Introduction to IB Primary Years Program

In a rapidly globalising world, the *International School Curriculum Project* (ISCP) recognised the need to develop a framework that promoted international-mindedness and in 1968 established the *International Baccalaureate Organization* (IBO). The IBO aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people that can help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. An IB school offers a challenging program of international education and encourages students to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners. A student who is taught in an IB school develops tolerance and understands that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

With such success around the world, the IBO established the Primary Years Program (PYP) in 1997. IB PYP is an inclusive curriculum model that integrates guidelines on what students should learn, teaching methodologies, and assessment strategies. It is a five year program that aims at developing the ‘whole child’ through structured inquiry as the vehicle for learning. IB PYP was developed for students aged 3 – 12 and aims at developing the whole child through physical, social, emotional, cultural and academic education.

The IB PYP model above provides some insight into the IB PYP Curriculum. Through conceptually based units of work, students inquire into the six Transdisciplinary themes presented in the outer circle. These six themes, covered at each year of schooling, aim to foster the development of the aforementioned qualities of the *whole child*. These six units of inquiry driven by the transdisciplinary themes are taught through the Key Learning Area’s (KLA’s) given on the hexagon of the model. Throughout the units of work and across the KLA’s various actions, attitudes, concepts and skills are developed within the student.

Although every part in the model above is vital in developing the *whole child*, the circle in the middle *The IB Learner Profile* is the piece of the puzzle that ties it all together and helps explain why IB PYP is such an effective and powerful form of education. The Learner Profile encourages students to become; Inquirers, Knowledgable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, and Reflective.
These attributes are instilled in the students throughout their participation in the IB PYP program and prepares them for a smooth transition into the IB MYP program. MBBC is about to undertake this very exciting and rewarding experience as we begin to embark on the journey to become an IB PYP school, with classes starting units of work based on the IB PYP framework this year. With technology ever-expanding and a changing global climate, it is important to equip students with the relevant skills to grow and prosper outside of the school yard, skills that IB PYP will develop in your child.