

Program of Inquiry ~ Whittier International School ~ Boulder, Colorado ~ USA

Updated 2-19-08, LB

Grades	Who we are	Where we are in time and place	How we express ourselves	How the world works	How we organize ourselves	Sharing the planet
	<i>An inquiry into the nature of the self: beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.</i>	<i>An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.</i>	<i>An 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.</i>	<i>An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principals; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.</i>	<i>An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.</i>	<i>An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.</i>
K	<p>Title: What's in a Name Central idea: Names tell us where we come from and who we are. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The importance of names ▪ What we can learn from our names 	<p>Title: Mapping Our World Central idea: Maps teach us about places. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maps and globes ▪ Continents ▪ Case study: Antarctica 	<p>Title: Rafiki Means Friend Central idea: Different places have different cultures. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What culture is ▪ What we can learn about people through their stories and art ▪ Case study: comparison of an African community with Boulder 	<p>Title: Wood Today, Paper Tomorrow Central idea: People make things they need from natural resources. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How we change natural resources ▪ Natural resources we use every day ▪ Case study: wood and paper 	<p>Title: Bienvenidos a l'escuela Central idea: We have responsibilities as members of our school community. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The structure of our school ▪ The people in our school ▪ My responsibilities at school 	<p>Title: Nature and Me Central Idea: People and animals share natural resources to live. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharing resources ▪ Conservation ▪ Case study: trees
Specialists	P.E.	Music:	Music: Holiday & celebration songs, "He Had a Dream" song P.E. - Scarf movement for Chinese New Year Art: Art Celebrations	Music: "I Am Wood," song, wooden instruments, "Green Grass Grows" song P.E.: Trestle tree	Music: Music class routines, "smart mover" rules P.E.: P.E. class routines, safe moving rules Art: Art rules & Safety.	Music: "I Am Wood" song P.E.: Milk carton scoops activity
1	<p>Title: Roles and Rules in Families and Schools Central idea: Families and schools are groups that communicate to understand each others' needs and ideas. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public needs and family needs ▪ Why we organize ▪ Families today in the US, Mexico and Japan 	<p>Title: Personal Histories Central idea: Our past and present are connected. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Personal Histories ▪ Generations ▪ The countries of our ancestors ▪ Families long ago in Mexico and Japan 	<p>Title: Expressing Feelings. Central idea: People can show their feelings through the arts. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oral expression of stories, poems, and songs ▪ Showing your feelings ▪ Drama 	<p>Title: Earth Rocks Central idea: Rocks provide materials we use. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sorting and comparing earth materials ▪ Uses of rock materials 	<p>Title: Going to the Market Central idea: People go to markets to get things they need and want. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making choices at a market ▪ Why people go to a market ▪ What is at a market 	<p>Title: Life in Earth's Gardens Central idea: Soil, plants and animals depend on each other. An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The connection of plants, worms and soil ▪ The life cycle of plants ▪ The characteristics of plants and worms
Specialists	P.E.: Family Exercise and Habits Music: "All I Really Need" Raffi song Art: Family drawings	P.E.: Family history of athletics?? Music: Musical exploring traditions in countries of origin	P.E.: Movement to express feelings, act out feelings in small groups Music: Expressive movement with music Art: Expressive art	Music:	Music: Market songs Art: Art Fundraiser	P.E.:

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2	<p>Title: Who’s Who? Central idea: <i>We are all individuals with similarities and differences</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What makes us unique Communicating with others Caring for ourselves 	<p>Title: Old Ways and New Ways Central idea: <i>Cultures change over time.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ways natural environments help make cultures Ways people use natural resources Case study: Alaska and Australia 	<p>Title: Roses Are Red Central idea: <i>People use poetry to express themselves.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different types of poetry Expressing feelings with poetry Writing poetry 	<p>Title: Up In The Air Central idea: <i>Weather is a part of all peoples’ lives.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of air and weather Ways weather affects humans Ways people measure weather 	<p>Title: Community Unity Central idea: <i>Communities are places where people live, work and play together</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ways people solve problems in a community Ways communities interact with government Characteristics of communities Ways people share resources in a community 	<p>Title: Incredible Insects Central Idea: <i>Our world needs insects.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of insects Roles and behaviors of insects Life cycles of insects Ways people interact with insects
Specialists	<p>P.E.: Heart healthy information Music: “Don’t Laugh at Me” song, respecting musical differences Art: Foreshortening Self-portraits</p>	Music:	<p>P.E.: Humorous poetry Music: Poetry with sound effects, composing song verses</p>		<p>Music: “I Live in a City” song Art: Unity art project (Louise Nevelson & Kandinsky)</p>	Music: Songs about insects and spiders
3	<p>Title: Body Works Central idea: <i>Human bodies have systems and functions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The six body systems Mind-body connection 	<p>Title: Where in the world are we? Central idea: <i>Maps and globes have been used through history as tools for people to locate themselves on the planet.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to interpret maps and globes Where we are in relationship to others Physical and human characteristics of places and how these define a region 	<p>Title: Superheroes: Fact and Fiction Central idea: <i>Superheroes exist in real life as well as in fiction</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How superheroes in fiction and real life are alike and different Conflict resolution: real life vs. fiction Character traits of heroes and villains 	<p>Title: Stones to Stars Central idea: <i>Our planet is composed of materials, and interacts with the sun and moon.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planets and other objects in space Comparison of rocks and minerals Fossils as evidence of the past 	<p>Title: Making Our Voices Heard Central Idea: <i>Governments can be influenced by citizens.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purposes of government Forms of government Case study: Colorado government 	<p>Title: When Two Cultures Meet Central idea: <i>Cultures have their own beliefs.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ways traditions reflect beliefs Belief systems and conflict Compare/contrast Native Americans and settlers
Specialists	Music:	<p>Music: Look at the globe to track origin of music Art: look at maps to locate tribes and artists.</p>	<p>P.E. Creative movement related to conflict in the musical Music: Musical with themes of heroism and conflict resolution</p>	Music:	<p>Music & P.E.: Small group work with varying kinds of leadership</p>	<p>Music: Folk music and traditions passed on through music Art: Historical- native American Petroglyphs</p>

