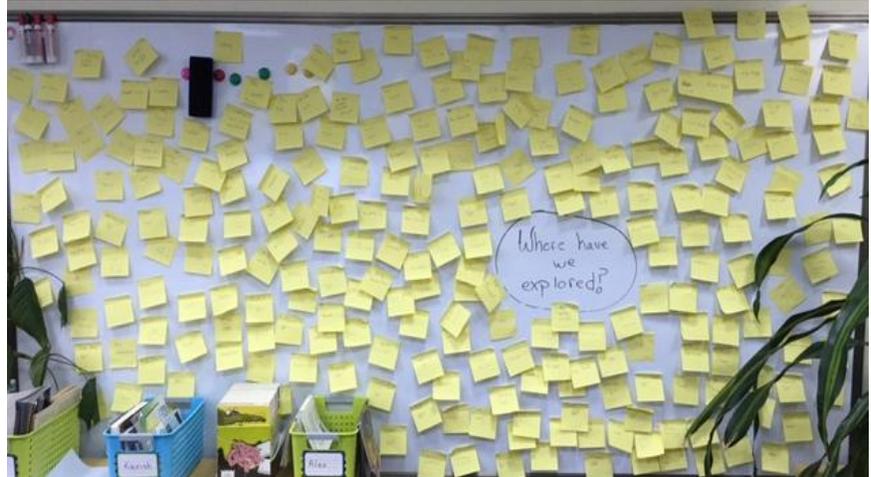


LS WEEKLY BULLETIN

Weekly Bulletin 5 | September 16, 2016 | Elizabeth Gale

Important Dates

- **September 19-29:** NWEA MAPs for students in Grades 2-5
- **September 30:** United Nations International Day of Peace
- **October 3 – 7:** National Holiday / No School
- **October 18-19:** Parent-Teacher Conferences



Dear Families,

The PAFA sponsored Welcome Back BBQ was a huge success last Saturday and it was wonderful seeing so many SCIS students and families enjoy the beautiful afternoon on campus. Thank you PAFA for all of your work and the organization that went into this event.

The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAPs

(Measurement of Academic Progress)
The MAP Test will be administered to students in Grades 2-5 between September 19th through the 29th. This research-based, computerized and personalized assessment provides real-time information on student abilities in Reading, Language Usage and Mathematics. Because MAP is a computer adaptive test, every student gets a unique set of test questions based on their responses to previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions get harder. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions get easier. By the end of the test,

As part of their inquiry into Exploration, Grade 4 students in 4K brainstormed all of the places they have explored! In Kindergarten students are inquiring into the roles and responsibilities of different community helpers.

most students will answer about half of the questions correctly. Teachers receive immediate results with MAP that show what students know and what they are ready to learn. For more information on NWEA MAP visit www.nwea.org

The **United Nations International Day of Peace** will be celebrated on September 30th from 10:00am – 1:00pm. The schoolwide celebration will include an assembly during which students will participate in the “Parade of Nations,” followed by an international Food Fair. According to the United Nations the UN Day theme for this year is, “Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace.” We look forward to seeing many parents on campus for this amazing event.



Nursery through Grade 5 classrooms are currently fully immersed in their first PYP **Unit of Inquiry** for the school year. Please read below to learn more about what your child is inquiring into each day.

Please note the **National Holiday and October Break** will take place from October 3-7. There will be no school during that week.

Warm Regards,

Liz Gale
Lower School
Principal



The Six Transdisciplinary Themes of the Primary Years Programme

As discussed in last week’s bulletin the “standards” or knowledge that students will acquire each year is one of the essential components of the written curriculum within a PYP programme. Teaching the standards in a way that is meaningful, relevant, significant and engaging is what sets PYP schools apart from those that take a more traditional approach to teaching and learning. As a PYP school many of the grade level standards are imbedded into six transdisciplinary themes that are considered vital in the context of a program of international education. These 6 themes share the following characteristics:

- have global significance—for all students in all cultures
- offer students the opportunity to explore the commonalities of human experience
- are supported by knowledge, concepts and skills from the traditional subject areas but utilize them in ways that transcend the confines of these subjects, thereby contributing to a transdisciplinary model of teaching and learning
- will be revisited throughout the students’ years of schooling, so that the end result is immersion in broad-ranging, in-depth, articulated curriculum content
- contribute to the common ground that unifies the curriculums in all PYP schools.



Every student in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will study the six transdisciplinary themes over the course of the school year. Students in Nursery / Preschool and Prekindergarten will focus on four themes each year. The six themes provide a basis for ongoing discussion and allow for both local and global perspectives to be explored. Each theme addresses a central idea that guides the unit and provides the children with an overarching idea regarding the unit content.

The six Transdisciplinary Themes are:

Who we are	An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.
Where we	An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys;

are in place and time	the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.
How we express ourselves	An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.
How the world works	An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.
How we organize ourselves	An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.
Sharing the planet	An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

Currently, all students are deeply immersed in their first unit of inquiry. Below is a table that outlines what each grade level is currently studying.

Grade Level	Transdisciplinary Theme	Central Idea
Nursery / Preschool	<i>Who we are</i>	<i>We are alike and different in many ways.</i>
Prekindergarten	<i>Who we are</i>	<i>As I grow and change, I discover new things about who I am and what I can do.</i>
Kindergarten	<i>How we organize ourselves</i>	<i>Everyone has a role to play in the community</i>
Grade 1	<i>Who we are</i>	<i>Understanding our roles and responsibilities in society helps us make educated decisions.</i>
Grade 2	<i>Who we are</i>	<i>People's awareness of their characteristics, abilities and interests shapes who they are as learner.</i>
Grade 3	<i>Who we are</i>	<i>Our culture shapes our perspective.</i>
Grade 4	<i>Where we are in place and time</i>	<i>Exploration leads to discovery and develops new understandings</i>
Grade 5	<i>Who we are</i>	<i>The human body has many different systems working together to help us function.</i>

Asking your child to talk with you about their current unit of study will not only give you further insight into their understanding, but also help you identify ways that you can help them extend their learning outside of school.

Source: *Making the PYP happen: A curriculum framework for international primary education*