Trackside News

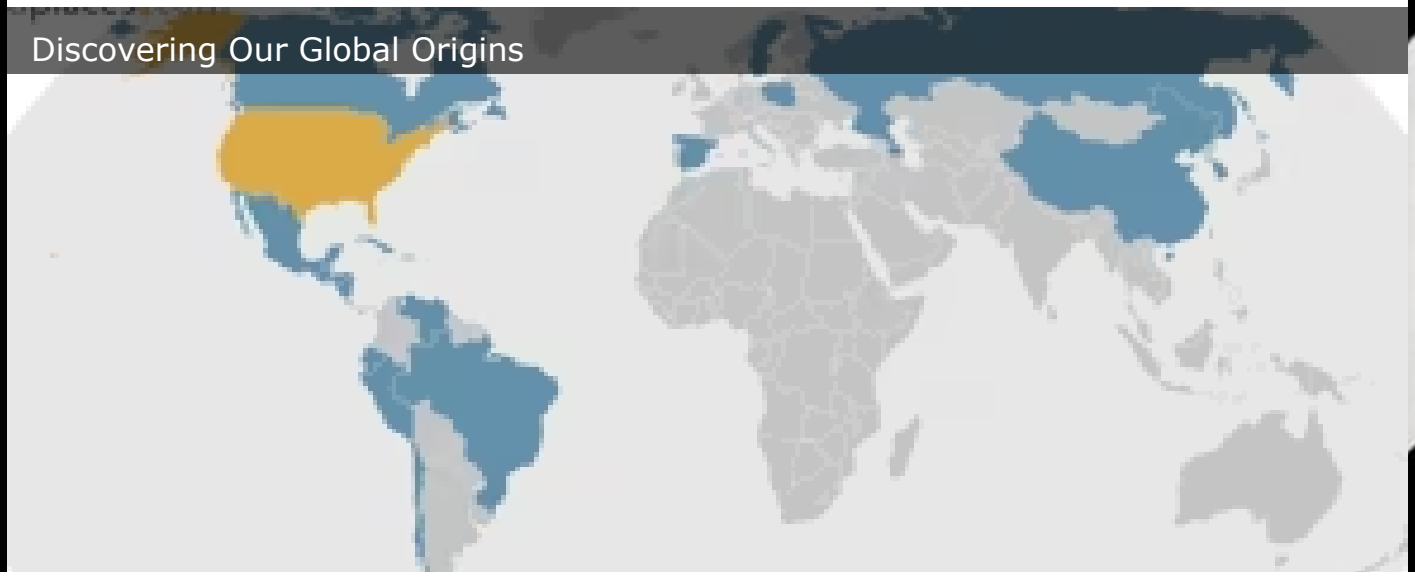
Quarter 1 IB Newsletter

Coordinator's Corner

Phillippi Shores Elementary is a diverse school that welcomes families from various backgrounds. As an IB World School, we are dedicated to fostering a globally minded mindset in our students. Our school community is enriched by the representation of 20 different countries, allowing us to share and celebrate a wide range of cultures, traditions, and experiences with one another.

The video below highlights the countries our families come from. Please take a moment to watch and share it with your child.

Discovering Our Global Origins



Native Language

In addition to representing 20 countries, our school is home to 14 different mother tongue languages. It would be a wonderful experience to hear each of them spoken in their native language.

Phillippi Shores students take ACTION!

Lemonade & Cookie Stand

Living in the Sunshine State is incredible, especially when you're near the second-best beach in the United States and the ninth-best in the world. However, what happens when back-to-back hurricanes bring devastation to our beautiful city? Sarasota, Florida experienced significant damage when Hurricane Helene, a Category 4 storm, made its way up the west coast, followed by a direct hit from Hurricane Milton, a Category 3 storm at landfall. Amid the destruction, two fourth-grade students came up with a plan to help those who had lost so much in the aftermath. Olivia and Aubrey, determined to make a difference, decided to take action. As an IB World School, we encourage our students to take initiative and understand that they can truly impact the world around them. And that's exactly what Olivia and Aubrey did. They organized a Lemonade & Cookie stand to raise money for those in need. Over the weekend, they managed to raise an impressive $200! We are incredibly proud of their thoughtful initiative and their commitment to helping others.

