

Welcome to the Prep Press

November 2020



Alex and Sam's IB News Report

Fourth Grade

Observation Date: 11/23/2020

Since November 23 is so close to Thanksgiving, fourth grade was investigating the truth of what actually happened on the first Thanksgiving. They started by saying what they thought was true about it, and then got to see what the lesson was about. This means that they were being risk-takers because they said what they thought probably happened, even though it was before the lesson started. After that, they reviewed what the key concepts were and how/why they should be using them in their research. Then, they watched a short video about what actually happened at the first Thanksgiving that gave them a little background knowledge before they dove deeper. After the video, they worked with partners to look at primary sources and really get into the investigation. They were very IB- using quotes and taking notes, reading the sources thoroughly. This is a great example of being responsible, or principled, because they were doing their work. Finally, they shared what they had found and did independent inquiry, which means that they were being inquirers by researching the questions they had from the lesson.

Alex and Sam's IB News Report

Kindergarten

Kindergarten was learning about the different roles in a community and what those roles are for. They are showing strong IB traits because they are learning about many places in the community and IB learner should keep an open mind. They are also being balanced because they were not just learning all day they were taking breaks and doing yoga. They are also being thinkers because if they got a question wrong they would not give up and continued to problem solve. Overall in my short time observing kindergarten they showed lots of IB traits.

Oliver's Interviews

Principal Cofield is not new to being the principal, she has been principal at three schools (including a school for children disabilities) in Maryland. Prep has been the first public school that she has worked at. She has been working with the PTO and plans on working with them more in the future. She says that she feels with Prep's PTO programs we should open up more to the district, saying:

“Many people are shopping online and virtually, so it's a good experience.”

She believes that preps teacher are doing great.

“I'm really proud of the teachers for going above and beyond, trying to do their best to make their virtual experience great”, said Ms.Cofield.



Oliver's Interviews



She plans on having us go to school (physically) next year, but of course, safety measures are important. The problem is that for some kids, this is the only way of education that they know and they are not used to going to school in person. There are multiple pros and cons to online learning. If going back to school, the classrooms would be a bit different because of social distancing because we have this firm online platform, we can connect on days off. In conclusion, our new principal has significant experience and plans on being principal at Prep for as long as possible.

Oliver's Interviews

Disclaimer: these are not exactly her words but mostly

The Prep Press was excited to sit down with HP's new principal for a one-on-one interview.

Q1: Will you be working with the PTO, and if so what work will you be doing.

A1: Working on Green and Grounds, Keeping up with the garden and making sure the playground is clean. Another area is with the marketing committee, making sure we have information on social media sites. We also work with them to help build enrolment. We also 1. Work to acknowledge teachers, 2. Promote different events like Chalk-the-Walk.

Q2: Is this your first time being principal?

A2: I was principal at a private school called the Auburn School, and also at the Flex school, and was assistant principal called Chimes, for children with varying disabilities. This is my first time in a public school setting at a principal. She also worked in Prince George's County and in Philadelphia.

Q3: What do you think is the difference between being a principal and a teacher?

A3: The biggest difference is when you're a principal, you're thinking of the overall structure and mission of the school and how to push that forward. As a teacher, you're more focused on the class you're assigned to and trying to get those students to grow and make improvements. I look at it like an overarching, and the teachers do all the leg work helping with the students. The ultimate goal is that the kids have a good educational system.

Q4: How do you feel about Prep's online education?

A4: I'm really proud of the teachers for going above and beyond, trying to do their best to make their virtual experience great. When I go into the classrooms, I'm happy they are making the best out of a challenging situation. I'm proud of everybody for making the effort and love the the different things the teachers are using, taking advantage of the apps on-line. The virtual world has some pros and cons, but at Prep, we're doing a great job.

Oliver's Interviews

Disclaimer: these are not exactly her words but mostly

Q5: What things will you change from online education to actually going to school if we can next year?

