PYP- Newsletter Information Week 6 Term, 1

Over the last few weeks several staff members have attended a range of professional development opportunities in relation to teaching through inquiry method.

One of these days was facilitated by Kath Murdoch, an Australian educator, who had developed a method of inquiry to assist teachers when programming to extend student inquiry, general learning capabilities and learning.

Kath Murdoch’s definition (2011) for the inquiry method is that ‘it is an approach to teaching and learning that, in essence, involves students in the investigation of questions/problems/issues of significance. Through inquiry, we seek to develop students’ essential competencies as learners and equip them with a set of transferable skills and dispositions. Inquiry is an active, learner and learning centred approach, which aims to develop deep understanding- not surface coverage. Inquiry is as much a teaching ‘disposition’ or ‘way of being’ as it is a method. Inquiry goes to the heart of how we see our role of teachers-and how we see the nature of learning itself.

During each one of these professional development days there was a common thread about what 21st century learners require. The focus for these learners is to develop skills to think deeply and creatively, communicate effectively, research critically and efficiently, work collaborative, self manage learning and be ethical in decision making. All these desirable qualities are called diverse things in different documents, but these are the skills students require to transfer their learning from one area to another, and use throughout their lives. In the Australian Curriculum they are referred to as General Capabilities, Kath Murdoch calls them Learning Assets and the IB names them the Learner Profile.

The IB- Primary Years Program promotes these skills are central to learning. It is important that each classroom explicitly address these skills as they play a significant role in students becoming successful and active learners, confident and innovative individuals and ethical and informed citizens.

Just a reminder that we have set up an email address for you to email your questions about the Primary Years Program and the feasibility study. The email address is FeasibilityCommittee.HolyTrinity@cg.catholic.edu.au.

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