Trackside News

Quarter 3 IB Newsletter

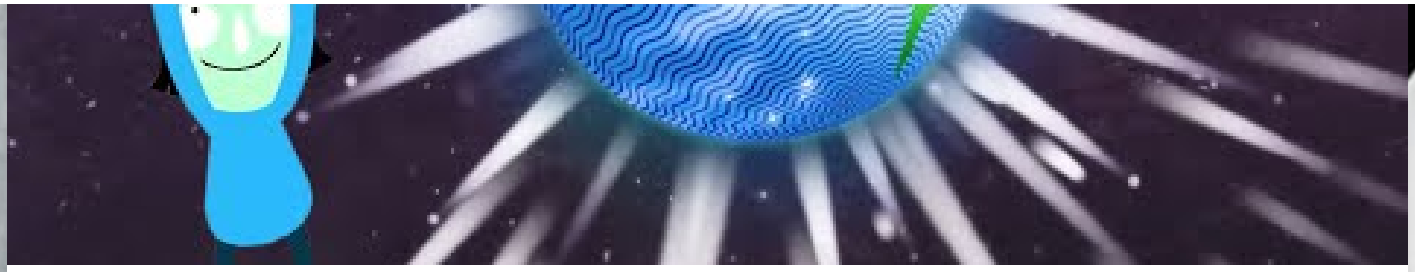
Coordinator's Corner

IB PYP Exhibition

The Global Goals, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are a set of 17 interconnected goals adopted by all 193 United Nations Member States in 2015. They aim to end poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the planet by 2030, according to the United Nations. These goals encompass a wide range of issues, including social, economic, and environmental challenges.

https://www.globalgoals.org/





Global Goals Inquiry Project – 5th Grade

Our 5th grade students have been engaging in a deep, student-driven inquiry into the United Nations' Global Goals. Each student began by selecting a goal that personally resonated with them. From there, they explored specific areas of interest within their chosen goal, identifying issues they felt connected to and passionate about.

Using key concepts such as **form**, **change**, **function**, **causation**, **connection**, **reflection**, **perspective**, and **responsibility**, students selected three that best aligned with their focus. These concepts became their **lines of inquiry**, guiding their research and deepening their understanding of complex global challenges.

Currently, students are in the final phase of their projects: preparing presentations, writing essays, and developing action plans to share how others can get involved and make a difference. We are so proud of the thoughtful and passionate work they are doing to become globally-minded change-makers!

GLOBAL GOALS







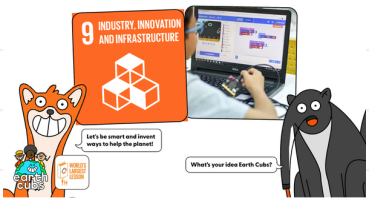






Global Goal #9: **Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure**

Earth Cubs believe in a bright future.



Global Goal #11: **Sustainable Cities & Communities**

Earth Cubs believe in working together to create a sustainable future.



Global Goal #12: **Responsible Consumption & Production**

Earth Cubs believe you should only use what you need.



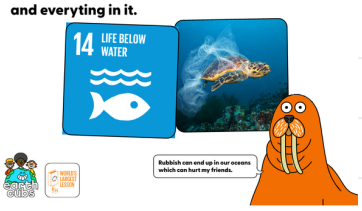
Global Goal #13: **Climate Action**

Earth Cubs care about climate change.



Global Goal #14: **Life Below Water**

Earth Cubs look after the seas and everyting in it.



Global Goal #15: **Life on Land**

Earth Cubs look after all living things.



EARTH DAY in our IB Garden





Mrs. Marsh's Class



Mrs. Potvin's Class



Mrs. Rosenauer's Class

BLOOMING GARDEN





Welcome Gnome



Peace Gnome



Admin Gnome Fountain



Monarch Butterfly Garden

Several grades have been raising monarch butterflies in their classroom and have set them free in our garden.



Green Peppers

Fourth Grade is starting to see their hard work



Blush Tomatoes

4th and 5th Grade will be ready to harvest

Kindergarten

How the World Works



Kindergarten Adventures – Weather, Needs & Wants, and Community Life

Our kindergarteners have been busy exploring the world around them through reading, discussions, and hands-on learning! We've been diving into books about **weather and the changing seasons**, comparing Florida's milder seasons with colder climates. Students made meaningful connections by discussing how we dress for cooler weather here in the South and what changes during **hurricane season**, which gave us a real-world look at how weather can impact our daily lives. We've also been learning about **needs and wants**, and how weather can influence the choices we make—like what we wear or whether we play inside or outside. The beautiful weather provided the perfect opportunity for students to get their hands dirty in the **school garden**, where they planted **radishes and peanuts**. What a fun and practical way to connect science and nature! Our recent reading selections have focused on **jobs, money, and community helpers**. As students read about the important roles people play in our communities, they've also been developing real-life math skills by practicing **counting, saving, and spending** during their visits to the **Falcon Nest store**. Kindergarten continues to be a place full of discovery, connection, and fun learning moments!