A5: Of course, safety measures are important. The classrooms may be mapped out a little different. I think because of this experience, it's great to keep it going. So, I'm thinking about smart boards in the classroom and thinking of ways we can connect on a snow day or an off-day. She also would love to continue using Google Classroom and see Saw, for younger children.

Q6: If you could choose, would you keep online learning, or have us go back to physical school?

A6: I really think there is such a benefit to people connecting in person. Some kids started school for the first time, so they don't know what it's like. If we have the opportunity and it's safe for everyone, I'd like the opportunity to be in person. Of course, I'd like to have a plan in case something happens and we need to go back to virtual.

Q7: what did you think about the auction we just had?

A7: I would love for next time to open it up to the school district. Many people are shopping online and virtually, so it's a good experience.

Q8: How long do you think you'll be a principal at Prep?

A8: As long as I can be a principal at Prep.



To learn about our latest interviews and observations, click on our logo!



SS News

(Sonali and Sarah's news)

Hello and welcome back to SS News where you learn all the latest about virtual learning. In this issue we will compare a teachers perspective to a parents perspective of virtual learning. Enjoy! :D

This Month's Interviews:

- Ms. Frey (1st grade teacher)
- Ms. Keera (Parent)

In these interviews we learned what differences and similarities there were between the parents perspective and the teachers perspectives on virtual learning. An important question we asked both Ms. Keira (parent) and Ms. Frey was, "Are your kids able to get their work done independently?" In Ms. Frey's response she stated that most can and some need more help than others. She tries to make their work at their own level so that students can start doing it more independently. In Ms. Keira's response she stated that her fifth grader needs more help than her 7th grader but usually they thrive at getting their work done alone. This shows a similarity that in both of their perspectives they agree that the younger kids or just some kids in general need more help than others but most of them do well as long as the work is in their grade level.

Interviewing Ms. Frey

We interviewed Ms. Frey the second grade teacher. One of our important questions were, "Have you ever taught at schools other than Prep? If so which schools?". Ms. Frey's response was, "Yes actually taught at Curtis Bay and Marie Farring Elementary school in Brooklyn for 21 years now". Another question we had for Ms. Frey was, "What is it like teaching at a school you have never been to?" Her response was, "I was a little nervous at first, but as soon as I met all the people that I work with and all of my students they really put me at ease and my students were amazing and they really make my job enjoyable and Prep has been wonderful to work with". Another important question was, "Are there any difficulties getting students to get their work done?" Ms. Frey responded, "You know what, I think most of my students can get their work done but the biggest obstacle for them is that since they are seven and they don't always have an adult next to them some of them are struggling to open documents or submit their work but I think for the most part they are all trying really hard to get all their work done". And lastly, "Are your students able to get their work done independently?". She responded, "the majority of them are and some need more help than others but I'm trying to make their work easy for their ages so kids that are struggling at doing independent work, I tailor their work at them so they are able to do it more by independently." On the next slide you can read about the interview with Ms. Keira.

Interviewing Ms. Keira

Ms. Keira is a parent to a student at Prep. We interviewed her and are going to use some of her answers to compare her perspective of virtual learning to a teacher's perspective. An important question we asked her was, "Is it difficult for your child to get ready and prepared?" Her answer was, "Ok so I have two children a seventh grader and a fifth grader and I would say some days are more challenging than others preparing for virtual school, and it has a lot to do with the fact that you know because sometimes they stay up late so it is harder to get up on some mornings than other. Its harder to just be up, eat breakfast and just be ready, so yeah some days are harder than others". Another interesting question we asked was, "Is virtual school easier as a parent or do you prefer your kids at in-person school?" Her response was, "As far as learning goes I would say I miss the one-on-one and them being in person with their teacher and I think it's better to physically be in front of someone learning a new skill in a different grade it's easier for my children to connect in someone's physical presence. But the teachers have done a wonderful job teaching virtually and I am happy how its going so far. But I would rather them be in-person" Another question was, "Are your kids able to get their work done independently?" Her answer was, "Yes my children have been doing wonderful with getting their work done and logging in to the different platforms and they have been very responsible with always logging in and making sure their assignments get completed. My fifth grader does need a little more help than my 7th grader but so far they are doing well". Another question was, "What is your perspective of virtual learning do you hate it or do you love it?" I actually love it I think its cool, and the teachers are always working above and beyond to help their students and I think it's good." Thank you Ms. Keira for letting us interview, we enjoyed the information. And that is all for today, hope you enjoyed!

