

## PYP News...

### What is a Unit of Inquiry? (UOI)

Through the units of inquiry, the essential elements of the PYP (knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes, action) are synthesized into a meaningful whole, a coherent approach to teaching and learning. Teachers and students generate questions and inquiries that have a conceptual base and are relevant to the central idea of the unit. These central ideas are selected to enhance each student's understanding of issues of global significance, as expressed through the transdisciplinary themes. Classroom experiences are planned as a direct response to these questions and inquiries. The classroom becomes a centre of structured inquiry through which students acquire and practice skills, and build new knowledge. They do so in a climate that fosters positive attitudes, and offers opportunities for responsible action. Assessment of student learning focuses on the quality of the students' understanding of the central idea and the breadth and depth of their responses to the lines of inquiry.

Teachers develop ways to assess prior knowledge and skills in order to plan the inquiry. Teachers consider ways of assessing students' learning in the context of the lines of inquiry that support the inquiry into the central idea. This type of assessment is called formative assessment.

In the earliest stages of curriculum planning teachers ensure the summative assessment tasks are linked to the central idea of the transdisciplinary unit of inquiry. This summative assessment provides varied opportunities for the students to show their conceptual understanding. With these central ideas and assessment tasks in mind, activities and resources are selected.

The PYP programme of inquiry is defined by the six transdisciplinary themes that are considered worthy of inquiry regardless of the age of the student. These are: Who we are, Where we are in place and time, How we express ourselves, How the world works, How we organize ourselves, and Sharing the planet. Each theme is explored in a unit of inquiry that is planned and documented on a PYP planner. The PYP planner is a document designed to be used collaboratively between all teachers involved in a unit of inquiry and it is structured around a central idea and lines of inquiry.



Do you want a copy of the Basil Grumble Clay Animation? Bring a flash drive/ memory stick to Mr. Brandin and he will hook you up.

### Psychology & Counselling Service for Children

MZIS and International SOS are committed to supporting your child's wellbeing. Children and young people face a wide range of challenges in their journey to adulthood. If you have concerns about any aspect of your child's development, behaviour or mood or other parenting issues, and would like an appointment to discuss this in confidence,

Please contact: Fiona Paton Counselling Psychologist, International SOS Phone: 081338744018  
Email: [Fiona\\_Paton@fmi.com](mailto:Fiona_Paton@fmi.com)



# HIGHLANDS



Mount Zaagkam International School - TPRA

Issue 7 - Friday 30 September 2011

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Saturday, October 1: Community Fun Day 10:30 – 12:00
- Chili/ Cake Bake-Off TOMORROW 12:00 - 1PM
- **Monday, October 3:** Dress up as your favourite Book character.
- **October 6 to 18: Mid-Semester Break**
- October 7 to 9: IB-PYP training for teachers in Bali
- **Wed, October 19: Classes Resume**

## FROM THE PTA....

### PTA MEETING - 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Time: 6:30pm

Where: MZIS Library

*\*\*Please attend PTA meetings, we need a quorum to operate otherwise we cannot move on items for the benefit of the school and your children. One hour of your time twice a term.*

### HOT LUNCH – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011

### HALLOWEEN GRAVE YARD GROOVE - Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Time: 2 – 4pm

Where: Lupe

Volunteers needed for the Halloween Grave Yard Groove, please contact Yvonne Featherer email: [yvonnefeat@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnefeat@gmail.com)

**Reminder:** Shirts & Cookbooks for sale. 2012 Calendars soon.



### Farewell Trish Phyll

We want to thank Trish for all that she has done to move MZIS-TPRA forward these past four years. During that time, she has been a Kindergarten teacher, Librarian, and PYP Coordinator.

Her tireless effort to move us forward in the PYP accreditation process has been greatly appreciated. She has served our school and community well. She will be missed but we know she is not far away.

## Message from Blair...

We have had another busy week starting off with the Math Curriculum Night on Monday. It was great to have Patricia McLoughlin, Curriculum Director for MZIS, up in the Highlands for this information evening. The open dialogue with parents about the learning outcomes for our students was beneficial. I think we all walked away with a better understanding of the curriculum.

It was great having parents in the school to discuss the development of our students during Parent-Teacher conferences. It is always good to take time to sit down and reflect on how the learning of our children is progressing. These meetings also provide us an opportunity to establish a plan of how we can all work together to support the learning of our children. Thanks to the PTA for providing food for the teachers during this time. There are some amazing cooks in this community. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

A reminder that the Community Fun Day will take place this Saturday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Please organize a team with 8 members and let Liam know you are coming. If you do not have a team of 8 and you want to come out and enjoy the morning of activities come join us. I am sure there will be some team members looking for a substitute at some point ☺. I always look forward to having our families get together. Thanks to Bonnie Wilmot, and the PTA, for organizing the cook/bake off. I have had difficulty finding any Papuan wildlife to include in my famous Moose Jaw - Wild Game chili. I guess I will just have to find out if rats cook up as good as they say.

During the break the teachers will attend a PYP conference, held at the Bali International School. It will be great for us as a staff to strengthen knowledge, deepen understanding, and challenge our practices of implementing the PYP framework.

I trust you will all enjoy this break. Whether you are staying in Tembagapura or going to walk on the Great Wall of China I hope you will find time to rest, relax, and enjoy your family.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mark Brandin or me. We want to work with you.

Blair\_Lee@fmi.com  
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# BOOK CHARACTER DAY

WHEN: Monday, 3 October

WHAT: Come dressed up as a book character

WHY: To celebrate reading



## FROM THE STUDENT PARENT HANDBOOK 2010-2011

### 2.3 Student Attendance

Students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time in order to receive the maximum benefit from the instructional program and to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. **There is a direct relationship between good attendance and school success**, therefore we ask parents to make every possible effort to plan family vacations as per the school calendar.

If a child is ill and will not be attending school that day, please call the school office so that the teacher can be notified. Illness, especially in the tropics, can be very contagious; consequently we encourage you to keep your children at home if they are ill.

In the case of a medical or emergency situation, the school will work with parents on missed class lessons. Any student attending other schools during periods they are absent will be asked to verify their attendance with records.

Circumstances beyond the family's control (e.g., visa trips) may require a student to be absent for an extended period of time. In such cases the teacher will try to assist the student with make-up work, in advance of the absence, for the student to complete while on leave. However, whenever possible, *the teacher should be provided with at least one week's notice of the planned leave*. Work missed and not made up will affect the student's grade.

*School policy mandates that any student who registers more than 20 unexcused absences will not be promoted to the subsequent grade. This information will be conveyed to receiver schools in the case of school leavers due to families leaving jobsite.*

Copies of School Calendars in front office.



Gwen Nel Pre 3 & 4



Joshua Blundell - Grade 2



Selina Eshie - Middle School

# Congratulations MZIS Risk Takers



Junior Marges - Grade K



Janet Warren - Grade 3



Tristan Sleep - Grade 1

## 2011 MZIS CHILI/ CAKE BAKE OFF SAT, OCT. 1ST - NOON

### CAKE CATEGORIES

#### Students Categories:

- Best decorated Pre 3 - G 3
- Most Colourful Pre 3 - Gr 3
- Best Decorated G 4 - G 8
- Best use of colour G 4 - G 8

#### General Categories:

- Best Decorated
- Best Themed (book or movie)
- Most unusual ingredients
- Best Gluten Free Cake
- Best Tasting Non - Chocolate / Tasting CHOCOLATE

Parents can bake the cake, but not assist with decorating. Cakes can be cut in 2 for multiple students to enter, so let the frosting fly and the sprinkles splatter!



### CHILI CATEGORIES

- Best Chicken
- Best vegetarian
- Best Beef
- Best use of spices
- Kids Favorite

Please refrain from using pork in the chili so all families can enjoy. Chili is an easy dish to make, check out some recipes on the internet.



We still need pans of corn bread, biscuits and bread. Please contact Bonnie: [bonnicannewilmsat@gmail.com](mailto:bonnicannewilmsat@gmail.com) or 351859 or to let me know if you will be bringing a chili dish, cake or bread. I need to know how much chili/ cake for catering.