

Newsletter

Planting the Seeds for Global Education

Issue No. 1

Winter 2017

What is the Global Garden?

Global Garden is the name we have given to Laurence's integrated K-6 global education program. The program touches all aspects of academic and campus life for our community. Global Garden encourages our students to have a greater awareness of different places, respect differing points of view and appreciate the diverse cultures and opinions of people around the world. We are raising world citizens!

"Follow Your Inner Compass" and Global Education

by Eric Hogenson

The artwork on the cover of this year's Laurence gratitude journal depicts a child, holding a compass, navigating a vast landscape. The title reads, "follow your inner compass." Naturally, seeing the child alone on this journey, a few questions come to mind:

Where is the child going?

Hopefully, anywhere! As educators, we aim to develop the skills in children that will help them navigate the world. In her book, Raising Global Children, author Stacie Nevadomski Berdan claims that the most important attribute children need in order to develop a global mindset is curiosity. Our Global Garden aims to encourage children's curiosity about the world, notably through our cultural exchanges with sister schools. If we make the journey fun and relevant, we will inspire children to be curious about the world - not afraid of it.

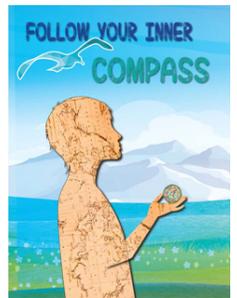
What if there are scary obstacles along the way?

Unfortunately, the world is complicated and fraught with head-shaking news and traumatic current events. However, if we truly want our children to "grow up global," we can't shy away from the difficult realities and questions they have. Curious children ask innocent questions about skin color, language differences, and cultural nuances. It is important that we lean into these discussions. Our willingness to try new foods, learn about other faiths, visit new communities, and genuinely befriend diverse neighbors will leave an impression on our children, and we'll all be better for it.

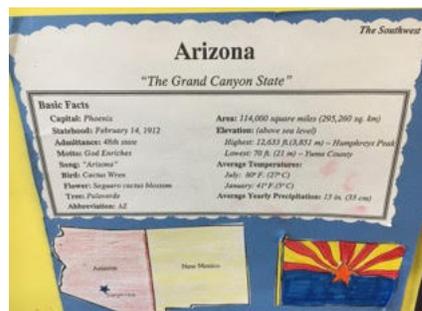
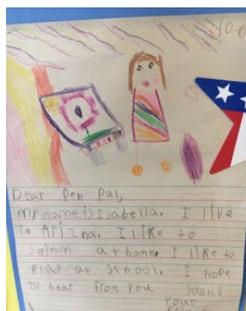
Does the child even know how to use a compass?

The development of a child's inner compass is a partnership between home and school. At school, students are taught how to resolve conflicts by naming the issue, examining their own culpability, and working together towards a peaceful solution. Through our community service projects, students mobilize for causes beyond their circumstances, enabling them to put substance behind what it means to be a global citizen. Finally, we demonstrate on a daily basis that friendship and kindness are universal values that we can emulate while connecting with the richness of other people's stories and cultures.

Laurence students are engaged, insightful, eager, and best of all, curious to learn about their place in the world. It is our obligation to help them develop and follow their inner compass from places of understanding, with respect for everyone, and a realization that there are cultural differences, not boundaries, in the world, which should be explored and celebrated.



Check out House KB's interactions with their sister school in Arizona.



Meet Your Sister Schools!

Kindergarten's sister schools are in the United States. House KA is paired with a school in Alexandria, VA; House KB with a school in Phoenix, AZ; and House KC with schools in Oakville, VA and Washington D.C.

First grade shares a sister school in Meijiang Ningdu Jiangxi, China at the Ningdu FuXiao Elementary School.

Second grade recently connected with De Gooische School in the Netherlands.

Our third grade classes are corresponding with Thomas's School in London, England.

Fourth grade classes are currently looking for a sister school in Mexico.



Fifth grade has two sister schools: House 5A corresponds with the Carolyn A. Miller School in Monrovia, Liberia. House 5B communicates with the Fred Baron Maasai Girls School in Maasai Mara, Kenya.

Sixth grade is connected to The Gavrieli Community Elementary School in Tel Aviv (6A) and to Holy Mother English School in Mumbai, India (6B).

If you have a contact that might lead to a sister school in Japan or another country that you would like to introduce, please email Kern Konwiser at kern@konwiserbros.com.

Come by the library and check out the beautiful displays by our own Laurence families. Ask your kids to describe what they learned and what was their favorite part of the discussion. If you are interested in seeing previous library presentations, they can be found on the Laurence website once you log into the Parent Portal. Videos are in the Parent Portal page listed under "Performances & Videos" then "Global Education and Library Blog."

March 2: Korea- Julie Des Jardins and Michelle Kim
April 11: Belgium/Brussels — Tara and Serge Van Krieking
May 18: Armenia — Nancy Avedissian

UPCOMING LIBRARY PRESENTATIONS

The Great Indonesia!

By Chloé Dolkart



Interesting presentation by the Boedeker family.

Recently we had an extremely interesting presentation on Indonesia. We learned about the location, food, culture, homes, and the population. We tried Indonesian food and it tasted amazing. We were also able to see pictures of the food there during this presentation. Another thing we learned about was the rich Indonesian culture. We got to see the many colors Indonesians wear and what kids wore

when they went to school. Next, there was a great slide in this presentation about Indonesian homes. All of the pictures of these homes resembled huts, and there were a lot of colorful plants. After this, we learned about the population in Indonesia. There is over 249.9 million people living there. Lastly, we learned about the location of Indonesia. It is very close to Asia and it almost looks like an island. This presentation was very intriguing and it has been one of the best highlights of the year.



Multi-Cultural Events in Los Angeles

Chinese New Year Festival at Huntington Library February 4-5

Traditional Chinese music, dance, martial arts and food will take over the Huntington Library Gardens near Pasadena. There will also be calligraphy and brush painting demonstrations and more. Included in regular admission.

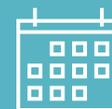
For more information:
<http://www.huntington.org>

Descanso Gardens - Cherry Blossom Festival March 4-5

This festival celebrating Japanese culture will have live music, origami, good food and guided garden walks throughout the garden to see the beautiful flowering trees.

For more information:
<http://www.descansogardens.org>

For more information and other events, please check out:
<http://www.culturela.org>



GLOBAL CALENDAR

Look for these upcoming events!

FEB
20

World Day of Social Justice

FEB
20

President's Day

APR
14

5th Grade African Presentation