

Understanding the IB-PYP

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP) is underpinned by six transdisciplinary themes around which learning is planned. These are:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- **How we express ourselves**
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet

Students inquire into, and learn about, these globally significant issues in the context of **units of inquiry**, each of which addresses a **central idea** relevant to a particular transdisciplinary theme. **Lines of inquiry** are identified in order to explore the scope of the central idea for each unit. **Key concepts** are powerful, over-arching ideas that transcend individual subject-areas and allow students to develop a coherent, in-depth understanding. These units of inquiry collectively constitute the school's **program of inquiry**. At Valley Prep, the six transdisciplinary themes will be implemented gradually between 2016 and 2019.

Transdisciplinary Theme: **How We Express Ourselves**

Inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic. Culture is represented by symbols and celebrations that express **diversity** within our global community.

Unit Title: **Let's Be Creative**

Dates of this unit: February - March

Central Idea

Creativity is expressed in many ways

Lines of Inquiry

- Creativity expressed through stories
- Creativity expressed through song and dance
- Creativity expressed through art

Key Concepts

- Connection – How is it connected to other things?
- Perspective – What are the points of view?
- Form – What is it like?

Subject connections

- Social Studies: How various cultures express creativity
- Language Arts: Stories include: Use Your Imagination, Rap-A-Tap-Tap, & Viva Frida
- Art: Use basic color, using various surfaces and printing techniques.
- Foreign Language: Different celebrations around the world
- Music: Folk songs and dances
- PE: Expressing ourselves through dance & movement.



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Unit Title: **The Joy of Color**

Dates of this unit: February - March

Central Idea

Color conveys ideas and emotions.

Lines of Inquiry

- Mixing two colors can create a new color
- Color can be used to express feelings

Key Concepts

- Perspective – What are the points of view?
- Reflection – How do we know?
- Causation – Why is it like it is?

Subject connections

- Social Studies: Human feelings
- Science: Color mixing
- Language Arts: Stories include: The Iridescence of Birds, A Day With No Crayons, Whale Shines
- Art: Mixing primary colors to create secondary colors, and then observe these colors and discuss how they make you feel.
- Foreign Language: Different celebrations around the world
- PE: Expressing ourselves through dance & movement.
- Music: Violin finishes make the instrument look better and last longer.
- Technology: As part of our robotics unit, we will be programming robots to trace the Chinese lanterns that the students have created (in honor of Chinese New Year)



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Unit Title: **It's all about feelings!**

Dates of this unit: February - March

Central Idea

Human nature can be expressed through feelings

Lines of Inquiry

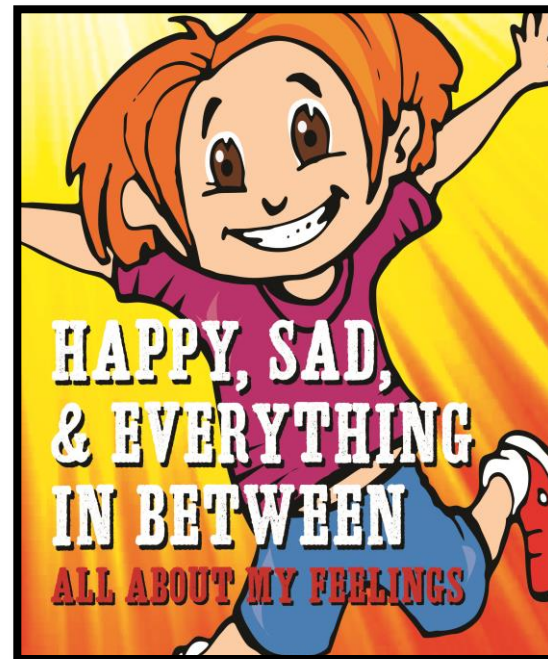
- Five senses
- Positive feelings
- Negative feelings
- Effects of feelings

Key Concepts

- Change – How is it changing?
- Connection – How is it connected to other things?
- Form – What is it like?

