LAKEWOOD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE Newsletter

Fall 2017

From Mrs. McGuire
LCA IB Co-ordinator

The 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start. Our Middle Years students are connecting content to concepts such as identity, logic, and systems. They are practicing the work of mathematicians, scientists, writers and researchers, and are creating and collaborating in active classrooms. Our primary students continue to bring the learner profile attributes to life. They are brave risk takers, caring friends, and open-minded inquirers. Through challenge, reflection, and fun, we all seek to grow as LCA Saints!

IB Learners Think Dimensionally

Mrs. Crabb's sixth grade design class tried something new to most —- 3D printing. They first had to become knowledgeable in working in 3D Computer Assisted Design software (CAD). Each student used the program TinkerCAD to design their 3D object within the parameters of the project. They discovered that much critical thinking is required when designing an object in a CAD program. When their design was complete, they exported it as a .stl file to be loaded to the printer. "Mistakes" in printing provided learning opportunities to better understand how 3D printing works.

TOUCHDOWN!!! MATH IN MOTION

Due to the generosity and open mindedness of LCA parent, Mr. David Jenkins, and the Cleveland Brown's Organization, LCA seventh graders spent a math class in October inquiring into football related mathematics at First Energy Stadium. The period was fast, furious, and engaging. Students traveled through four stations in groups of five.

Here are some of the questions that were raised during the experience:

How fast is my 40-yard dash time compared to a fast NFL player?

What is the relative (percentage) difference between my time and the NFL player?

Will my time in an 80-yard dash be double that of my 40-yard dash? If not, why not?

How might we efficiently estimate the number of seats in First Energy Stadium? What is a reasonable estimate?

How can we apply formulas such as the Pythagorean Theorem to plays on the field?

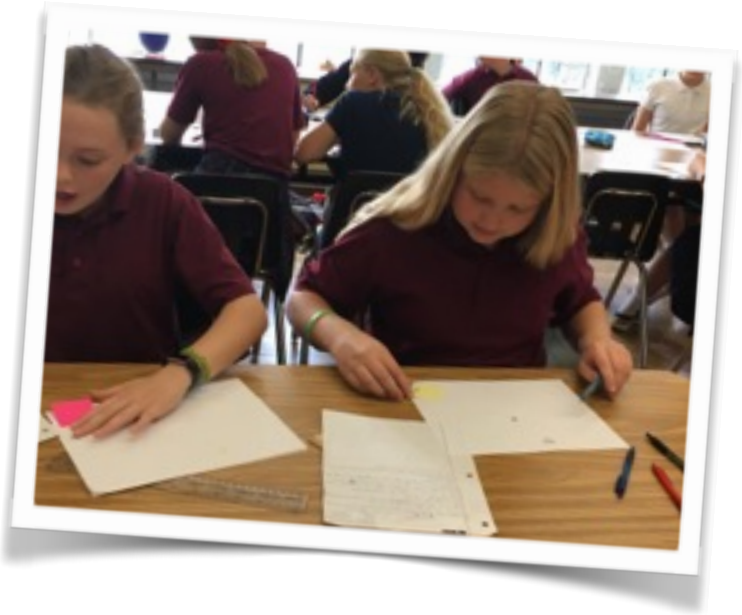
What math strategies can I use when presented with challenging problems and limited time?

This was an unforgettable opportunity, and one that linked physical and intellectual challenges. It also met an IB objective: connecting what we learn to contexts in our world. Our young mathematicians gained a new appreciation of the deep role math can play – everywhere.

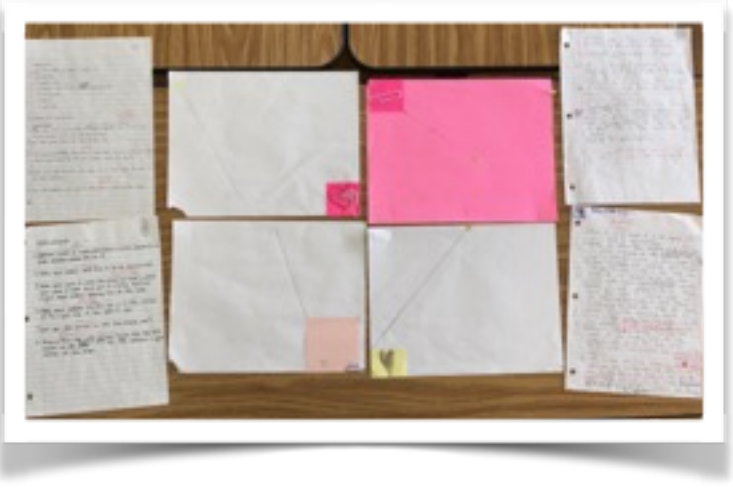
In addition to their time at First Energy Stadium, students also learned and applied economic theories at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, and communicated theatrically at the Key Bank State Theatre. Thanks to the generosity of so many Cleveland leaders, this turned out to be…

THE BEST DAY OF SCHOOL EVER!

Learning to Communicate



The sixth grade students learned to be good communicators and thinkers in an activity related to writing procedures for a lab experiment. After being provided with a design on a piece of paper, students were asked to write out the series of steps necessary for another person to recreate the same design. This is a necessary skill for scientists who try to replicate another scientist's work. The students had to think about incorporating important details in order to communicate how to recreate the design, another important skill in the scientific process. Each class was given a different design. After the writing activity was completed, each student received a set of procedures from a student in the other sixth grade class. Students were then asked to follow the written directions to recreate the design. As they followed the procedures, students provided written feedback. At the end of the assignment, students received their original written instructions as well as the design created by their classmate based on their instructions. They were then able to reflect on how well they communicated their procedures.



What's the Buzz?

Both first grade classes have been working on being knowledgeable communicators. In reading, they have been communicating with each other by participating in an activity called "buzzing". Buzzing is partner exercise that helps to promote listening and speaking skills. While buzzing, they have learned that they should look at the person speaking, listen to whoever is speaking, take turns, share ideas, and ask each other what thoughts they have about their reading.

sCaring Away Hunger!

After spending the first few months of school focusing on the IB characteristic of Caring, our kindergarten and preschool students participated in their first social justice project, "Scare Away Hunger". The students asked the school community to bring in a nonperishable food item for families in need. On Halloween morning, the ghosts, goblins, unicorns, princesses, and superheroes paraded through the halls collecting the items that were so generously donated. The students are so proud to announce that they doubled last year's collection of 500 pounds and collected an incredible 1,100 pounds of food! Even the smallest of saints can make a difference in our world!

Beyond Words

On October 16, the birthday of Noah Webster, each LCA third grader was presented with a dictionary by the Rocky River Rotary Club. These books not only include word definitions but also facts about the presidents, states, and other countries. The periodic table, the Braille alphabet, and sign language are also included. The boys and girls were very anxious to begin using their dictionaries and look forward to becoming more knowledgeable throughout the year!

Making Connections

In a weekly class segment entitled “Le Coin Culturel", seventh and eighth grade French students are becoming knowledgeable about various aspects of French culture. Recently, they learned about the important role that bread plays in French life. They also learned the rules of etiquette when eating bread in France and compared and contrasted those rules of etiquette with those in our own country.