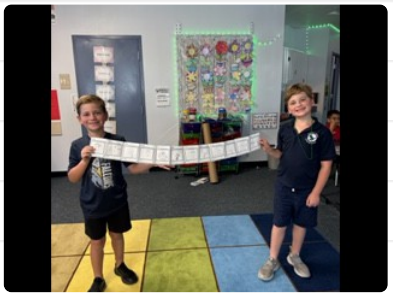






First Grade

🖨️ IB Learning Highlights from First Grade



Our first graders have had a wonderful start to the year diving into two engaging IB units that have helped shape not only their academic growth, but also their personal development and understanding of the world around them.

🗣️ Who We Are

We began with the unit *Who We Are*, exploring the central idea:

"Mistakes that we learn from show us what it means to be human."

This theme connected beautifully with our year-long focus on developing a growth mindset. Students engaged in rich discussions about personal values, beliefs, conflict resolution, and the consequences of our actions. Through a variety of texts in both ELA and social studies, we reflected on story characters' choices and made connections to our own lives. It was inspiring to watch students grow in self-awareness and empathy, all while strengthening their reading and critical thinking skills.

🕰️ Where We Are in Place and Time

Our next unit, *Where We Are in Place and Time*, focused on the central idea:

"Changes over time influence and improve civilizations."

Students explored the importance of understanding the past and how it helps shape our present. We compared life today with life in the past—looking at differences in technology, tools, clothing, and daily routines. One of the most exciting parts of this unit was creating personal timelines! After learning about timelines through historical figures, students crafted their own, sharing meaningful moments from their lives. This activity sparked curiosity, storytelling, and lots of smiles as students proudly shared their histories with their peers. These two units have laid a strong foundation for our IB journey this year, helping students build connections between themselves, others, and the world. We look forward to continuing this exciting learning adventure!

Second Grade

Second Grade's Exciting Third Quarter – A Journey Through Discovery, Culture, and History

The second graders had a busy and productive third quarter, completing three IB units that sparked their curiosity and allowed them to explore the world in new ways.

Unit 5: How We Organize Ourselves focused on how discoveries influence ideas. Students dove into research on various inventors and their groundbreaking solutions, exploring the ways innovations have shaped our world. Each student created an **Invention Journal**, where they showcased their problem-solving skills by identifying real-life issues and brainstorming creative solutions. The journals included materials lists, diagrams, and reflections. As the culmination of this unit, students shared their inventions with the community during the **Invention Convention**, presenting their innovative ideas to parents and peers.

Unit 6: How We Express Ourselves and **Unit 7: Where We Are In Place and Time** flowed seamlessly together, exploring the impact of differences and how past events influence the future. Through these units, students learned about various cultures and their contributions to society, as well as the history of immigration in the United States. To bring history to life, the second graders participated in an **Ellis Island Simulation** where they stepped into the shoes of immigrants. They "traveled" on a boat, passed the Statue of Liberty, and went through the immigration process, including bag checks, interviews, medical exams, and filling out immigration forms. After being granted entry to America, they celebrated with a classic American meal of hot dogs, chips, and lemonade! These hands-on experiences, combined with thoughtful inquiry, have allowed our second graders to make meaningful connections between past and present, while also recognizing the importance of innovation and cultural awareness.