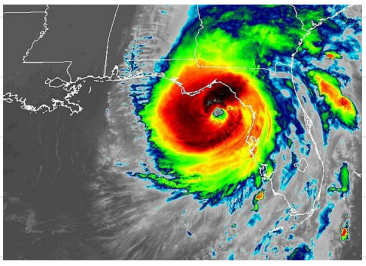








Category 3 Hurricane Milton



Category 4 Hurricane Helene

Jump For A Cause

Each year, the students at Phillippi Shores participate in "Jump-4-a-Cause," and this year was no exception. Our students came together to collect donations for two incredible local charities, making a meaningful impact in our community.
The Benjamin Gilkey Fund for Innovative Pediatric Cancer Research and Beyond the Spectrum. We hope that all the money raised will benefit these two great organizations greatly.



The Benjamin Gilkey Fund for Innovative Pediatric Cancer Research

The Benjamin Gilkey Fund for Innovative Pediatric Cancer Research exists to fuel the passions of investigative physician researchers within the Johns Hopkins All Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute. It will make new options available in the face of unexpected obstacles and he...

give.hopkinsallchildrens.org



Donate | Beyond the Spectrum

Learn more about how your direct contributions support our neurodiverse students and enhance our specialized programs.

beyondthespectrum.org

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten students are off to a fantastic start in our first I.B. Unit, **"Who We Are."** We've been focusing on understanding rules and responsibilities in our new school and building relationships within our class. The children have learned that our school is a community where everyone plays an important role. They've had opportunities to demonstrate good citizenship, and when they meet or exceed expectations, they can earn Recognition, Falcon Dollars, and even be nominated as an I.B. Star or Student of the Month. Following rules and choosing to be kind is important at Phillippi, and we all agree that safety is one of our essential agreements. As part of our learning journey, we participated in Jump For A Cause, supporting others in our community. We're excited to continue this journey and look forward to more fun and meaningful experiences together!

















First Grade

Our first-grade students began the year with the **"Sharing the Planet"** unit, exploring the central idea that all living things go through a process of change. We delved into the fascinating world of living things, studying their properties, how they change over time, and the factors that influence their life cycles. One of the highlights of the unit was observing the life cycle of a plant. The students planted seeds in their own customized greenhouses, which allowed them to experience this process firsthand. Their excitement was contagious, and the hands-on activity helped them make a deeper connection to their learning, as seen in their detailed observational notes on the plants' growth and changes.

Another exciting experience was witnessing the full life cycle of a butterfly. The students began with caterpillars, watching them feed and grow until they transitioned into their chrysalises. Then, the joy of releasing the butterflies upon hatching was a truly special moment for everyone. The students were deeply engaged throughout this process, and their reflections were evident in their thoughtful writing about the journey. It's been a wonderful start to the year, full of exploration and discovery!

Our second IB unit, ***How We Express Ourselves***, focused on the central idea that stories can take many forms and be told in a variety of ways. Throughout this unit, we explored different methods

of storytelling, stories from diverse cultures, and ways to express ourselves through various mediums. One of the highlights of this unit was our celebration of Hispanic Heritage. Mrs. Cherryhomes' class embraced their beautiful diversity, allowing students to share their cultures and traditions from Chile, Spain, Mexico, and Brazil. Students brought in traditional foods, items, and stories, creating a memorable experience for everyone involved!

In addition, the entire first grade had the honor of participating in the Veterans Day Celebration. Families were invited to join, and students created heartfelt cards of appreciation for the Veterans who attended, expressing gratitude for their service and sacrifice. It was a meaningful opportunity for students to communicate their thanks to those who have contributed to our country. The first quarter has been filled with memorable moments, and we're excited for what's to come!











