

# Kongsberg International School PYP Newsletter

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*'Kongsberg International School seeks to make it possible for each student to develop to his or her full potential, to be versatile, effective and responsible citizens of the World'*

Principal Nancy Sanderson Swartz  
Deputy Principal Andrew Gregory  
Head of MYP Hege Myhre  
Head of PYP Katherine Hamson

November  
2009



## Principal's News



Dear Parents:

What a month! First: the landlord decided to finally repair the roof on the Red Building in the middle of a snowstorm and erected a safety fence around the entire building just days before the PYP Evaluation team was to visit. Good news is that the roof is now repaired and the last of the safety fence has been removed!

Second: MYP teachers organized a fun-filled House Day for all MYP and PYP students to give PYP teachers a training day to review their documentation, reports and planners before the IBO Evaluation team's visit to assess our Primary Years Programme (PYP).

Third: the IB Evaluation team arrived to review our PYP standards; to assess our teachers' collaborative planning, implementation, assessment and reporting policies and procedures; and to visit classrooms to observe our students' learning in action. During an all-day meeting with PYP class teachers, our substitute teachers were kept very busy, helping the language and PE teachers deliver classes for all PYP grades!

Fourth: following a very positive report from the IB Evaluation team - and in spite of fencing around the buildings that necessitated a change of meeting venues due to restricted access - teachers finished their Unit of Inquiry this week, and have begun preparations for our Festive Assembly to be held in the School Hall on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, beginning at 09.15.

Fifth: today we learned that the H1N1 vaccination consent forms, which we had sent home for your signature two weeks ago, are invalid as **BOTH** parents must sign the forms in order to have your child vaccinated. Vaccinations will also **NOT** be given at School, but at City Hall. Nancy Sanderson Swartz, Principal

## The Head of PYP's News

Another month over and so much has been happening in the PYP in November. Most significantly, was the visit from the IB Evaluation Team. This visit happens 3 years after the initial accreditation and then each 5 years after that. The purpose of the visit is to assess the PYP development and make suggestions for improvement. I am pleased to say that we received many commendations regarding our development, no urgent matters to be addressed and some recommendations for future development. The official report will come back to us in a few months and in the meantime we will continue in our development of programmes based on the IB recommendations. As you would know, the Primary Years Programme is not a static one, the guiding principal under which we plan and conduct the teaching and learning requires constant change and evolution.

The classes have been busy with their new Units of Inquiry through November, as well as cultural events scheduled by the Kommune, a Technology Fair at HIBU for the grade 2's, the Wyller Art Exhibition and much more. Soon we will start rehearsals for the Festive assembly to be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>, always a great chance to experience ways in which different cultures celebrate festivals. We hope you will join us for this event and further details will come closer to the date.

Warm Regards

Katherine Hamson

## House Day

On Wednesday November 4th we combined PYP and MYP for a House Day. The day began with an environment awareness activity - building shelters, clothing and furniture out of newspaper. Following this was a game called Shapes requiring good team cooperation. The day ended at Idrettshallen with races of every imaginable kind. We had great fun and the MYP teachers were highly impressed with the way our students took care of the PYP students and made them feel included. The winning house was Yellow with a total of 104 points.

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
Grade 4: Travel Show and launch of their cookbook

Grade 5 : Digging Deep

- ◆ Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
Festive Assembly

22<sup>nd</sup> December  
Reports





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## Grade 1 News



Happy Un-birthday! As part of our unit on celebrations, students all celebrated a class birthday. We ate cake and had ice-cream. Later we played musical chairs.



"I have a little dreidel"  
Students discussed about the celebration of Hanukkah. Each student then made a dreidel from milk carton. Later in the week, students played the dreidel game with their peers.

## Sverre Wyller Exhibition



Students were invited to attend the Sverre Wyller exhibition that was held in our assembly hall. This exhibition showcased art work that was created using recycled material.

## Grade 2 News



On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November Grade 2 joined other schools in Kongsberg at Høgskolen i Buskerud for an Eksperimentverksted (Experiment Workshop). Mrs Sanderson Swartz and Sharon Hewett accompanied the children to the workshop that day and it was a fairly long walk through the snow! The children had a chance to play in the first proper snow this year when they arrived. Activities included playing with big bowls of slime, constructing with straws and puzzles. Here are a few photos.



## Grade 3 News

Grade 3 spent most of October working on a unit called Water is Precious. We were making an inquiry into the ways living things use water, how living things share water, where water comes from and how we can conserve water for the future.

Grade 3 participated in a variety of learning engagements during this unit. We had a day without running water. This helped us to empathize with people in parts of the world who have to walk a long way to get clean water. We measured and graphed how much water we use in a day. Grade 3 used 8,459 litres of water in one day! This helped us to realize that we need to be more responsible in how we use water. Grade 3 also raised over 1,300 Kroner for a Unicef charity called Drops for Niger. It is a charity that builds water project for children in Niger. It was a great example of student initiated ACTION in the PYP.

If you are interested in seeing some of the work Grade 3 has done, please visit the display board opposite the library. This board was planned, designed and created by the students of Grade 3.



## Grade 4 News

Grade 4 have been working hard putting together their Travel Show for the 8th December. They have also been working collaboratively by combining their designs and ideas to make the cover for their cookbook. There will be a finished copy of the book for people to look at and order at the travel show. We will also have an open café. Parents are welcome to come between 14:00 and 15:00.

## Grade 5 News

Grade 5 have been continuing to learn more about the natural resources our world has to offer and the ways in which we use and abuse these. We have had a visit from the museum and will shortly visit the museum to learn more about our local geology as well as take a tour down into the silver mines. That is sure to be exciting!

## Grade 6 News

Grade 6 have been working on life cycles of living things. We have been focusing on plants. We made paper flowers, rolled up the petals and then put them in water. The petals unfolded. This showed us how water travels up the stem of a plant, through its cells, to the leaves and petals.



Using the things we have learned from this unit we have been growing plants from seeds and we are responsible for looking after them.



Assembly  
Attitudes in  
Focus

Grade3

Grade 2  
Integrity

Grade1  
Appreciation