



Westlake Academy

October 2, 2015

Dear Parents,

What an incredible week for our students. Our 6th and 9th graders have had a wonderful time at Camp Eagle. This week's communiqué contains photos from their adventures. I encourage you to peruse these. In addition, our 4th graders went on a field trip to the Black Land Prairie Raptor Center. Learning is happening in and out of our classrooms. This is exciting indeed!

I think that it is important for you to know that our staff in deepening our knowledge and expertise of the IB framework in alignment with our vision, mission and values. As such, we have explored inquiry's role in our students' learning. According to the National Research Council (2007), "the meaning of 'knowing' has shifted from being able to remember and repeat information to being able to find and use it." With this in mind, we promote an IB World Education grounded in inquiry and constructivism. Both of these constructs work in tandem to create a unique innovative approach to learning. "The power of an inquiry-based approach to learning is its potential to increase intellectual engagement and foster deep understanding through the development of a hands-on, minds-on and research-based disposition towards teaching and learning" (<http://www.teachinquiry.com/index/Introduction.html>). This approach to learning is directly aligned to the IB framework in that it promotes the construction and deconstruction of knowledge. More specifically, inquiry-based instruction provides opportunities for learners to explore and test their ways of knowing through the examination of how they know what they know.

I want to publicly thank our incredible teachers for their efforts. Our classrooms are full of exceptional learning experiences designed to capture your child's curiosity. It is a joy to observe your children as they learn. We ARE becoming the best place for teachers to teach and students to learn.

If you missed our Danish & Dialogue with the Principals, we invite you to attend our next meeting. [Click Here](#) to learn more... These are excellent opportunities for you to learn more about what is happening at our school and to ask any questions.

Finally, I want to encourage you to contribute to the 2015-2016 Blacksmith campaign. These funds are vital to our campus operations and support our exceptional learning environment. It officially began October 1, 2015.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mechelle Bryson, Ed.D.

Executive Principal/Director of Education

Westlake Academy, IB World School

mbryson@westlakeacademy.org; Twitter: @jmsbryson

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