

01 March 2007

Dear Families:

Sixth-grade Exhibition is upon us! We met with the students last week in order to introduce what exactly Exhibition is. However, we know that is important for you to understand what it is, too!

Exhibition is a culminating project for the Primary Year's Programme (PYP). In this project, the students are required to demonstrate the five essential elements of the PYP: knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes, and action. Exhibition is meant to be an engaging, relevant, and significant in-depth inquiry of an issue or topic that the students are truly interested in learning about. As a result of the learning that takes place, students are inspired to take action and apply what knowledge they have gained.

In order to facilitate a project of this size, we have developed a few guidelines to help along the way. First, we will ask that the students provide written proposals for their study. This proposal should be approximately one half page to one page in length and explain exactly what issue, or topic the student would like to study, and why the student wants to study this issue. In addition, the proposal will explain what the student hopes to learn from his/her exhibition project.

Once a proposal has been turned in and approved by the teachers, the students will develop 40 questions about the topic they are proposing to study. These questions help the students focus on the topic they have chosen to pursue, and provides an opportunity for the students to take ownership of their own learning.

While the Exhibition process takes place within the school day (we will meet at least once a week in the media center for the afternoon), often times students will need to do additional work at home. So, if you ask your student if they have homework and he/she says no, remind them that Exhibition sneaks up faster than expected. A few nights spent working in February and March can make the difference between a happy May and tears and stress the night before the project is due.

The Exhibition project itself can take many different forms: from tri-fold boards to videos, or student produced plays to student written books. The goal is to have the student clearly demonstrate what he/she has learned, and explain what action has taken place, or is proposed to take place.

The Action students take needs to be inspired by the new knowledge the students have gained through their Exhibition Project. It is important that the idea for the "action" come after the idea for the "study." We would like to avoid having students decide to raise money for a local charity before they have been inspired to that action by what they have learned.

We hope this give you an idea of what our expectation are. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Please don't hesitate to call. This is a great learning opportunity and a fun project to do.

Sincerely,

Sixth Grade Team

PYP EXHIBITION

Central Ideas Draft 1 3/21/07

1. The environmental states of the planet are causes and results of decisions made within our economies.
2. In order to share the plant human kind must function as one, and keep our common goals in mind to establish a stronger society in the future.
3. Creating an equal balance among all living organisms in the regions of the world enables us to be empathetic toward our ecosystems.
4. Over time humans took advantage of the fact that they were the most evolved species on Earth, but still allowed the animals to live in harmony with the humans.
5. The limited resources of the planet makes it necessary to share with everything and everyone.
6. Man's way of deciding important decisions has led the world into war or peace.

7. Our lack of sharing the planet is the cause of some of the world wide issues we have today.
8. The decisions and evolution of man over time has concluded with the lifestyle of humanity today.
9. The way a person is raised and their experiences can affect people's reactions to different cultures and religions.
10. The past events have influenced us to change the future.
11. Recent human rights have resulted from past actions that have been performed by humanity.

Central Ideas Draft 2 (April 2, 2007)

The way a person is raised and their past experiences can affect their reaction to the world and the people around them.

Creating peace among all living things throughout the world enables us to be open-minded and empathetic toward our ecosystems.

The decisions and ideas of man over time have began the lifestyles humanity lives today.

Man kind's way of deciding government and differences resulted into good and bad impacts that have led us into war or peace.

Recent human rights for African-Americans have resulted from past actions that have been performed by people fighting for rights.

Humans are taking advantage of their technology, power, and influence we have in the world.

In order to conserve the planet humans must function as one to keep peace for the planet and establish a peaceful society for the future so that other beings can continue living freely.

The limited resources the planet produces make it possible to share specific needs with all living organisms.

The choices we make affect how we manage the world.

The environmental states of the planet are the results of decisions made within our economies.

The lack of sharing the planet may change the lifestyles of some people today, resulting in many worldwide issues.

CENTRAL IDEAS Draft III (April 11, 2007)

After having a Café Session with guest teachers we came up with the following tentative Central Ideas:

- The planet's limited natural resources make it necessary to share the planet with all living organism.
- Creating a balance among all living things throughout the world enables us to be open-minded to the living things we share the planet with.
- Humans are taking advantage of their resources and superiority influencing our impact on the world.
- In order to share the planet, humans must function together within their communities to keep peace in the world.
- Human rights have developed because of our past events and experiences.
- Different conditions of our world's environment are affected by our decisions that result into changes over time.
- A person's experiences will affect their reaction to the world and the events happening around them.
- The decisions and ideas of man over time have affected our current ways of communication.
- Man's way of choosing government and solving the differences result into war and peace.
- The choices we make within our society influence how we share and control the economical and environmental resources of the world.

- The lack of sharing the planet changes the lifestyles of many people today, resulting in worldwide issues like pollution, war, and global warming.

NEWSLETTER



PYP EXHIBITION

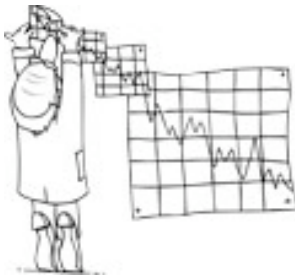
As we think about sharing our planet the knowledge that a good idea is an abstract concepts, unless accompanied with action, will help them decide what they want you to know. We are confident that they can teach us something from their current perspective with available resources. The hardest part is deciding what they want to say and explore.

They have discussed what sharing the planet means and they have written and critiqued Central Ideas. The World Cafe proved to be very fruitful, and hopefully, we will have our Central Idea very soon!



MATH

As we prepare for our Exhibition we will be using statistical data to evaluate our assumptions. In order to refresh, sharpen, and expand our understanding and ability to interpret data we are practicing by recording data, interpreting tables, graphs, and statistics. Our current study will help students as they pose questions, collect and analyze data, and make interpretations to answer their inquiries.



As questions are asked and information gathered, analysis of the true and important facts will enable 6th Grade to exhibit their ingenuity. Math is enabling them to think abstractly so they may find understanding in information. It is also guiding them to think orderly, work efficiently, record thinking, think about their thinking, and prove what they think.

Math is providing a route for 6th Grade to go beyond decoration and to demonstrate the simplicity of understanding.



Visual Documentation of the process. (There is also a video available)