Second Grade

The second grade students and teachers enjoyed our **Sharing the Planet** unit to start the year. The central idea of the unit focuses on how habitats meet the basic needs of animals. The students inquired and researched a variety of habitats and animals. They made connections between the different features of habitats and the relationship to the types of animals that live there. Students shared their knowledge with their classmates through posters, presentations, and PowerPoints. Through the student's communication, they started to make connections with the habitat they researched and other similar habitats.

The second IB unit the second grade is working on is **Who We Are**. This unit focuses on becoming a good community leader. The students inquired about the traits and responsibilities that members use to help their communities, schools, cities, states, and countries. The students read and researched different Americans and their impact on our country.





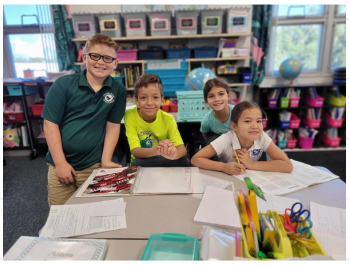


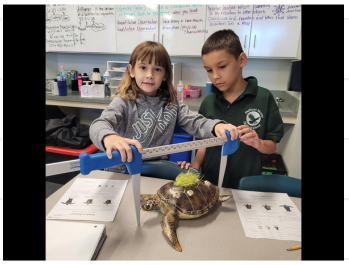
Third Grade

In the first quarter third grade students focused on two interdisciplinary themes; Sharing the Planet and How We Express Ourselves.

Sharing the Planet gave students opportunities to study the characteristics of living organisms. They learned how scientists classify and organize plants and animals into different groups based on their traits. They explored the structures of plants and the interdependence of plants and animals on our planet. IB learners created drawings and diagrams of living things to identify the process of photosynthesis.

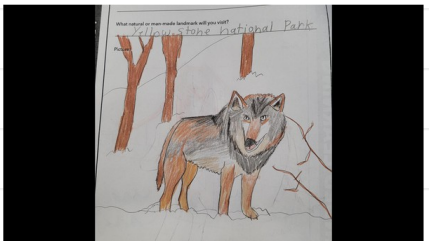
Students continued their exploration through the unit **How We Express Ourselves.** We created maps and planned a travel log to visit different communities across the 5 regions of the United States. Learners created snapshots of their visits across the U.S. and designed bumper stickers to express themselves. We continue our learning by investigating how citizenship helps a community and different jobs that provide needed services for our cities and towns.

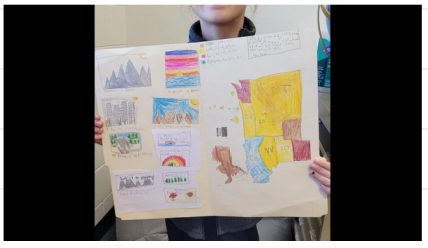












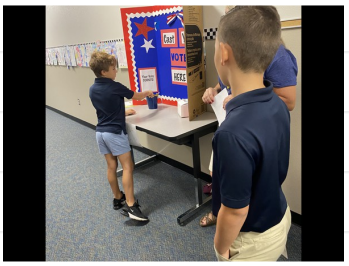
Fourth Grade

How We Organize Ourselves

During the first quarter, the Phillippi Shores 4th graders tackled two IB units; How We Organize Ourselves and How We Express Ourselves. The opening IB unit was ***How We Organize Ourselves.*** Students began by learning how living things rely on structure to function in society through decision-making. They explored structures with models in math to determine the best strategies. Not only do they need the structure of a "math toolbox," but they also must decide which tool to use at any given time. In science, students explored various methods to determine the best structure for a given investigation. In reading and writing, they analyzed how different literary structures impact meaning.

While working on mini-STEM fair boards, Charlie reflected on what it means to be a good communicator: "When you are working, you have to communicate with other people and listen to what they say." Taylor emphasized the importance of being open-minded, saying, "I listened to my group and what they had to say. What they had to say was very interesting."







How We Express Ourselves

The second IB unit of the quarter was ***How We Express Ourselves.*** The students focused on the idea that our culture, beliefs, and values influence how we connect and interact with others through strategic action. This connection was showcased in their study of the interactions between European explorers and Native Floridians. The theme of interaction and connection also played a significant role in their exploration of the relationship between multiplication and division.

