

OCTOBER 7, 2011

Stockton Collegiate

PYP News

In late June, nearly all of the PYP teachers went to IB training to learn how to plan our Program of Inquiry (POI). We met in early August and began to put together the POI, planning to teach two of the units of inquiry during this first semester. The south-facing wall near the elevator is being transformed to show our POI so all can see the units of inquiry students will be doing at the different grade levels.

Our POI is a work in progress and will be continually refined, revised, and strengthened as our teachers become more proficient in leading our students to become more responsible for their learning.

Central to this is the continued development of our school community (students and staff) in growing in the traits of the IB Learner Profile: Inquirer, Thinker, Knowledgeable, Communicator, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk Taker, Balanced, Reflective.

Three of our K-5 teachers who joined our staff in the summer will be attending IB PYP training in late October. Miss Bates (Art), Mrs. Zafar (Grade 2), and Miss Gan (Grade 1) will join teachers from many other areas and participate in first level of PYP training.

When they complete that, all of our K-5 teaching staff will have completed the same level of training in IB methodology and philosophy.

- Mr. Piasecki, PYP Coordinator

IMPORTANT DATES

October 4 thru November 3 -
PYP Flex Time Round 2

October 15 – PSAT
8:00am for Grades 9, 10, 11

October 19 – MYP Parent
Meeting about Assessments,
6:30pm – Cort Tower Lobby

October 24 – PYP & MYP/DP
Parent/Student/Teacher
Conferences

Le Coin Français (The French Corner)

Madame Eager's French students used puppets this month to practice greeting one another, introducing themselves and asking how their day was going. We watched a video of Le Tour de France and learned many interesting facts about this exciting bicycle race.

**SECONDARY
POWERSCHOOL
ACCESS CODES
AVAILABLE!**

**Lost & Found
goes to
St. Mary's the
1st Friday of
every month!**

Attention
Seniors:
College

Learning Outside the Classroom in September

First Grades learn about the past from Grandma's Trunk. Two docents from the San Joaquin County Historical Museum visited with each first grade class and brought items that were used by families in the 1800-1900's. Students saw and touched many different tools, kitchen implements, and toys that were used in earlier decades as a part of the unit of inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme: *Who We Are* and the central idea: *The past affects who we are today*.

Fourth grades have visited the County Courthouse and held a mock City Hall Meeting in the City Council chambers in City Hall. All of these experiences were related to their unit of inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme: *Who We Are* and the central idea: *Citizens follow a set of norms put in place by people or persons of a community*.

Juniors and seniors visited the special *Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musee National Picasso, Paris* exhibit at the deYoung Museum in San Francisco as part of their studies in both Art and Spanish.

Monday October 24th – MYP & DP Parent/Student/Teacher Conference Day

- Note that this is a student and parent conference.
- Our goal is to have our students lead each conference as an important step in having them take responsibility for their own learning. Each teacher has a list of 18-20 students with whom they will be conferencing; they will be contacting parents to schedule appointments. It is not possible on a single parent conference day for parents to meet with each of their children's eight teachers; however, all eight classes will be addressed during the conference. This is the teacher who will be checking in with your student occasionally throughout the year and who will help facilitate each parent conference. Conference assignment groups are listed on ManageBac. Please know that you are welcome to contact any teacher any time to discuss any concerns that you have about your child.

MYP COORDINATOR REPORT

Stockton Collegiate was awarded MYP Candidate status at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. This means that the 2011-2012 school year is our transition year before full implementation of MYP and submission of our Application for Authorization. This is a major undertaking and will require considerable "re-education" for all of us.

One area of priority is assessment. IB expects Stockton Collegiate to have a school-wide assessment policy so that students and parents are clear about how students are assessed. The MYP assessment model is described as criterion-related because it is based upon pre-determined criteria to which all students (and parents) have access. Each subject has rubrics describing student expectations. Formative assessments (like homework, class assignments, etc.) are considered part of the learning process and will not be counted as part of the final grade in a course. This provides the opportunity for students to practice and explore without worrying that the scores will affect their grade. During the course of a unit, students receive feedback on these formative assessments so that they are moving closer to quality performance on the summative assessment that will be scored.

Our teachers are working with students so that they understand this process, and we will be scheduling several meetings during the year so that parents have an opportunity to understand as well. The first meeting is Wednesday, October 19th at 6:30pm in the Cort Tower Lobby. We are excited about implementing an assessment policy that is aligned with IB expectations, because we believe that, administered properly, assessment can be a valuable tool in supporting and encouraging student learning.

DP Coordinator Report

October, in the IB Diploma Program world, is the time for setting the stage for our juniors and seniors, as they plan for the immediate and somewhat more distant future. Juniors have signed up for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), the “practice SAT” (which gives a reading on their level of preparation for the actual SAT that they will take in the spring). This is also the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Registration starts at 7:30; the test will begin at 8:00 sharp. Many of our 9th and 10th grade students have also signed up in order to familiarize themselves with the exam and secure an idea of where they stand regarding college preparation. The cost is \$15, \$10, or \$5, depending on lunch payment status.

Additionally, registration for the May, 2012 International Baccalaureate exams is under way for juniors and seniors. They have been provided with registration forms and are encouraged to complete the process early. The cost this year is \$100 per exam, with fee waivers available, depending on lunch payment status. All students pay \$5 toward the \$145 one-time registration fee. Stockton Collegiate assumes responsibility for the remainder of the cost. If you have questions, please email Mr. Thiele at dan.thiele@stocktoncollegiate.org.

Our Diploma Program field trip to the deYoung Museum for the special Picasso showing was a wonderful success. View the pictures on our Facebook page!

Thanks to Mrs. Fidler and Mrs. Gibson for making arrangements for the tickets , providing advance lessons and information, and for planning this fabulous adventure!