

# LAKEWOOD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE NEWSLETTER



### Our IB Journey Continues

*As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of the team that will visit LCA in March to determine if we can officially be designated as an IB International School, our teachers continue to grow in their knowledge and understanding of what it means to be an IB school and to develop teaching units that reflect the IB philosophy. As you will read in this Winter Issue, our students certainly engaged in some creative activities over the last few months!*

### Eighth Graders Create Haka Dances



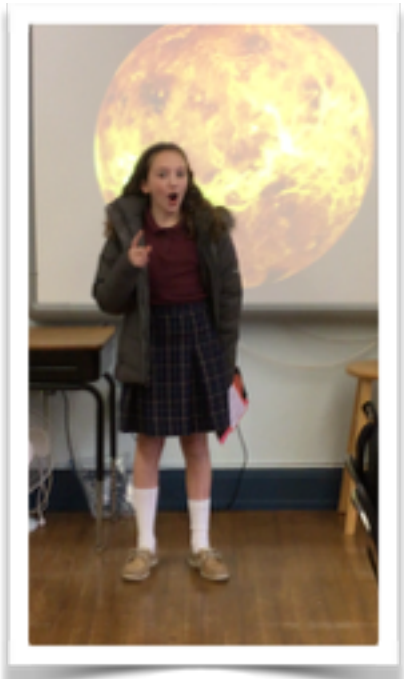
video link - <https://youtu.be/K01qwhmqV2M>

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade created Haka dances with a social justice theme in their physical education classes. The Haka dance is a

traditional New Zealand war dance that is characterized by vigorous stomps and chants. It was originally performed by warriors before a battle to proclaim their strength and prowess in order to intimidate the opposition. Haka dances are now performed for various reasons: to welcome distinguished guests or to acknowledge great achievements, special occasions, or funerals. They are also performed in a school setting to honor an administrator or teacher who passed away. LCA students practiced their communication skills and were enthusiastic risk takers when they presented their dances in front of their peers.



## Science and Math



video link - <https://youtu.be/vvEzKnT4Tbw>



The fifth grade students have been studying astronomy and working hard as communicators to inform their audience about different planets in our solar system. Student were assigned a planet and asked to create an informational travel brochure for that planet. As part of the project, students also created a short commercial advertising their planet. Students creatively expressed themselves through their writing and collaborated effectively with group members as they shared their thoughts and ideas.



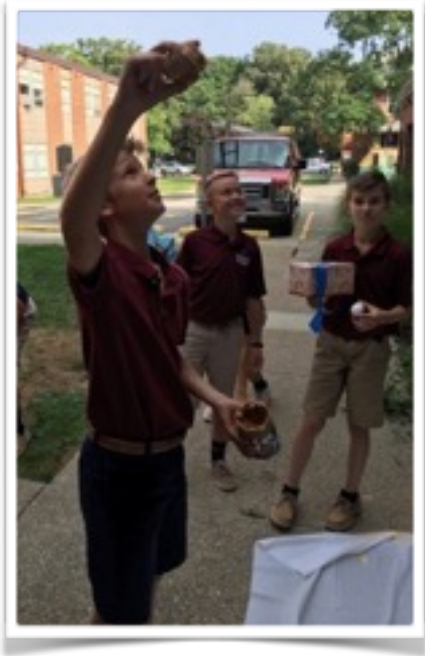
The sixth grade studied the properties of matter, which when observed and measured, serve as evidence in its identification. Within this unit the students demonstrated the IB profiles of risk-takers and inquirers as they explored the concept of volume and refined their scientific skills during a lab experience. They also learned how to reflect upon the work they completed during a science lab.





## ... and More Science and Math

Year Three (8th grade) science students explored the process of design. Students were challenged to design an apparatus that would keep an egg intact from a 20 foot fall. The students were provided with a small amount of materials and were instructed to collaborate with a team to design an apparatus within a 40-minute period. After testing the designs, students discussed the qualities that kept the egg safe. They reflected on the designs that failed and discussed how they can grow from defeat. Subsequently, they were given the assignment to redesign the project, this time working alone with unlimited materials.



