

# PYP UPDATE



*"Given a rich learning environment, learning becomes like the air---it's in and around us."*

*-Sandra Dodd*

**March 2016**

Edition

[harshmanr1@midlandps.org](mailto:harshmanr1@midlandps.org)

## What's New?

As IB Primary Years Programme candidate schools, we have been working diligently to implement the PYP and prepare for our upcoming Verification Visits. The purpose of each visit is to ensure that we understand the mission and philosophy of IB and are meeting the requirements of an IB PYP school.

During each visit, the IB evaluators will observe classes, review school documents, and meet with members of the staff, administration, and school community. Following the visits, observations/notes will be sent to the regional IB offices, where they will be reviewed. Once reviewed, the final answer regarding authorization will come from the Director General for IB. This process typically takes between 90-120 days.

Visitation Dates: Plymouth-March 21 and 22; Chestnut Hill-March 21 and 22; Woodcrest-April 7 and 8; and Adams-April 11 and 12.



## PYP Terminology-Take One

As you may have noticed through communication between either your child and/or the school, navigating the terminology used by the IB and the Primary Years Programme can be challenging. Below are a few terms and abbreviations to help you continue to build your knowledge of language specific to the Primary Years Programme and IB.

**Curriculum**-In an IB school, "curriculum is all the student activities, academic and non-academic, for which a school takes responsibility, since they all have an impact on student learning." The curriculum in an IB school consists of three interrelated parts: the written, taught and assessed.

**Concepts**-Abstract ideas that are universal, timeless, abstract and transferable and can be applied to all subject areas.

**Essential Elements of the PYP**-There are five essential elements of the PYP that form the PYP written curriculum: knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes, and action.

**Transdisciplinary Skills**-Broad groups of skills which can be applied within and across all subject areas. These include thinking skills, research skills, communication skills, self-management skills, and social skills.

**PYP Planner**-A document, created by IB, which teachers use collaboratively to plan and reflect upon PYP units of inquiry contained in the school's Programme of Inquiry.

**Essential Agreements**: Agreed upon norms within a school created by both students and teachers used to guide routines and procedures, which are posted within classrooms and throughout the school.

## Learner Profile of the Month

### {attribute}

**BALANCED**---Encourage your child to examine the role of balance in his/her life. According to the IB, people understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

### {attitude}

**COMMITMENT**---Help your child show commitment when doing their schoolwork and when participating in a sport or other extracurricular activity. Encourage your child to see their way through difficult challenges and to take responsibility for their actions.