Linguistic Learners

المتعلمين اللغويين

Bonjour (Hello) and welcome to our second segment of, Linguistic Learners! If you didn't already know I'm Sarah and I'm bilingual. In this issue we are going to be talking about the, French language! French is spoken throughout France. It originated in Gaul and evolved from Latin spoken there, more specifically, Northern Gaul. French became an official language in the year of 1539. French is also the only language, along with English, that is taught in every country of the world. We also interviewed a student here at Prep who speaks French, Bastien from the third grade!

**Don't worry even though we aren't talking about Arabic I will still include 5 beginner Arabic words in this publish. Here they are ↓*

5 beginner Arabic Phrases for This Month:

1. ما إسمك؟ (mā 'ismuk?) what's your name?
2. أنا ('anā) I am (then you can say your name)
3. تشرفنا (tašarrafnā) Nice to meet you!
4. شكراً (shukran) Thank you
5. عفواً ('afwan) You're welcome

Interviewing Bastien

Like I said before Bastien is a bilingual student in 3rd grade who speaks French. I

interviewed him and an important question I asked him was, “What are some advantages of virtual learning?”. Bastien’s response was, “So French has a lot of Latin roots and so you can use those roots to understand the words and to speak French but there are also some advantages in math that French gives you.” Another question was, “Do you know how to read and write or do you still study?” The response from his mom was, “Bastien is bilingual because he can speak, but it is harder for him to write or read. But sometimes he can write or read but not as good as in English.” This was actually true for a lot of bilingual people like I actually am kind of the same I can speak Arabic fluently but I am still working on reading and writing. Also a little bonus quote from Bastien’s mom that I thought was very interesting was, “Your brain is kind of magical, how it just knows when to speak French, or Arabic, or Spanish, or Chinese.” It is true and fascinating because at a young age Bastien’s sister spoke in French and didn’t know it wasn't the same as English. She spoke different languages to people sometimes and now as we grow we just know when to speak these different languages. Sometimes even now my brain is kind of tired or bored and then accidentally I say something in Arabic without realizing.

This was all for this publish, I hope you enjoyed reading and learned a little something from different perspectives about being bilingual and the French language. Goodbye!

Will's Pills

Welcome back to Will's Pills! If you are new to this blog and you didn't read about my article about the BEEP last time (sorry I can't tell you but you can read about it *link below* open for everyone!)

This blog is about diseases from the past and how they are cured. Today I will talk about Arthritis. Arthritis is an inflammation of one or more joints. The most common joints arthritis can be in is your ankle, ankle, back, wrist, hand, fingers, and lastly your neck. Arthritis can be common in older adults, the pain gets worse as time passes. The symptoms include stiffness, muscle weakness, difficulty walking, decreased range of motion, pain in general, and swelling.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LDvNnN1SYMbb0MnThvoBYP1Q3x0179_BS5wNEmvghkJE/edit?usp=sharing

!

= last link please press for more info!!!!

Alex's Animals

In this section, we learn about one culture and an animal that was or still is sacred or important to that culture. November is Native American Heritage month, so we will be talking about ravens, as they were sacred to the tribes of North America.

There were lots of different tribes dotted around everywhere in North America. Native American tribes highly valued and respected nature and the Earth. They also created instruments out of natural resources such as wood and animal parts (hides, bones, ect.), and did dances and rituals to honor the Earth, spirits, and were very resourceful.

