

Monthly Themes

Awareness of the Month:

Poverty Awareness

Poverty Awareness Month in January highlights the global issue of poverty affecting millions. It aims to raise awareness of poverty's causes and consequences, emphasizing the need for collective action to alleviate it. Poverty includes deprivation in education, healthcare, and basic necessities, urging discussions and initiatives for reduction. The month fosters empathy and educates about systemic factors like unemployment and discrimination, inspiring volunteerism and advocacy for economic justice. It underscores the dignity of all individuals and the importance of resources and support to thrive, igniting a movement for lasting change.

ATL Skill of the Month:

Information Literacy

For January, the ATL Skill of the Month is Information Literacy. This skill helps students effectively locate, evaluate, and use information. To develop this skill, students will research poverty statistics for a chosen state and create a poster to showcase their findings. Students will select a state and gather data on poverty rates, demographics, and contributing factors using credible sources like government databases and academic articles. They will then synthesize this information visually on a poster, incorporating statistics, graphs, images, and quotes for impact.

Finally, students will present their posters to peers, practicing communication skills while discussing the data's significance. This activity enhances information literacy, critical analysis, and understanding of social issues, promoting creativity and collaboration.

IB Attribute of the Month:

Thinkers

This month, we celebrate the IB Learner Profile attribute of Thinkers! Thinkers tackle complex problems creatively and critically, using reasoning to make informed decisions for academic and real-world challenges. Being a thinker fosters independence and initiative, encouraging students to evaluate information, question assumptions, and consider diverse perspectives. This attribute also promotes responsibility, as students reflect on their thoughts and their impact on others.

In our rapidly changing world, critical and creative thinking is essential. By nurturing thinkers, we prepare students to face challenges, innovate solutions, and positively influence society. Let's celebrate the power of thinking!



Educator Spotlight

Ms. Labarca



This month, we celebrate Ms. Labarca, a standout educator in Language Acquisition, who embodies what it means to be an IB Teacher in every sense. Her classroom is a reflection of the IB Framework, full of inquiry, global perspective, interdisciplinary connections, and rich, meaningful learning experiences. Step into her class, and you'll witness the ATL skills in action, especially communication, research, and social skills, as students explore language through the lens of culture, history, and human connection. Ms. Labarca brings the world to her students. Her lessons are inspired by her own global experiences and travels, making each unit feel like a journey. She doesn't just teach Spanish, she guides students to think like

cultural ambassadors, challenging them to consider identity, traditions, and the beauty of diverse perspectives. Her teaching transcends subjects, intertwining with the arts, humanities, and even science through collaborative projects. And more importantly, she herself is the learner, constantly growing in her IB journey, seeking feedback, attending trainings, and staying deeply committed to the principles of international education. Ms. Labarca inspires both students and colleagues alike. If you haven't visited her classroom yet, let this be your sign to go see the magic for yourself.

IB Ambassadors

Community Engagement



This quarter, our advisory program along with IB Ambassadors will begin introducing Community Engagement, an exciting evolution of what was previously known as Service as Action in the Middle Years Programme. Students will be guided to look beyond completing tasks and instead focus on connection, reflection, and meaningful action within their school and local community.

Through structured advisory lessons and reflective journaling, students will explore real-world issues, collaborate with peers, and think critically about how their learning connects to the world around them. Advisory will emphasize student voice, purposeful action, and reflection, helping students develop empathy, responsibility, and agency as learners and community members.

Families can look forward to seeing thoughtful reflections, growing awareness of community needs, and students beginning to see themselves as active contributors—not just participants. More details and examples of student engagement will be shared as this work unfolds.

STEP INTO HISTORY

Historic dates for the Month

January 1, 1863 – President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in Confederate states to be free.

January 3, 1959 – Alaska was officially admitted as the 49th state of the United States.

January 8, 1935 – Elvis Presley, the "King of Rock and Roll," was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

January 15, 1929 – Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, inspiring a global movement for justice and equality.

January 20, 2009 – Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States, becoming the first African American to hold the office.

January 24, 1965 – Winston Churchill, former British Prime Minister and Nobel Prize-winning author, died at age 90.

January 27, 1945 – The Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated by Soviet forces. This date is now commemorated as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

January 28, 1986 – The Space Shuttle Challenger tragically exploded shortly after launch, killing all seven astronauts on board and halting NASA's shuttle program.

January 30, 1948 – Mahatma Gandhi, leader of India's nonviolent independence movement, was assassinated in New Delhi.

Celebrations Around the World

January is a month of renewal, reflection, and hope, marked by global celebrations that welcome new beginnings and honor meaningful traditions. Around the world, communities ring in the new year with customs that celebrate family, culture, and purpose. In many countries, January 1st is celebrated with fireworks, resolutions, and symbolic rituals to bring luck and prosperity. In Spain, Latin America, and parts of Europe, families celebrate Epiphany or Día de los Reyes Magos on January 6th with parades, sweets, and the exchange of gifts, commemorating the journey of the Three Wise Men. Eastern Orthodox Christians in regions like Russia, Ethiopia, and Serbia observe Christmas on January 7th, gathering for liturgies and festive meals steeped in tradition. Mid-month, communities in Northern India celebrate Lohri with bonfires, music, and dancing to mark the end of winter and honor the harvest. In Korea, families prepare for Seollal, the Lunar New Year, with traditional foods, ancestral rites, and games that highlight respect and gratitude. January also brings Australia Day on the 26th, a national holiday that encourages reflection on history, identity, and reconciliation. And on January 24th, the world recognizes the International Day of Education—a call to action to ensure inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all. These celebrations and observances remind us of our shared human experiences—welcoming change, honoring the past, and looking forward with hope. They align beautifully with our IB Learner Profile attribute of Thinkers, encouraging students to reflect, question, and engage deeply with diverse perspectives and global traditions.

Upcoming Events

Franklin Games

Friday, Jan. 16th

Get ready for a day full of fun, friendly competition, and Franklin spirit! Our Year 3 students will take part in a carnival-themed game day, where teamwork, laughter, and school pride will shine. From classic challenges to creative twists, it's anyone's game

Literacy Week

Monday Jan. 26th - Friday, Jan. 30th

Get ready to turn the page into a week of imagination, inspiration, and the joy of reading! From January 26-30, we'll celebrate Literacy Week with daily activities that promote the power of storytelling, creativity, and lifelong learning.

Students and staff can look forward to dress-up days, read-alouds, book-themed challenges, and more! Whether you're a comic book fan, a poetry lover, or a chapter book champion, there's something for every reader.

National School Choice Week

Monday Jan. 26th - Friday, Jan. 30th

Join us as we celebrate National School Choice Week, a time to recognize the power of education and the opportunities it brings! From January 26-30, we'll highlight what makes our school community unique and honor the choices that families make to support their children's learning.

Students and staff will come together with yellow accessories, spirit days, and classroom shout-outs to showcase school pride and the impact of a high-quality education.



PTO Daddy Daughter Dance

Saturday, Jan. 24th

Get ready for a night of twirls, tunes, and treasured memories! The PTO Daddy-Daughter Dance is just around the corner, a special evening where daughters and their father figures come together for dancing, laughter, and unforgettable fun. Dress to impress and hit the dance floor for a night full of smiles, sweet treats, and magical moments. This is more than a dance, it's a memory in the making!