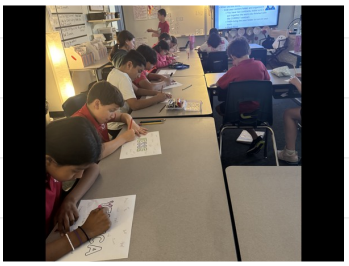
Nowhere was this theme more evident than in their opinion writing about the school-related mock vote. Students were tasked with choosing between new specials, cafeteria meals, uniform colors, and after-school activities. Many 4th graders reflected on the *Thinker* trait during this activity. Carmen stated, "We had to think about what changes we wanted. We had to debate between uniform colors like red, yellow, and green and really think about it." Knox shared his thoughts on the same activity, writing, "The hardest vote to make was for the uniform colors because I didn't really like any of the colors, but I had to think about which one to pick."

Fifth Grade

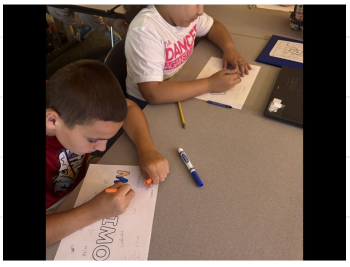
Our first IB Unit was **How the World Works.** We explored how energy flows from one living organism to another, advancements in uses of natural resources, and learned about our responsibility to effectively use renewable resources. 5th graders all created their own Energy Islands, showcasing their learning about the flow of energy and natural resources. We also learned about geographical tools, map tools, and latitude and longitude. We began our year in math learning place value and how to add and subtract decimals.

Our next unit was **Who We Are**. Students learned about character perspectives in ELA, relationships of coordinate planes and geometry in Math, and all about the human body in Science. After digging into a unit all about character development and focusing on why we value certain qualities in people, Mrs. Batista's students showed each other what they value about their classmates. Her students went around the room and wrote positive character traits to describe every one of their classmates. Students then decorated their name plate with all the traits that describe them. (See photos attached.) In Mrs. Eckberg's class, we showed our learning by creating life-size body posters. The organs were flaps that flipped up to allow the audience to see what we learned about, how our organ systems are connected, and how they create homeostasis, a balance of our systems to survive and function properly.









Art

The school year got off on the right foot once again with all students understanding the "elements of art" in one simple project to discover the texture on the bottom of their shoe. The "elements of art" are line, space, shape, form, color, value and texture, which students explored using crayons to create unique designs with a rubbing technique (the same way they would hold a pastel). Discussions ensued about where student's shoes had been over the summer, even if they were wearing new shoes. Students became aware of the meaning of time, growth, and maturity as they created their "shoe rubbings;" realizing that the shoes they were rubbing would wear out or be outgrown. All grades followed up with an exploration in textures and examples were displayed in the cafeteria.

Students voluntarily participated in this year's NEST Calendar Contest. Appropriately enough, the theme this year was "Ready when it Rains." As in years past, the calendar contest primarily focuses on keeping harsh chemicals out of our yards, understanding nature, and keeping our waterways clean.

Students have been working on a variety of projects focused on color theory. All grades celebrated a struggling Florida industry by printing citrus fruit as we discussed our favorites, their benefits and uses. Students also learned how Lily Pulitzer went from selling juice at her citrus stand to designing clothing in what is now an iconic fashion business as popular today as it was in the 1960's. Next, students celebrated International Dot Day (September 15) by making Peter Reynolds inspired Dots (mixing the primary colors to get the secondary one).

Second graders created watercolor dragons and then wrote a "dragon tale" to complete their artwork, while third graders studied the Gargoyles of Notre Dame Cathedral in France. They painted their gargoyles to look like stone and then created comic style "speaking" or "thinking" bubbles to add emotion and character to their artworks.