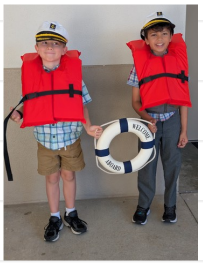






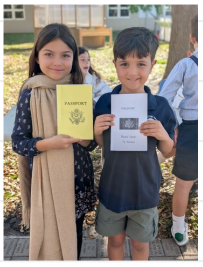


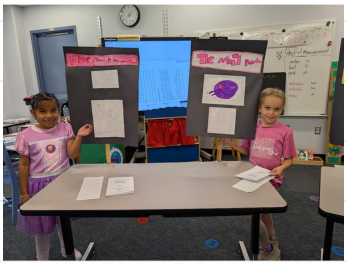




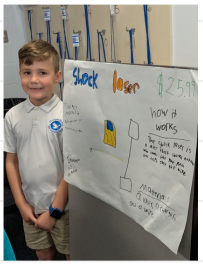








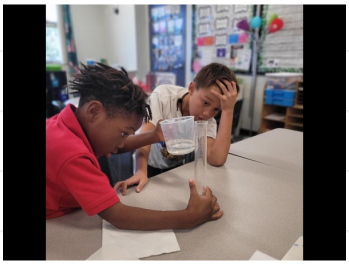




Third Grade

Third Grade Explores Weather, Climate, and Earth's Systems

Our third-grade students are continuing their IB journey through the unit **How the World Works**, where they are diving deep into the fascinating world of weather and Earth's systems. Students have discovered that weather can change rapidly—day to day or even moment to moment—while climate refers to long-term patterns observed by scientists over many years. They've learned that our planet is divided into different climate zones, each with its own distinct weather patterns and seasons. This understanding helps people around the world make more informed decisions in their daily lives. As the unit progresses, students will explore how weather and climate directly affect communities by studying extreme natural events such as **hurricanes, earthquakes, thunderstorms, and volcanoes**. They'll also examine how **technological advancements** have improved our ability to predict, prepare for, and respond to these powerful natural forces. To conclude the unit, students will engage in a **guided research web quest** focused on Earth systems science. Through this inquiry, they'll discover how the Earth's interconnected systems influence both weather and climate, helping them develop a deeper understanding of the science behind the natural world.







Fourth Grade

How We Organize Ourselves

🌍 IB Learning Journey – Quarter Highlights

Our first IB unit of this quarter, **"Who We Are,"** focused on the idea that *progress is what happens when communities evolve.* This unit offered a unique and engaging experience through our annual **Math Decathlon**, where students had the opportunity to shine both academically and collaboratively. Each student joined a team representing one of Florida's Native American tribes. This added a rich social studies connection to our math work, as students explored the cultures, lifestyles, and geography of these tribes before modern technology. The Math Decathlon wasn't just about solving math problems—it required a **balanced approach**, strong **communication**, and strategic **teamwork**. Students had to work together, divide responsibilities, and support one another in a respectful and inclusive environment. Athena shared, *"I was knowledgeable because I needed to know how to answer each question."* Carmen added, *"We had to talk it out to get our*

team to agree on which problems we will be doing, and which student will be writing or doing different jobs without fighting."

We were proud to see students demonstrate the IB traits of **being knowledgeable, open-minded, communicative**, and **principled** throughout this exciting learning experience.

Our second IB unit, **"Where We Are in Place and Time,"** explored how **exploration leads to knowledge, discovery, and innovation**. Students took a deep dive into U.S. history by researching the people behind the **Transcontinental Railroad**, examining their contributions and the broader impact on the nation. As part of their research, students created reports on significant historical figures and reflected on the challenges and inequalities of the time. The project encouraged **critical thinking**, **research skills**, and **historical empathy**. Dollicia thoughtfully wrote about *"how long it took to build the railroad and why they did not let the Chinese people celebrate with them when they finished the railroad."* Hudson observed, *"Some of the answers were not in the text, but there were clues instead,"* showing strong **thinking** skills. Lucia reflected, *"We had to think back to what we learned in other classes like social studies in order to answer the questions together."* We're proud of the connections our students are making across subjects and their ability to reflect, collaborate, and think deeply about the world around them.























Fifth Grade



IB Unit: How Does Conflict Shape a Society?

In this unit, 5th graders explored how conflict can lead to change—whether through chemical or physical reactions, magnetism, or factors that speed up or slow down reactions. Students also investigated how differing viewpoints can influence conflict during their participation in the HOPS program. Through HOPS (Hands-On Problem Solving), students practiced teamwork, tackled real-world challenges, and developed creative problem-solving skills in an engaging, interactive environment. You can check out photos of Mrs. Mercier's and Mrs. Eckberg's students in action during HOPS here. In Social Studies, students examined how conflict has shaped our nation's history—from the founding of the United States to the challenges faced by families and communities. They learned how conflict can spark change and help define our identity as a nation.

IB Unit: Sharing the Planet

In this unit, students focused on our shared responsibility in preserving life on Earth. In Science, they explored physical and behavioral adaptations, how organisms receive and respond to information from their environment, and the role we play in protecting other species. In English Language Arts (ELA), students honed their writing skills by crafting expository texts and explored different perspectives through poetry. In Math, the focus was on mastering addition and subtraction of fractions, building both skill and confidence in working with rational numbers.

Art

Spring is in full bloom in the art room with fourth graders glazing their floral votives. For their unit on "Form" with fifth graders made bowls, third graders formed hearts, and second graders coiled a pot. Fifth graders are also finishing art works to submit for the Embracing our Differences 2026 exhibit and fourth graders are busy with their weavings.

Recently, Kindergarten through third grade worked on creating multiple patterns in the Mexican Oaxacan style of art in markers and we are currently stepping into a unit on painting. Kindergarten and first graders are drawing and painting fish in an Opaque fashion, which means thick. Second and third graders are also painting in very different styles. Second is emulating the artwork of

Charlie Harper in a graphic style and third graders are controlling a brush to create Asian inspires florals.





