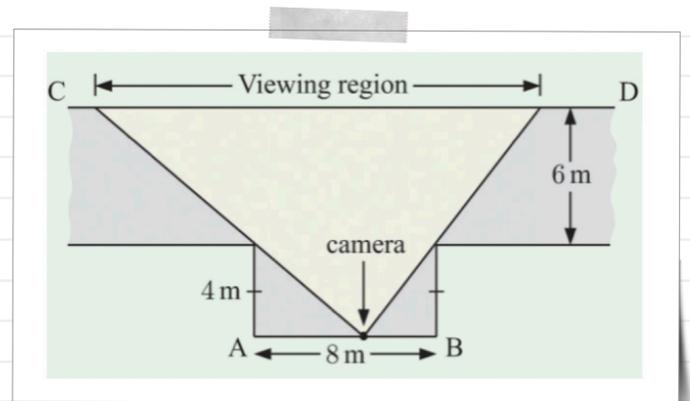
Mathematics MYP 4

In MYP year 4 extended maths we continue apace. The statement of Inquiry for our current unit on Trigonometry is "Exploring the special properties of right triangles opens up our understanding of properties and applications." Although currently focused on trigonometry, we none the less continue to use ideas we have learned in previous units. An example is shown by the diagram below: Imagine you need to set up a surveillance camera - how should it be placed to maximise the visible region?

This problem involves angle relationships, Algebra and the ability to try different situations and confidently choose the best solution.

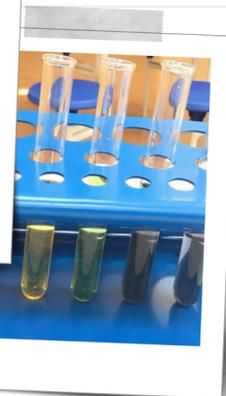
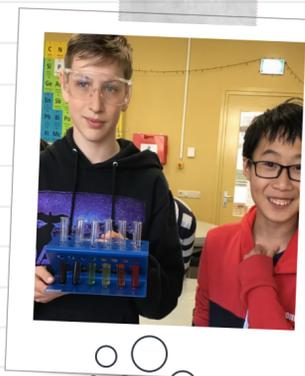
This group of students strives hard to fulfil the Approaches to Learning focus and in particular, we are building Social Collaboration skills by working effectively to help others to succeed. Factual, conceptual and debatable inquiry questions continue to guide our lessons and it is very rewarding to see students' confidence grow with in the ability to formulate questions on their own.

A new approach to have student understand math has been offered by By Dr. Jennifer Chang Wathall. Called "The Seven Tenets of Concept-Based Mathematics" this approach involves teacher and student in a way to build language, inquiry, intuition generalisations, processes, interconnection and an appreciation of the creativity and beauty in mathematics.



Science MYP 2

MYP 2 have been working on an exciting Science unit based on acids and alkalis. The unit has been packed with fun investigations linking this topic to real-life scenarios. The students have made their own pH indicator with red cabbage, investigated the topic of neutralization and created rainbows by carefully calculating correct quantities of an acid and an alkali to give different pH levels. The focus of the unit has been to identify patterns in properties of acids and alkalis so that we can make more informed decisions about our lifestyle choices!



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