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4	<p>Title: Exploration to Colonization Central idea: <i>People explore and colonize “new lands” for different reasons and with varying results.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons people explore and colonize Survival issues for explorers and colonists International effects of exploration and colonization Case study: The 13 U.S. colonies 	<p>Title: Electricity: Where has it Taken Us? Central idea: <i>Harnessing electricity has changed the world.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable behaviors of electricity Human inventions that rely on electricity Societal impacts of electricity 	<p>Title: Taking a Stand Central idea: <i>People sometimes choose to protest when they don’t agree with a situation.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical and literature-based examples of protest Using “choose-act-reflect” when selecting a course of action Case study: U.S. Revolution 	<p>Title: Structures of Life Central idea: <i>All living things have structures that aid in their survival</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures and their functions Ways living things obtain energy Case study: bean plant, crayfish, bess beetles 	<p>Title: Economics of Food Central idea: <i>Consumers’ food demands affect what producers supply.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demands for different kinds of food The dynamic interaction between producers and consumers Methods of exchange 	<p>Title: Water World Central idea: <i>Water changes as it cycles through our environment.</i> An inquiry into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water cycle Properties of water Water management
Specialists	<p>Music: Colonial folk music</p>	<p>Music:</p>	<p>P.E. Movement for a song in the musical Music: Musical with “taking a stand” theme Art: African art project featuring a tribe with a history of protest</p>			<p>P.E. Movement for a song in the musical Music: Musical with “taking a stand” theme Art: African art project featuring a tribe with a history of protest</p>
5	<p>Title: Exhibition Central idea: <i>Accumulated knowledge can be applied and presented in a meaningful way.</i> Lines of inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How our knowledge can impact others How knowledge can be applied in an unfamiliar setting How we can involve family & community in our learning through action Creative and comprehensive presentation of acquired skills, attitudes, and knowledge 	<p>Title: Immigration Central idea: <i>The world is impacted by people who leave their home countries to live in new locations.</i> Lines of inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for emigration, historically and today Impact on immigrants, and their new country Past and present perspectives on immigration 	<p>Title: This Is Us Central idea: <i>People use memoir to explore, reconstruct and connect meaningful events in their lives.</i> Lines of inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of memoir as a genre Metaphor and symbolism Personal connection to the human experience 	<p>Title: Variables Central idea: <i>Components of a system may be varied or controlled in order to predict or influence the outcome of an interaction.</i> Lines of inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to design and carry out scientific investigations How energy is transferred How interactions produce changes in a system How human beings affect the world through science 	<p>Title: Conflict and Change Central idea: <i>Civil war is an approach to resolving conflicts, and can create changes in political or economic systems.</i> Lines of inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past and present civil wars in the world Global and local effects of civil war on individuals and society Case study: causes, events and effects of U.S. Civil War 	<p>Title: Surf and Turf Central idea: <i>Aquatic and terrestrial environments have dynamic systems that interact and change over time.</i> Lines of inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics and structures of organisms and environmental features Biotic communities Human impact on environments
Specialists	<p>Flexible involvement of specialists</p>	<p>P.E.: Cultural dance for Immigration play Music: Immigration plays with music Art: Famous immigrant artists (Marc Chagall)</p>	<p>Art: Warhol Pop-art Self portraits</p>	<p>P.E.: Team building activity Music: Creating piece varying musical elements Art: Mediums as variables</p>	<p>Music: Civil War folk music</p>	<p>Music: “Water Song” and sea shanties</p>