

# MYP Newsletter

## Issue 3

### Contents

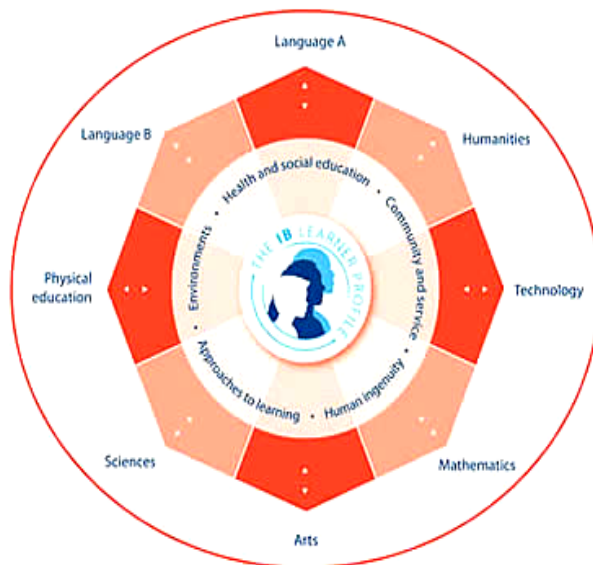
#### PAGE 1

- The MYP programme model.
- Parents meeting schedule
- Vertical Planning
- Parents' Questions

#### PAGE 2

- Quotable Quotes
- Year 7 Science Inquiry
- Faculty PD
- Mathematics portfolio

## THE MYP PROGRAMME MODEL.



The new MYP model representing the programme is finally out. It attempts to show the relationship between and among the following component parts:

- The central place of the student.
- The Areas of Interaction.
- The subject groups.
- The personal project.

The model shows the student at its centre. MYP students are at a crucial stage of development and the programme is designed to guide them in their search for a sense of place in their natural and social environment.

### Parents' Questions:

Please teach parents "HOW" to be an MYP parent. (Do's and Don'ts). We are mostly from the old school. Help us SEE and UNDERSTAND the paradigm SHIFT.

#### Answer:

Society is dynamic, things keep changing and we need to change with the times. It is important for parents to realize that educating an individual for life is key, not just educating one in order for him/her to pass examinations. Internalize the IB mission statement as the basic premise underlying the programme is embodied in the mission statement. This will help you focus on the kind of learner we all want. Take interest in what your child does in school. Support him/her by answering questions when he/she inquires about issues.

If in doubt or if you do not understand certain issues, find out from the teachers.

#### Do you have any other questions?

E-mail me at [nondi@akam.ac.ke](mailto:nondi@akam.ac.ke)

## VERTICAL PLANNING WORKSHOP



**Mr. Zubair Kassam explaining how the English department has been planning vertically through backward planning.**

The 3rd of April 2008 saw parents being taken through vertical planning at AKAM. Mr. Zubair Kassam reiterated the importance of backward planning where the teachers start by looking at what is expected of the students at the start of the diploma programme. He used the example of the English Department planning where the teachers looked at the number of texts and their diverse settings to determine what kinds of texts would be suitable in the preceding years.

### Parents' Information Evening Schedule:

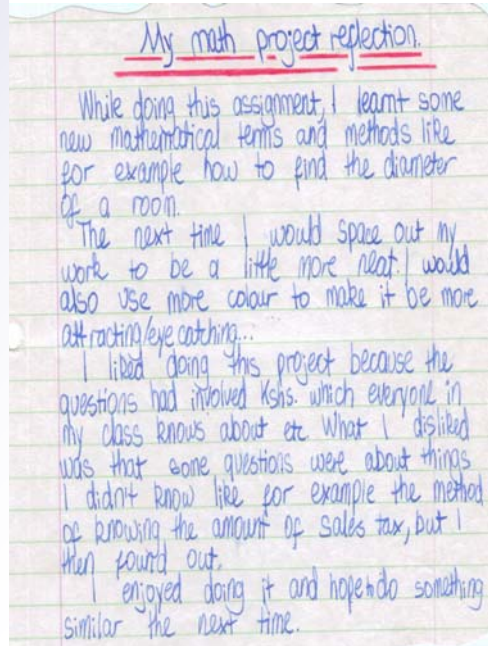
Our next series of meetings, as communicated earlier Will be as follows:

- Human Ingenuity – **24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.**
- Health and Social Education – **8<sup>th</sup> May 2008.**
- Approaches to Learning – **22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008.**
- Questions and Answers Session – **29<sup>th</sup> May 2008.**
- Environment – **12<sup>th</sup> June 2008.**
- Community and Service – **19<sup>th</sup> June 2008.**

We hope you will take this opportunity to come and familiarize yourself with the programme.

The year 7 Math class completed a project over the April break. The guiding questions were:  
 Why would knowledge of area and geometry in mathematics be of any use to a designer, architect and surveyor? In what way can knowledge of areas of shapes help you?  
 The task involved the year 7 students acting as contractors, to find out the cost of the job of decorating a 3-bedroomed house and then determine how much they would charge the owner of the house for the job. They were provided with a plan of the house and some information to support. They were required to interpret the plan of the house and using imagination and creativity determine the costs of plumbing fixtures, applying wall papers on walls, applying paint on the ceiling, costs of carpeting the house, cost of fitting curtains, determine the number of fencing posts and labour costing.  
 Isabelle Wenger's reflection after the project was:

### MYP Mathematics Portfolio.



The top cover of Isabelle Wenger's Mathematics portfolio.

### What is MYP?



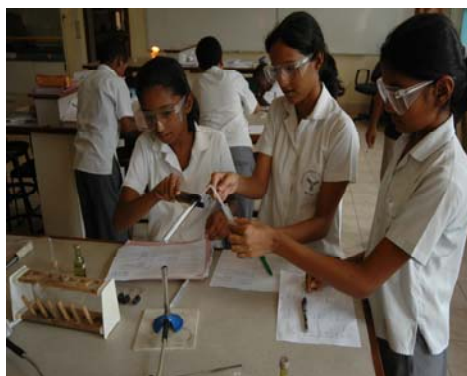
*I feel MYP has had a good effect on my organization and behaviour. Around school and at home I have become quite independent and learnt how to work with others. I was kind of scared at the news of this new program beginning, for I was informed that this system will include more assignments and projects, but as time passed I got used to it. In my first MYP report experience I made a goal that I will improve in my research method and schedule my homework, so that I don't go to bed at midnight.*

The senior school teachers' Wednesday MYP PD sessions started with earnest on the 16th of April 2008. During this particular PD day, a Powerpoint presentation titled "The Major Components of the MYP" was used to explain the links between various components of the MYP and how they work together to form a coherent whole. They include The IB Mission Statement, the IB Learner Profile, the Fundamental Concepts and the content and context. The mission statement provides the philosophical basis for the IB Learner Profile and the Fundamental Concepts. The major work for the teachers is to put their subject content in the contexts of learning using the Areas of Interaction.



We know, we know what the major components of MYP are, teachers seem to be telling the MYP coordinator.

### Year 7 Science Inquiry



The Year 7 class performing a scientific inquiry.

The year 7 Science class has embarked on a unit titled 'What's the matter?' The guiding question is 'How does the behaviour of particles affect our lives?'

The area of Interaction is Human Ingenuity. On Friday the 18th April 2008, the students performed a circus of practical activities to identify chemical and physical changes. In this photo, the students were heating a substance called copper carbonate and testing the resulting gas with lime water to see if it was carbon dioxide and thus prove that a new substance was formed during the change, and that the change is therefore a chemical change.