*Ravens are very smart- so smart that they are one of the smartest birds on Earth. They have purple-black iridescent feathers, black beaks, and black eyes. The scientific name of the common raven is *corvus corax*. In Native American mythology/religion, the raven was the creator god, and created the stars and the moon. He was known as a trickster and sometimes a thief, and was mischievous, loud, and sarcastic. He was a powerful figure and was not exactly considered a god, but a transformer. The raven was (and in some ways, still is) important to Native American culture/religion because it was such a big part of their mythology.*

Alex's Animals

Here is a picture of a Native American depiction of a raven (left) and an image of an actual raven (right)



Adams book reviews

Welcome LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! Prepare for the blast of your life! This will be the best book review you have ever heard!

Time to start the book. I will be telling you about a book called Big Nate. It is about a 9 year old kid that goes to school. His name is Nate. He has two buddies. Their names are Teddy and Francis. Nate's dad is the worst cook in the world. One time his dad gave him turkey for 1 whole week . Nate school's name is p.s.38. His school stinks at sports. Every time they go up against their rival school called the Jeffersons school, they lose to them. They even lose to them at math. When Nate got to the school stuff changed. The started to figure out that Jeffersons were winning everything for a reason! It is definitely worth a read!



Piano Predictions

With Sonali

Hola, and welcome to our second segment of Piano Predictions. In this issue we will be discussing a child's perspective and an adult's perspective of piano. We will be comparing and contrasting those two perspectives. Let us get started with our expectations for when we have our interviews. We will expect Ms. Owen to give us information on what inspired her to play piano and explain how she expresses herself through piano. Our expectations for Ibrahim are to learn how much experience he has playing the piano and, if he feels comfortable playing the piano.

If you want to learn more about our interview click on our logo!

Upcoming Interviews

- Ms. Owen (music teacher at F.H.P)
- Ibrahim (First grader at F.H.P)

Did you know the piano was first called gravicembalo col piano e forte, which roughly translates to "soft and loud keyboard instrument."

Essential Question: "What is your perspective of piano?"

Interviewing Ms. Owen

Here is what we learned from our interview with Ms. Owen for the similarities and the differences for her perspective of piano. Here are some interesting answers we got which are, "how do you express yourself through the piano?" "So I like to play the piano a lot when I am sad or happy, it has some strong emotion and it makes me feel that emotion more, so I express myself through the piano by playing songs that have the emotion I am feeling." What inspired you to play the piano?" "Well I started playing the piano when I was a little kid and I did not like it, it was very boring to me "And then I started to play piano when I got older when I started to sing more" I got more into it because I could sing songs I heard on the radio and learn them and so then it became something I really wanted to do, because I could listen to something and try to figure it out" Those were the two important questions I asked and I hope you got a good perspective about piano from Ms. Owen the music teacher at F.H.P.

Essential Question: "What is your perspective of piano?"

Interviewing Ibrahim



Here is our information from our meeting with Ibrahim. Here are two answers we thought were best to support our question "What is your perspective about piano?". My first question was, "When did you get into the Piano?" His response was, "when I was in kindergarden". Another question I asked was, "how long have you been playing the piano?" His response was, "for a long time, one year". Another of my questions were, "Do you play sad or happy songs when you are feeling that kind of way?" He said, "yes I like to play Happy songs". And my last question was "did you ever think piano was boring when you first started?" Ibrahim said, "no I did not think it was boring". Well, that was all for our interview. I hope you liked Ibrahim's perspective of piano. In our next article we will compare and contrast the two perspectives to find out what is the difference between a child's perspective and an adult's perspective of piano. If you want to find the difference and similarities between a child's perspective of piano and an adult's perspective, click on our logo! Enjoy!

Essential Question: "What is your perspective of piano?"