Music

Students have been working to keep a steady beat and play a variety of rhythms with hands, feet, and instruments. In addition to using percussion instruments, we have been learning about the families of the orchestra. We are using instruments and watching performances to explore new countries and cultures.

Singing voices are developing nicely, and we have learned many new songs and games. We are learning about musical qualities like fast/slow, high/low and loud/quiet through movement and singing. Students have also been learning to read music and sing using the solfege syllables.

“Annie Kids”, our Spring Musical, was presented by select 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders on Friday, March 28. Our actors performed for our whole school at the Riverview High School Performing Arts Theatre. Over 400 friends and family members joined us for the evening performance. The students did an amazing job, and a great time was had by all. Thanks so much to Ms. Lund, my co-director, Ms. Cavanaugh, our choreographer, and all the teachers and parents who gave of their time and talents to help make the show a success.

“Sing”cerely,
Mrs. Shenning

Physical Education

A huge THANK YOU for an outstanding 2024-2025 school year! As we near the end of another school year, we want everyone to know how much the Physical Education department appreciates your continuous, and ongoing support! With everyone’s help we try to make sure our Phillippi Falcons learn, grow, and spread their wings!

Mile club had over 200 regular participants! We love to see kids running, exercising, setting goals, and achieving them. We couldn’t do Jogathon, Mile Club, and Field Day without our parent volunteers and these events truly make Phillippi Shores a great place to be

As summer approaches, please help keep all of our Falcons safe and sound as they run, swim, ride, and play outdoors. Helmets, sunscreen, vigilant supervision, and plenty of water are the best ways to make sure that EVERYONE has a great and safe Summer

Our Field Day on May 23rd will be great fun and a very wet way to finish off another year!
Again, many thanks for another EXCELLENT year! Oh, it's great to be a Phillippi Falcon!
Coaches Kanter, Jacobs, and Mixon

Spanish

Spanish News
Welcome to the Phillippines!

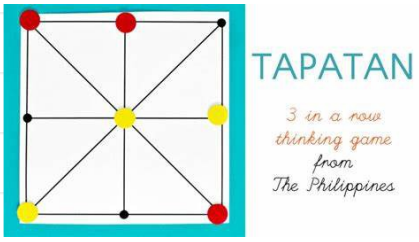
1. **The Phillippines consists of over 7,600 islands – we are learning about the islands of Luzon, Vinzayas and Mindanao.**
2. **The islands were colonized by the Spanish (who required everyone to have a Spanish surname) and the British (who required everyone to speak English – which is still practiced in the schools today). Imagine speaking Tagalog (Filipino) at home and then having to learn reading, writing, and math in another language?!**
3. **We are learning about Nipo Huts (traditional homes) and their modern counterparts.**
4. **We are learning traditional games like Tapatan (a three in a row game) and Balik Tanaw (jump over the cow game)**



Philippines Map



Nipo Hut



Tapatan Game

Science

Quarter 3 STEM Highlights
5th Grade – Forces, Motion, and Physical Science

This quarter, 5th graders dove into physical science by exploring chemical and physical changes through hands-on experiments. One of the highlights was our twist on the classic egg drop project! Students learned about the forces and motion involved in car crashes, then applied their knowledge by designing and building their own vehicles to crash—with an egg passenger onboard. While not every egg survived, the collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving skills on display were impressive!

4th Grade – All About Plants

Fourth grade focused on plant science and creativity. We began by dissecting flowers to understand their parts, then designed innovative ways to disperse seeds. The unit culminated in a

final project where students invented their own plants, complete with unique habitats, seed dispersal methods, adaptations, and a 3D model. The creativity and imagination in these projects were amazing!

3rd Grade – Energy, Light, and Forces

Third graders had a blast learning about different forms of energy! We explored thermal energy by creating “dino” egg incubators that harnessed solar radiation. Students also investigated light and forces while designing Cupid’s quivers for a Valentine’s Day challenge. These engaging projects helped make big science concepts both fun and memorable.

2nd Grade – Plant Life Cycles

In second grade, students explored plant life cycles and what plants need to survive. Their first engineering challenge was to design a watering can that could slowly dispense water—perfect for keeping our garden hydrated. Every design was tested in the garden, and we’re proud to say they all worked beautifully!

1st Grade – Habitats and Animal Families

First graders explored habitats and the relationships between animals and their environments. They created trioramas featuring animals in their natural habitats, designed shelters for UV bead animals to protect them from the sun, and learned how to identify offspring and their parents. These young scientists really impressed us with their curiosity and creativity!

Kindergarten – Weather, Sound, and Gravity

Our kindergarteners explored big ideas through hands-on fun! They learned about weather by building Breeze Buddies, experimented with sound using handmade kazoos, and tested the effects of gravity by designing parachutes. Their enthusiasm and building skills made every activity a success!







Holly Staley
Holly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters