



PYP Ponderings

May 2012

The month of May finds students focusing on becoming effective communicators. They are learning the importance of being a good listener ~ whether it is listening to a presenter, teacher, or peer. Students understand that valuable information is shared and learned by listening. They have also been working on their writing skills. Students in 5th grade took action and wrote letters to numerous companies, questioning their packaging. As they concluded their unit on Sharing the Planet, they used research to support their stand and sent off their letters. The students have received numerous responses addressing the concern that they have shown for the environment. Kudos to our students for taking action! The second grade students have recently finished their unit of How We Express Ourselves, and used both their reading and writing skills to explore folk tales and fairy tales. They concluded the unit by writing their own stories and then sharing them with their peers. Fourth grade students completed their unit of Inquiry on Sharing the Planet. They explored the finite resources of the world. After researching endangered plants, animals, and finite sources, they created presentations that they shared with family and friends in their Celebration of Learning. Third grade students also explored their communication skills as they completed their How We Express Ourselves unit. At Elmwood, students created brochures for an ad campaign to increase awareness about the many Elmwood points of pride, calling the campaign "PURE ELMWOOD". First graders used communication skills to showcase their learning about how their wants and needs are met. Lastly, our Kindergarteners participated in many hands-on activities as they completed their unit on How the World Works. They reflected on their discoveries about force and motion and found many ways to share their new knowledge. Throughout every unit of instruction, as well as daily interactions, students are learning the importance of being able to communicate ideas and thoughts with others.

End of April and first of May brought International Baccalaureate Authorization Teams to both Avalon and Elmwood. It was exciting for students, staff, parents, and Board Members to share with their visiting team all of the wonderful learning opportunities that are occurring in our schools. The review process is lengthy and we may not hear about our authorization until late August or early September, but it was a wonderful experience and kudos to staff and students

for all of the hard work and dedication to the Primary Years Programme. Please be sure to stop by the buildings and explore the displays and celebrations of learning that are everywhere!

As always, please encourage your child to question and wonder about the world around them. Encourage them to reflect on the decisions and choices that they make. Invite them to share their learning with you, as this is action. Ask them, "Now that you know this information or have this skill, what will you do with it?" Remember, taking action is the highest form of learning!

If you have questions, or would like additional information about the Primary Years Programme (PYP), please contact me at (586)435-1115 or email me at cmerivirta@solake.org.

Sincerely,

Candice Merivirta PYP Coordinator