Fifth and sixth grade mathematics students demonstrated their knowledge of geometry in a creative way by designing and constructing geometric Christmas ornaments. The festive polyhedrons decorated the “geomeTrees” within Mr. Jackson’s classroom. Students studied the properties of different 3D geometric figures and practiced applying area and volume formulas. The fifth graders focused on cubes and rectangular prisms, while the sixth graders examined triangular prisms, pyramids, and cones. All students constructed their own ornament, reported the dimensions of the figure, and calculated the surface area and volume of their individual ornaments. Students then presented their findings to the class and reflected on what came easily to them during the project and what was challenging.



## Individuals and Societies



Fourth grade students investigated various eras of U.S. and Ohio history, in order to create a multi-tiered timeline. The timelines covered approximately a 50-year period of time. Included in display were the Presidents, the significant historical events that occurred in Ohio at that time, as well as suffrage laws enacted or rights rescinded.

Students used a variety of websites to research their eras, including the United States Archives, the LBJ Presidential Library, the

Annenberg Foundation Classroom, and OhioHistory.org. After gathering their data, students created their timelines using a computer-generated program. Their results were impressive!

## Reflective First Graders



*Every Thursday, first graders write down one thing for which they are thankful. They take time to reflect on their blessings and are challenged not to repeat the same blessing from week to week. When their Thankful Theodore jar is full, they take time to read all their blessings.*



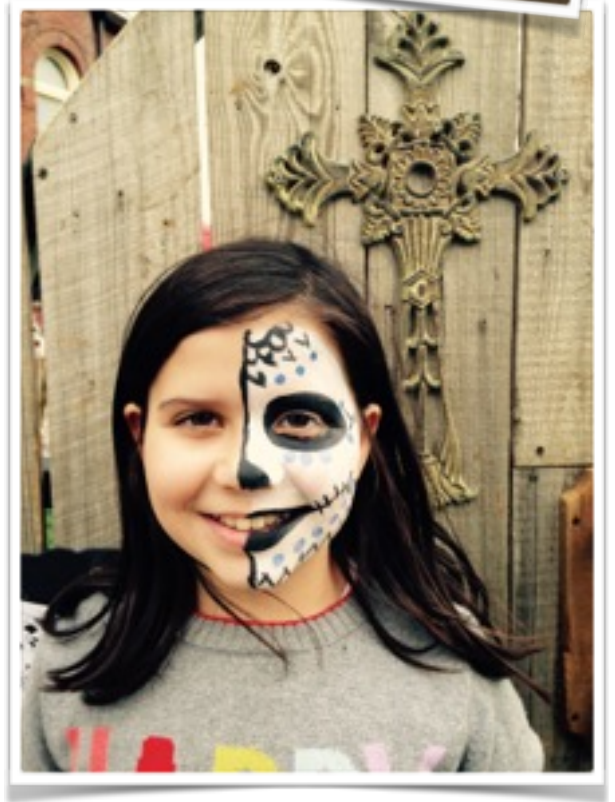
*First graders took time to reflect on Jesus' birth and what it must have been like to be there. They each took a turn praying to Baby Jesus and whispering their gift to him.*



## Language Acquisition . . . Spanish

During second quarter, Spanish students in Grades 5-8 learned about Día de los Muertos and the meaning of life and death in Mexico. They viewed videos about the holiday whose traditions combine Catholic beliefs as well as the beliefs of some of Mexico's indigenous tribes. October 31 is a day of preparation: readying the graves, building a family altar in the house, gathering items such as favorite foods of the deceased with the hope of attracting the dead back home. The following day, November 1 is dedicated to deceased children; November 2 is dedicated to adults. The purpose of these days is to remember and communicate in a spiritual way with deceased loved ones. On the night of November 2, the spirits and their worldly belongings are escorted back to the cemetery for another year.

Students decorated skull cookies and made an altar to their deceased loved ones. They decorated the altar with paper marigold flowers and some students brought in pictures of their relatives to put on the altar. Students also colored a skull or skeleton and wrote about how they would like to be remembered; as a generous person, a famous soccer player, or maybe a brilliant doctor.



The students were also invited to participate in the annual fiesta that is held at Gordon Square in Cleveland. Several of the students took advantage of the opportunity.