



Middle Years Programme

October 2, 2015

“Free the child’s potential, and you will transform him into the world.” Maria Montessori

The week at Camp Eagle certainly allowed students and staff to see beyond one’s own potential. We spent 3 days in nature without easy access to what we call “home.” Students were out of their comfort zones, with their peers, and lead in activities that caused them to stretch. What we know from this past week is that academics aren’t just about being in class reading, writing and producing assignments. It is far beyond that. It is often times the experiences we encounter, the relationships we build, and the challenges that come along with life as well is where deep learning takes place. This past week our Grade 6 and Grade 9 scholars experienced just that. They had the opportunity to tap into their emotional intelligence through experiences far beyond the classroom walls.

Our teachers and students spent the last three days participating in team building activities such as zip lines, super swings, rock climbing, archery tag, water activities, hiking and down time in old fashioned games of dodge ball and tether ball. The relationships formed and conversations with each other will last a lifetime. It was exciting to see students branch out of their comfort zones not only with building new friendships, but taking risks as well. Check out this video of 2 ninth graders and Mrs. Cawthra on the Super Swing. This certainly was an opportunity to build trust with one another and to overcome fear. Having this experience will be the building block for future experiences and learning.

Coach Burt and Mrs. Stack went on a Sherpa Hike with the grade 6 students. Here they had a bird’s eye view of the limestone and rock formations while working as a team to cross along a cliff harnessed in scaling a cable. Indeed amazing learning was taking place outside the walls of the classroom.

As IB learners students were able to reflect on the how and why of their experiences this past week. Many saw new potential they didn’t know existed in them and pointed it out in others. Even with tired bodies and dirty clothes, these kids are ready to roll up their sleeves and change the world.

Here’s to learning without walls!

Dr. Andra Barton
MYP Principal