Similarities and differences (Piano Predictions)

Contrast / Differences

- ❖ Ibrahim did not think the piano was boring when he started playing but, when Ms.Owen first started she thought it was boring.
- ❖ Ms.owen stopped playing the piano for a long time but then continued her progress.
- ❖ Ms.owen started to play the piano a long time ago, Ibrahim has been playing for a year
- ❖ Ms.Owen is not just a piano player she is a music teacher at F.H.P

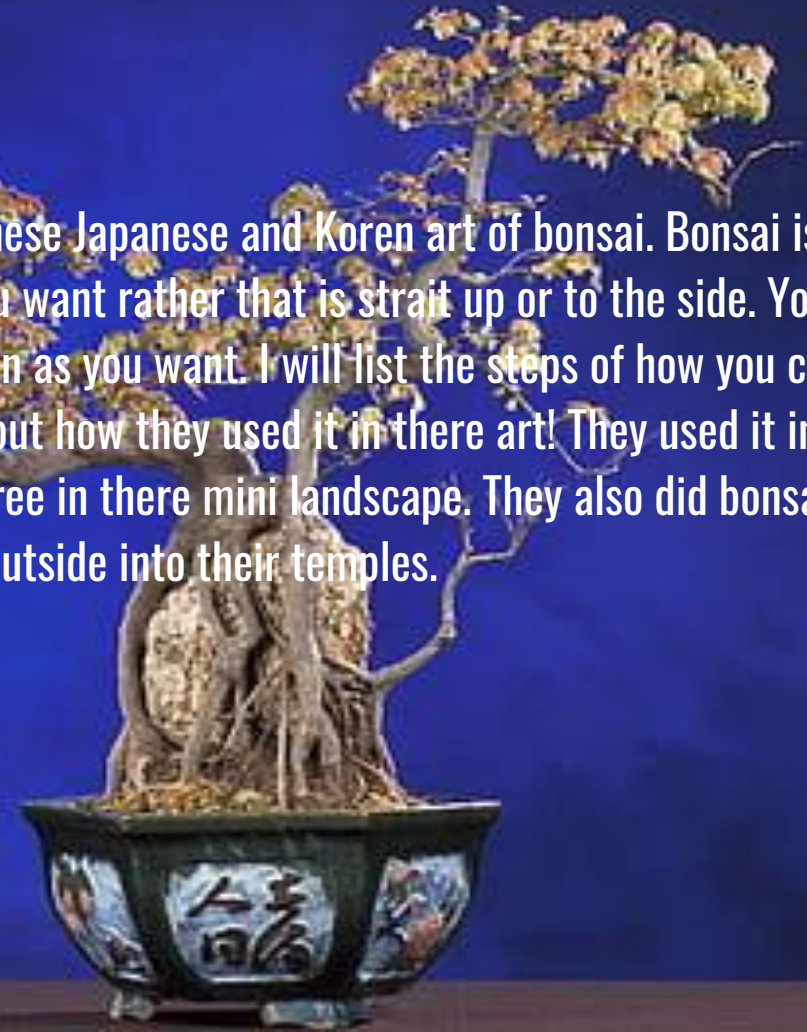
Compare / similarities

- ❖ Ms.Owen plays sad and happy songs when she is feeling that way so does Ibrahim.
- ❖ They both started playing the piano at a young age.
- ❖ They both enjoy playing the piano a lot.
- ❖ They both have experience of playing the piano

Essential Question: "What is your perspective of piano?"

Sam's Tree Talk

This month we will be learning about the Chinese Japanese and Koren art of bonsai. Bonsai is the art of training a tree to grow it in a way that you want rather that is strait up or to the side. You can also make the leave gatherings as thick or thin as you want. I will list the steps of how you can make your own bonsai, but first I will teach you about how they used it in there art! They used it in there mini landscapes for the trees if there was a tree in there mini landscape. They also did bonsai because the Bhudist monks wanted to bring outside into their temples.



The Steps to Making Bonsai

1. Buy a young tree and/or Bonsai starter kit

2. Prune your tree to make the leaf gatherings as big or small as you want

3. Put wire on the branches to make them grow in a specific direction

4. Prepare the bonsai soil mix

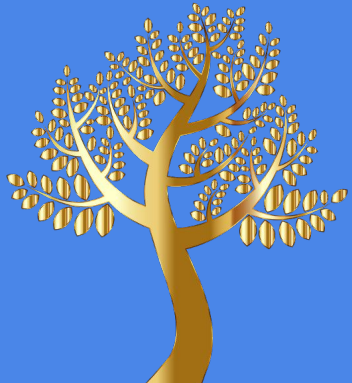
5. Prune roots and repot as well as loosening the roots you can prune away about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the roots

6. Water and remove wire after 2-3 months so the tree does not get damaged

For more info go to <https://www.bonsaiempire.com/basics>

The model

Here is the bonsai i made out of wire.



