

ST. BONIFACE IB MATTERS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019

Dear St. Boniface Community:

How are we making sure the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) engages learners of today and tomorrow at St. Boniface?

St. Boniface first opened its doors in 1967. In 2004, St. Boniface became an Arts Focus School as part of a three-year Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS) funding initiative. Bringing the IB PYP to St. Boniface was part of the Edmonton Catholic School District's strategic planning. The community was particularly interested in, and excited about, becoming an IB World School. We started our journey on the road to authorization in 2008. After becoming an authorized IB World School in 2012, we have continued to improve our practice as IB educators.

Our school's vision is: *"As principled members of our Catholic community, all students will be empowered and inspired by the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme and the Arts to be socially responsible, lifelong learners"*. Our mission is: *"Guided by our Catholic faith, we inquire, create, and take action as globally-minded communicators"*. As you can see, we have intentionally aligned our mission to the [mission of the IB](#) because we are committed to a collaborative approach to developing our curriculum in a way that promotes inquiry and the development of valuable critical-thinking skills that our students will use throughout their lives.

Shaping the future begins early in the development of IB learners world-wide. What we, as IB educators at St. Boniface, instill in our youngest learners in their early years of education will grow into global, meaningful action in the future. Our PYP students will one day be independent adults responsible for making decisions, perhaps as politicians, educators, and leaders of the unforeseen world to come. They might hold positions which are now hard to imagine might exist.

We will then look back and ask ourselves a question: "Have we, as an IB World School, inspired them to take the lead on matters that we could not predict would occur?" The answer is not the kind that will be indicated by ticked boxes or written/verbal exams, nor indicated in research results based on surveys. The answer is rooted in the learning process itself – the experience which we provide and nourish; the critical, independent thinking which we encourage and provoke, the open-ended, authentic problem-solving challenges; and the kind of inquiry that sparks natural curiosity in which our students learn.

Sincerely,

Mrs. K. Werzun
IB PYP Coordinator