Subject connections

- Science: our five senses
- Social Studies: sharing our feelings with others
- Music: Songs for Valentine's Day
- PE: Expressing ourselves through dance and movement
- Foreign Language: Different celebrations around the world
- Language Arts: Stories include: The 5 Senses; Hearing, Sight, Smell, Taste, Touch (5 books); Each Kindness; Mean Soup
- Art: Students will create a painting while listening to music which will express how the music makes them feel.
- Technology: 5 Senses Booklets on Wixie; 5 Senses Goosechase Scavenger Hunt



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Unit Title: **Code-breakers**

Dates of this unit: February - March

Central Idea

Systems are created to communicate information.

Lines of Inquiry

- Signs
- Symbols
- Codes

Key Concepts

- Causation – Why is it like it is?
- Form – What is it like?
- Function – How does it work?

Subject connections

- Science: Creating and "cracking" codes
- Social Studies: Signs, symbols, and codes throughout history
- Music: Musical notation helps us write musical compositions
- PE: Expressing ourselves through dance and movement
- Foreign Language: Different celebrations around the world
- Language Arts: Stories include: The Handmade Alphabet, The Riddle of the Rosetta Stone, North American Sign Language
- Technology: Introduction to coding (computer programming) and robotics
- Art: Various International and domestic signs will be viewed (stop, etc.) and students will note the differences or similarities of each, and then create their own sign



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Unit Title: **What Makes Different Sounds?**

Dates of this unit: February - March

Central Idea

Creativity and feelings can be expressed through sound

Lines of Inquiry

- Ways people express feelings and creativity through sound
- Ways sound is produced and travels
- Musical instruments over time

Key Concepts

- Function – How does it work?
- Form – What is it like?
- Function – How does it work?

Subject connections

- Science: What is sound? How is it made? How does it travel through different states of matter?
- Social Studies & Music: Students will make their own musical instrument with recycled items.
- Language Arts: Stories include: Trombone Shorty; Crash! Bang! Boom!; Her Right Foot
- PE: Expressing ourselves through dance and movement
- Technology: Students will be programming robots to play familiar (or original) tunes on the xylophone
- Foreign Language: Different celebrations around the world
- Art: Students will create Native American themed rattles and practice using them in rhythm while listening to Native American Music.
- Music: Student compositions display original musical ideas.



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Unit Title: **Culture and Behavior**

Dates of this unit: February - March

Central Idea

Cultural experiences impact social interactions.

Lines of Inquiry

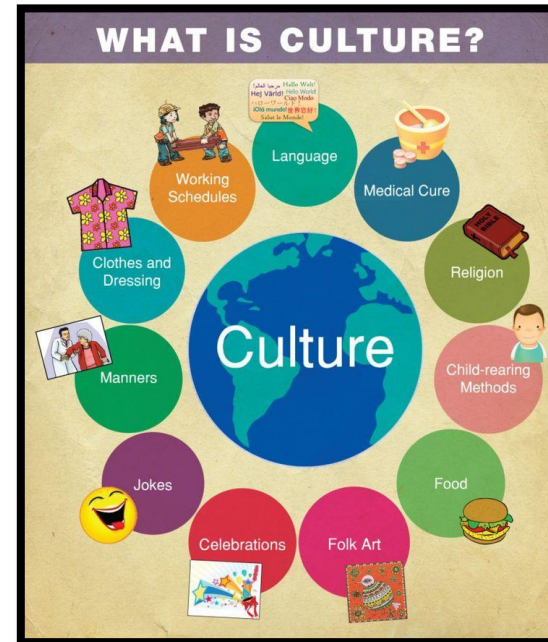
- Culture in a Community
- Cultural vs National Holidays
- Social Interactions and Group Behavior

Key Concepts

- Connection – How is it connected to other things?
- Responsibility – What is our responsibility?
- Reflection – How do we know?

Subject connections

- Science: Social Interactions and group behavior
- Social Studies: Culture in a Community & National Holidays
- Music: Student compositions and class performances display original musical ideas.
- PE: Expressing ourselves through dance and movement
- Language Arts: Stories include: Light the Candle! Bang the Drum!; Sweet Dried Apples; A People Apart
- Technology: Programming robots to perform in the Robot Winter Olympics, each robot representing countries of the student's choosing.
- Art: Students will compare different international holidays and American holidays, and then choose one to illustrate
- Foreign Language: Different celebrations around the world



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Unit Title: **Civil Rights and Immigration**

Dates of this unit: February - March

Central Idea

Perspective drives our appreciation for and understanding of beliefs and values.