Aedans athletrices

The U.S. Open returns to Torrey Pines in San Diego June 17-20, with the British Open, which was canceled this year, but will t return in 2021 at Royal St. George's in Southern England Sandwich, Kent from July 15-18. And even though it's an odd-numbered year, the upcoming season also will include the Ryder Cup.

Aedan Joyce



Coordinator's Corner

The mission statement of the International Baccalaureate organization is:

The [International Baccalaureate®](#) aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Our student journalists have had another month of working tirelessly to share with you some of the ways in which our school is striving to develop practices, principles and students who embody this mission statement.

Assisting these amazing young scholars is a privilege and brings me a great sense of comfort, in that the future of our world will be in the hands of these committed, passionate and brave students. Their work is a testament in part to the work of the teachers in our school who have been working tirelessly to develop a [Program of Inquiry](#) (school wide curriculum) that will engage students and address 21st century concerns. The work of our journalists is also evidence of the determination and commitment to education in all of our Prep students.

Happy December!

Ms. O

Prep Press Staff

Alex Eller is one of our magnificent journalists. She worked in tandem with another reported to bring us great information about the implementation of IB at Fed Hill as well as researching and writing about her passion project; animals. . In addition to reporting Alex has acted as a manager and editor.



Jude Leith is our incredibly talented in house comic and writer. He will be bringing us some artistic joy and laughs in the coming months.

Aedan Joyce is our powerful athletic reporter. He will be bringing us sports scores, stats and some historical facts about sports and prominent athletes.

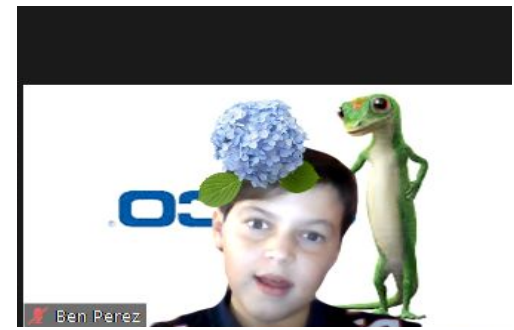


Sarah Barbour is an ingenious writer who will be joining forces with another reporter to bringing us information about virtual learning. In addition to her collaborative column she is independently bringing us experiences of bilingual students at Prep.

Allison Folgar is our incredible creative art critic. She will be bringing us information about art from around the globe, it's purpose and origins and information about influential artists.

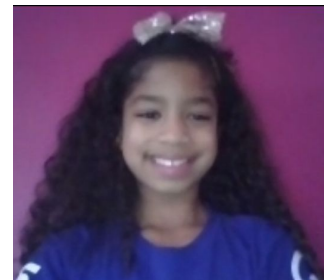


Sam Perez is an adept and resourceful journalist for the PREP Press. He worked in collaboration with another author to bring us great information about the implementation of IB at Fed Hill.



Will Warner is a shrewd and astute Prep Press reporter. He is bringing us updates on health and wellness. In addition to his astute reporting Will has also acted as an editor and manager for Prep Press.

Sonali Skinner is a brilliant reporter who will be working with another columnist to bring us information about virtual learning. In addition to her collaborative work she will be working independently to bring us information about piano and musical arts.



Oliver Stephens is our brilliant and passionate activist, journalist and editor. So excited to see the opinion pieces Oliver has in store for us.



Adam Alioua is our fantastic book critic. He will be sharing some great reads with us in future episodes. Can't wait to see what's on Adam's reading list.

Please leave us feedback
as well as ideas for our
December issue.