Keeping close to nature, most grades worked on creating fall trees in pastels focused on the "elements of art" line, color and shape. From there they moved on to life on a farm. What is raised on a farm and what is grown on a farm. Currently, Kindergarten through third grades are visiting a farm and creating scenes that depict what is produced, raised, grown or lives there using pastels. Recently, kindergarten through second grade studied the work of Swiss surreal expressionist artist Paul Klee, whose famous painting "Cat and bird" has been reinterpreted as "Cat and Turkey," or "Dog and Turkey," in keeping with the season.

Fourth and fifth grades learned about the 1960s OP and POP art movements creating "sound" words and studying the art of Roy Lichtenstein with his enlarged comic book style using primary colors. Fall is a very busy season at Phillippi Shores, with kindergarten, first and second grades making art that commemorated Veterans Day. Kindergarteners colored a flag, first graders made "Uncle Sam" top hats and second graders made USA posters in the style of the artist Keith Haring.

Lastly, the art club started September 13th and continues until February 28th, to be followed up with a ceramics club after Spring break. Both clubs are open to third through fifth grades and meet Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 in the art room. So far as part of our community service we created a Banner for Veterans Day and donated over 50 ceramic pieces for the recent All Faith's Food Bank's "Bowls for Hope" event.





Music

We are looking forward to a wonderful Holiday Concert this year! Please look for communication from your child's teacher regarding the many changes in our performance this year.

Music classes have been focused on preparing for their performances for several months. Every year they learn songs from a variety of countries and traditions. Preparing for a performance requires persistence, focus and skill practice. All qualities that make us better lifelong learners. Performing directly relates to two of our IB learner profiles – Communicators & Risk Takers.

Of course, the Holiday Concert is only a part of the music curriculum. Classes have still been learning to play instruments, improve singing voices, move artfully and actively listen to a variety of music styles.

Starting in January our older grades will work on music reading. 5th graders will take advantage of our electronic keyboards. 4th graders will use xylophones and glockenspiels. Recorders are a part of Sarasota's curriculum for 3rd grade. You may already have a recorder around the house. If not, please purchase one for your child to bring in when school resumes. They usually cost around $10.

"Sing"cerely,

Mrs. Shenning

Deborah.shenning@sarasotacountyschools.net



Physical Education

Physical Education



Physical education has been fantastic!!!! We completed our jump rope unit with our very successful “Jump For A Cause”! Thanks to all that helped in the lessons of taking action to help others. Everyone did collect a little and it certainly equaled a lot!!!!
We are now beginning our football unit. Kicking, punting, and passing are some of the skills we will be learning and practicing. It’s a blast!! Ask your little one to show you how to punt!
Mile Club registration has begun. Mile Club takes place every Monday after school from January 13th- May 5th. There are usually approx. 250 participants. You can register for this free club by clicking this link https://forms.office.com/r/VtyMmQpPgB . We look forward to lots of parents and grandparents joining us too.
We wish you a very happy winter break and a wonderful beginning to your new year! The weather is great so get out there and kick, climb, ride or just walk the dog…
And remember, fitness should be fun!

Mile Club Sign Up Link

Microsoft Forms

forms.office.com

Spanish

Hola a todos.
We have been busy having fun and learning Spanish. I am sure your students have come home singing several songs and showing you our dances and movements to help us remember words and sounds. We have been learning greetings, feelings, the alphabet, days of the week, colors, reading skills, body parts and much more! Please encourage kids to listen or engage with Spanish on a regular basis through YouTube or DuoLingo or other free apps and programs. The more they hear the language the more comfortable they will be with it!

We have also been learning about the country of Costa Rica. We looked at the rain forests, cloud forests, the three-toed sloth, schools, an average home and talked about Costa-Rican culture. Remember – you can explore the world without having to travel. Google maps and Vlogs are interesting and informative. Understanding our world and other people will only help us to better navigate life as we truly are becoming a global society.





Science

The first quarter of science class students learned the processes scientists use and performed investigations such as the science of bottle flipping.. First, second and third grades are investigating properties of matter with hands-on opportunities. Kindergarten is also investigating matter with classification of objects. Fourth grade became geologists as we studied properties of minerals and the rock cycle. Fifth grade is going to bring home a project of their own as we learn about circuits and electricity.





Holly Staley
Holly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters