



The International School's TIS News is published three times per year to update our community on school programs and activities. To subscribe, please contact Marketing Director Linda Bonder, LBonder@intschool.org, 503-226-2496 x104. We do not share our mailing lists.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S TIS NEWS



TIS grad helps Latinos in crisis

The lineups at Portland's Northeast Emergency Food Program start at 10am even though doors don't open for another three hours, according to Kia Greene, Class of 2007 graduate from The International School.

The Ecumenical Ministries program meets the urgent food needs of Portland's North and Northeast residents who are living on the brink of crisis – many of them Latino immigrants. Last summer Kia volunteered for the food program to help

people in need and to practice her Spanish. The experience was a great success both for her and for those she helped.

The Northeast Emergency Food Program has two paid staff members and relies heavily on donations and volunteer support. Kia worked with clients who came for food assistance. She had to understand their needs, then bring them through the hallways to select proteins, carbohydrates, fruit and vegetables that met guidelines for each family.

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FALL 2008

The International School provides a multicultural environment where children are fully immersed in Spanish, Japanese or Chinese language and culture. Children become bilingual as they learn a full preschool & elementary curriculum with native speaking teachers, small classes, and high expectations.

The International School was founded in 1990 and today educates 396 students.

Inquiry-based learning: adopting the IB

"We cannot be the center, the child is the center," says 2nd grade Spanish Teacher Pilar Arias when she talks about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). "Before, I decided what the child should learn. With PYP, the children have the opportunity to create questions, so they are much more involved. As a result, they are more motivated. That is the main thing."

The Primary Years Programme is an inquiry-based curriculum framework for

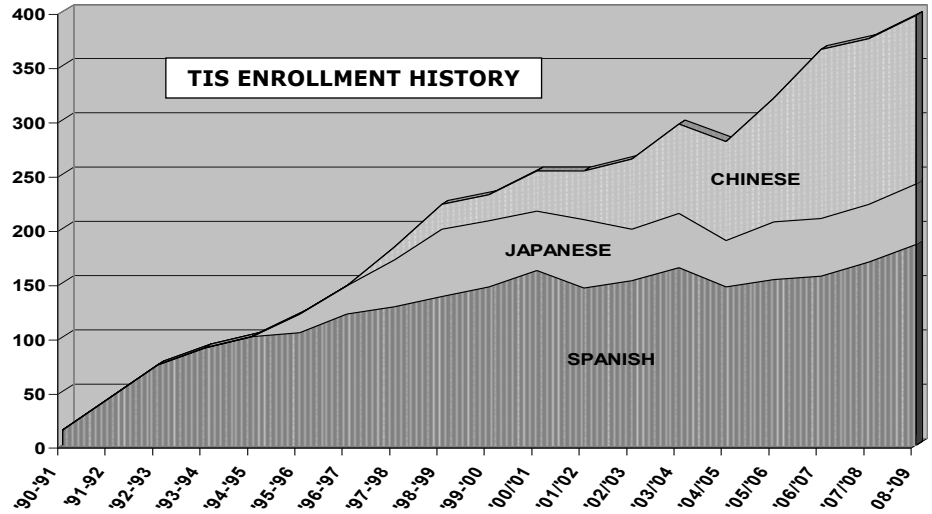
elementary education that is offered by International Baccalaureate (IB) schools. TIS is in the process of implementing the program as we transition into becoming an IB World School. The framework uses six transdisciplinary themes (at the corners of the hexagon below), six subject areas (in the outer ring), and five elements (the inside).

The PYP method requires students to participate in the learning process by asking questions, investigating, exploring, and

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**Where they went:
Classes '06 - '08**

East/West Sylvan	Public, Spanish magnet	16
Gilkey International Middle School	Private	8
Hosford	Public, Spanish & Chinese magnet	4
Beaverton International School	Public	3
Mt Tabor	Public, Japanese magnet	3
Oregon Episcopal School	Private	3
Jackson	Public	2
Metropolitan Learning Ctr	Public	2
Northwest Academy	Private	2
Trinity Lutheran	Private	2
Other public (1 student each)	Public	9
Other private (1 student each)	Private	5



Enrollment reaches new highs

TIS enrollment for '08-'09 reached a record high for the 17th time in the school's 19 year history. This year's 396 enrolled students represent a six percent increase over last year and a 24 percent increase over just three years ago. "We

have a record number of returning students this year, combined with as many new students as we had last year," according to Jan Williams, TIS Admissions Director. "The combination is making TIS stronger than ever."



8 year tradition continues

On September 5th the weather was warm and sunny as the children walked past teachers and staff shaking hands and greeting each other in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese.

"[The Handshaking Ceremony] is important so you know all the teachers and you know who they are when you

go up a grade," observed Carson, a third grade Spanish Track student.

From the teachers' perspective, it's pure joy to greet the new young students and to see the older ones return. The annual TIS Handshaking Ceremony was introduced in 2001 by former Head of School Bruce Bayliss.

**COME JOIN US
FOR THE AUCTION!**

We hope to see you for an evening of fun and fancy at The International School auction, November 8 at Montgomery Park. The auction is the school's biggest annual fundraiser, bringing in a net \$177,000 last year.

Please see www.intlschool.org/auction/ for details.

5th graders experience Japan first hand

The years of Japanese language, history and culture paid off handsomely for last year's fifth graders with their Capstone Academic Trip to Japan in May.

"The first week we went to Nagano to do a home stay," explained fifth grader (now TIS graduate) Zeami. "At first of course I was nervous, but I instantly became friends with my home stay brother Taku."

TIS students attended Nojiriko Elementary School with their host brothers and sisters, participating in classes and all school activities. "We did things like rice planting and math projects with the fifth graders there," Kindra recalled. "We even taught them some English games and songs like 'BINGO'. Near the end of the week, there was an assembly to share our cultures. We answered questions about ourselves and showed them a video we made of TIS and Portland. They did a special play about the town around their school."

In the second week, the TIS students and their families

went with TIS Sensei Yukako to visit Japanese historical and cultural sites. "First we learned about the place's history at school. Then to see the place with my own eyes was amazing," said fifth grader Kento. For classmate Kyomi, "when I saw the 1001 dolls of the Kannon god I had a special feeling and could feel the wind blow. I had a great experience and learned many things on the Capstone trip. Now I want to visit another Buddha and other temples and many other places."

"I have realized the differences between American and Japanese cultures more fully since returning home," said Kindra. "And knowing more about Japan has made me like it even more."

The Class of 2009 Japanese Track fifth graders will travel to Japan in late October 2008. In March 2009, the Capstone tradition will continue as the Chinese Track and Spanish Track fifth graders attend school and travel in China and Mexico respectively.



TIS grad helps Latino families (cont'd)

"At first the clients didn't talk much," Kia said. "But once they realized I could speak Spanish, they would wait to work with me each time they came in. Then they would talk and talk and talk. You start to know them, you're talking to them, and you feel bad that you can't give them more food."

There were many times when Kia was the only Spanish-speaking worker. She saw that "other volunteers would get really frustrated when they couldn't communicate, and that would make the clients frustrated too. I felt good to be able to communicate with the Spanish-speaking families, but I also felt bad because they couldn't converse with anyone else."

"Kia is one of the brightest, most confident and fearless young people I have met in years," said Jennifer A

Broussard, Program Assistant at the Northeast Emergency Food Program.

"She had no reservations about introducing herself to anyone: young, old, English speaker or not. It was very helpful to have a fluent Spanish speaker here, not only to help us get the information we needed but also to help the Hispanic community feel more at home. We all loved having Kia with us, and we hope to see her again in the future."

Now that Kia is back in middle school at NW Academy, she wants to volunteer at the Food Program on weekends. For now, she is using her Spanish mostly at school. After completing high school Spanish as a sixth grader last year, she is now getting school credit for being a teaching assistant in Spanish Level I. "Sometimes

it feels weird because I'm younger than students in the class," she says with a smile. "They try to whisper to me, but I say, 'hey, you can't do that, I'm grading your homework!'"

When Kia looks back at her International School experience, her Capstone Academic trip to Spain stands out as a highlight. "I thought (the class trip) wouldn't be so good because I had already been to Spain, but we each saw something different when we were there for Capstone. I still talk to the friends I made in Spain every day."

Kia's advice to current fourth and fifth graders? "Enjoy your last years at TIS, because when you leave, everything is totally different. I loved TIS because it was a community. I miss it, but I don't want to leave NW Academy."



Library receives IKEA grant

Thanks to IKEA, the TIS Multicultural Library Media Center is now a “kid-friendly environment that meets the needs of the library as an instructional space with lots of room for books,” according to TIS Librarian Tamara Fornell.

“Library use by all members of our community - teachers, students and parents - is up significantly as a direct result of our new furnishings which provide better access to our collection.”

The retail value of the grant was \$1,815.

Adopting the IB (cont'd)

engaging in hands-on learning opportunities developed with their teacher. In a typical lesson, a class first considers what they already know about a theme. They then create questions to reflect what they want to know. These questions guide the rest of the unit, as students explore the answers through research, projects, and experiments. A final step in the method allows students to reflect on the knowledge they have gained.

Recently, Pilar’s class studied a unit on Chile using the PYP method. The students began by brainstorming on Chile and making a concept map to assess their previous knowledge. Then the children came up with questions, things that they wanted to know about

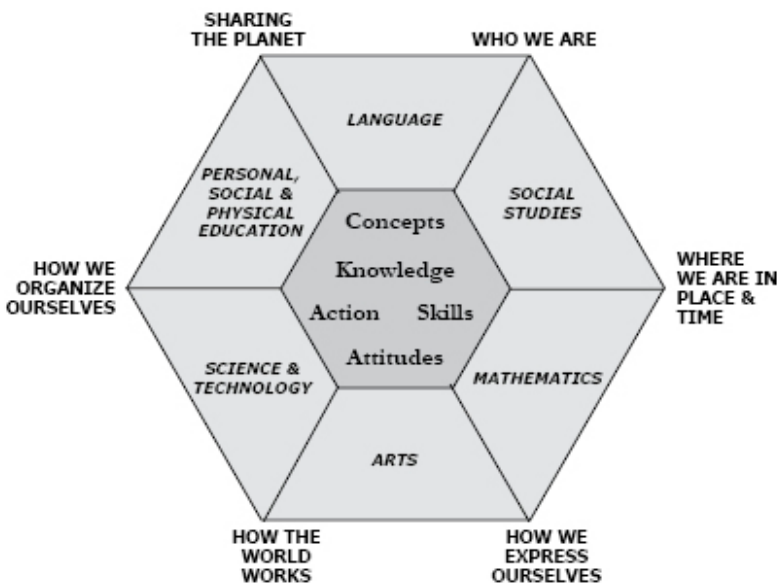
the country. “They love the questions. They own the questions,” beams Pilar. “When they feel some ownership in their learning, they are more involved.” The children researched the answers to their questions by turning to methods such as interviews and books. Finally, the children reflected on what they had learned through journal entries. As she looks through the journals, Pilar is impressed with how far they have come. “With PYP, you can see how much they have learned, really clearly see it.”

This year, Erika Kohn was hired as the International Baccalaureate Coordinator at TIS to help successfully implement PYP in our classrooms as we become an IB school. Erika has been

working closely with the teachers to assist them in putting the curriculum into practice. All teachers have participated in the first level of training, and two monthly faculty meetings are devoted to professional development in PYP. Additional training will come once TIS is officially recognized as an IB school.

Although the PYP is still in the early stages of implementation at TIS, teachers are already noticing a difference in their classrooms and are excited about the changes the new teaching methods bring. Pilar predicts that in the months to come, she will see more confidence in her students and more involvement in the classroom. Fourth grade Spanish teacher Maria Lira already notes that with the PYP method, “the children are more engaged in their work. They are happier and this makes me happier too.”

For more information on IB schools and the PYP curriculum framework, visit the IB website at www.ibo.org.



THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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**LANGUAGE, DIVERSITY,
 EXCELLENCE**