Lines of Inquiry

- The impact and changing perceptions resulting from the arrival of the Spanish to California
- The societal impact of Civil Rights movements in the United States and around the world

Key Concepts

- Change – How is it changing?
- Reflection – How do we know?
- Causation – Why is it like it is?

Subject connections

- Social Studies: Arrival of the Spanish and Mexicans to the United States & Civil Rights movements in the US and around the world
- Language Arts: Stories include: Separate is Never Equal, Encounter, The People Shall Continue
- Music: Student compositions display original musical ideas.
- PE: Expressing ourselves through dance and movement
- Foreign Language: Different celebrations around the world
- Technology: We will be programming robots to follow the paths of the early establishments in California
- Art: Students will learn about the California Impressionist movement inspired by the California Deserts and then create an Acrylic canvas painting using elements found in our local deserts.



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Unit Title: **I am unique!**

Dates of this unit: February - March

Central Idea

Through the visual arts people convey their uniqueness as individuals.

Lines of Inquiry

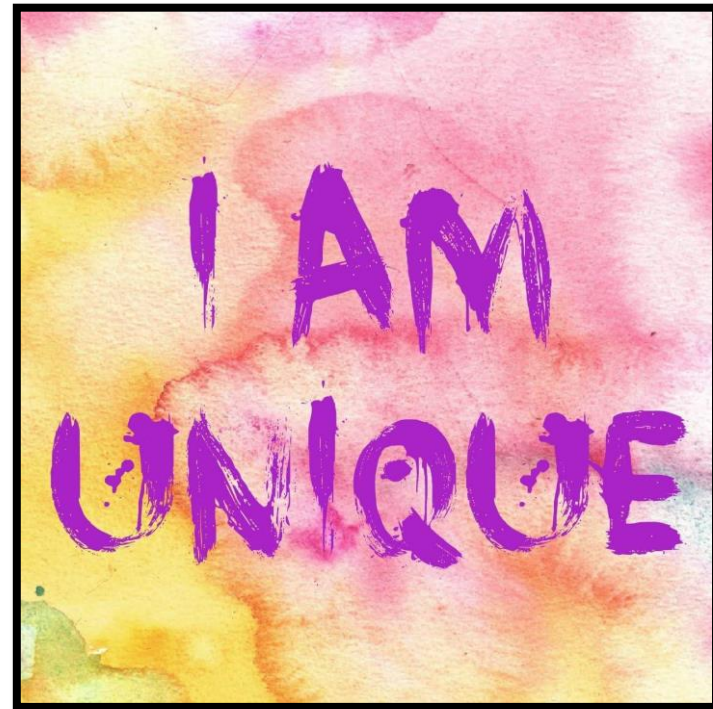
- What it means to be unique
- Visual arts as a form of expression
- Famous artists and their life stories
- How life events can influence artistic expression

Key Concepts

- Form – What is it like?
- Reflection – How do we know?
- Perspective – What are the points of view?

Subject connections

- Science: Body systems
- Social Studies: The original thirteen colonies of the United States
- Language Arts: Stories include: Radiant Child; Stargirl; Fireflies in the Dark
- Music: Musical instrument finishes enhance the look and durability of instruments.
- PE: Expressing ourselves through dance and movement
- Foreign Language: Different celebrations around the world
- Art: Students will create a paper interpretation of the abstract quilt style created by the Gee's Bend Quilters, an African American group established by former slaves in the 1920s. Students will create a small fabric quilt square and learn how to use a needle and thread to do so.



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Unit Title: Forms of Expression

Dates of this unit: February - March

Central Idea

An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.

Key Concepts

- Form – What is it like?
- Reflection – How do we know?
- Perspective – What are the points of view?
- Causation – Why is it like it is?

Central Ideas & Subject connections

English	Creative writing is an effective way to express beliefs, values, and ideas.
Science	Some forms of energy may or may not be lost and can be represented in a creative manner
Social Studies	Cultural beliefs and values in modern and ancient civilizations
Math	How we express ourselves mathematically
French	People may express their feelings through literature and music.
Spanish	Different celebrations around the world
Music	Cultural expression through music
PE	Expressing ourselves through dance and movement
Art	Cultural expression through art
Technology	Creativity through technology

