PYP Exhibition Survey = Results and Analysis

Here is a summary of the survey answers.
Thank you to those who participated (22 responses)
Below each summary is a statement of action to guide the development of our PYP Exhibition at Riverstone.

We really appreciate you contributing your thoughts to our reflective process.

1. Exhibition Parent Meeting
   • About half surveyed found the Parent Meeting to be excellent, answering all or most questions
   • The remainder of the respondents were almost split into two equal groups (30/20): somewhat helped answer my questions and did not attend.

   **Action:** Find a better time to have the meeting so more people can attend. Advertise more clearly the purpose of the meeting to ensure attendance. Send information prior to meeting so parents can ask informed questions. Consider including students in this meeting for all/part of it.

2. Level of Information Given Throughout Exhibition
   • This was graded on a scale from 1-5 with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent.
   • Emails from teachers and Blog Posts were excellent
   • Student led conferences were overall helpful although this area also received a 1 with most respondents scoring it at 4
   • Getting information from your child was ranked at mostly 3-4
   • Expectations of the parents role - 3-5
   • Expectations of your child - mostly 4-5

   **Action:** Take a look at the role of the Student Led Conference and continue to refine it's purpose in defining the skills to be focused on throughout the exhibition. Continue to provide thorough documentation and information to parents via emails/blog posts. Work on ensuring students are well informed and able to discuss their work with parents, answer questions etc.
3. Level of Happiness with Overall Journey Through Exhibition

Positives
- allowed for independence
- students were responsible for own failures and successes
- enormous growth
- strong year at school
- great to have an open-ended period of exploration
- good experience
- allowed to make mistakes and correct them along the way
- ability to engage and show serious independence
- permission to be creative
- uncovered passions, giving them form and freedom to explore
- more than expected
- loved the journey
- invaluable experience
- rewarding beyond our expectations
- helpful mentors and teachers

Concerns
- would have liked a little more work/research from my child
- more to show in the finished product
- some struggles along the way
- unsure of how much guidance was provided - maybe a good thing?
- kids felt like guinea pigs

Action: We really appreciated the willingness of everyone to allow us to do this differently. We have a few things to think about changing/refining and then other things (struggling, that point of 'tension' when doing something new and difficult) we may need to talk about in our blog posts. Would be good to spend time making sure that while it is about the process, the product is a reflection of the passion and therefore also not 'a chore' in creating (i.e. should be motivated to create 'product' - whatever that may be - in order to share their passion).
4. What would you like to add or subtract to make the Exhibition better?

Add

- ability to see all presentations
- continued rigor in other areas (math)
- continued consultation with 'leaders' in their fields throughout the unit (not just at beginning)
- clearer definition of mentor roles
- mandatory student/parent interaction during process
- coordinate with fourth grade to get them thinking about Ex.
- single room, shorter presentations, see them all
- more consistency in mentor knowledge about project
- more attention to the art projects
- more emphasis on taking action earlier on
- more emphasis on presentation skills

Subtract

- reduce the stress
- overuse of the word 'passion'

Action: Parents will get a copy of the mentor guidelines so that they can also see what the role is (and is not) for the mentors. Would love to arrange for multiple Passion Tours, even half day, to continue the spark that the initial tour set off. Would be good to even have people come to school after initial workplace tour.

Would be good to schedule in 'open house' or 'drop in' sessions for students and parents to meet during class time. Will continue to focus on presentation skills throughout the whole year. Action is part of all PYP units so greater emphasis in what this can look like should be given throughout the year. With one class of students, single room presentations may be possible next year.

We were sorry the art didn't get the time it deserved. Loved the collaboration and thought but need to plan the presentation of this better.
5. Presentations - Thoughts on Learning

Overall, comments were incredibly positive! The children were able to express themselves, share the issues they encountered, articulate a sense of accomplishment, realize that the work they do matters, be creative, be courageous, function under stress, give a presentation, connect to the audience and share their journey.

Some needed to be a little more refined, clearer and more focused.

Action:

One of the best things in preparing for the presentations was when we had students from other grades come to our 'dress rehearsal'. This really helped the students get a sense of presenting to an audience and from then, a lot of work went in to refining presentations. Next year, it might be a good idea to do a first rehearsal with next year's Sixth Grade and then have them partner up to work on presentations as an added step in the process.

6. Q and A Session - Thoughts on Learning

Kids were well informed, easy to talk to, welcomed questions and had great answers. This session confirmed what the presentations suggested at. The kids knew their subject matter and by defining their passion were able to connect personally, drill down and not just scratch the surface. They felt like experts and were confident in their learning.

They demonstrated that they learned more than their presentations led you to believe but this session didn't seem to have the same amount of focus as the first. It was too crowded, noisy and it looked as though some parents didn't interact with the students, just each other.

Action:

Make sure the presentations reference the 'booths' more than just in passing - that there is a connection there. If in the same location, it would have been wise to have a break in which the chairs were cleared from the rooms to allow for more room or to have some booths set up in the entrance way.
7. Final Thoughts on the Exhibition

- This should be an annual event!
- Loved that the kids had to dress up
- Great job!
- Incredibly valuable
- Fantastic
- Wonderful end to a great year
- Love the process
- Highlight of the school year
- Hope more grade take the opportunity to run with this experience
- Good experience
- Kids were amazing
- Teachers and mentors were very helpful
- Final outcome was spectacular
- Wish all units of inquiry could be open-ended and student-driven
- Wish there was more!
- A big, somewhat ambiguous project for kids to tackle
- Some seemed to put in more work - more parental involvement?
- Positive, confidence building experience
- Keep doing and refining it every year
- Hope the students have many more opportunities to participate in similar projects
- Very valuable
- Realign the order of the units to better align with the Exhibition
- No need to have food/drinks

Action

Thank you so much for all the positive and constructive feedback. We do need to make sure we timetable things out to ensure a smooth transition into the Exhibition. The PYP is inquiry-based, student-led and open-ended. All units of work have the potential to contain elements of "the Exhibition" within them.

All units, including the Exhibition, can (and should) look different each year as each group of students examines the Central Idea from different perspectives.
8. Parent Exhibition Group

Thank you to the eight brave people who said yes (6) or maybe (2) to joining a Parent Exhibition Group in the Fall. It is not too late for you to join this group. We will be sending out an email in mid-late August with the first information on the group. Think of what your child just did. Do you have a passion you would like to pursue - something you have dreamed of doing? Meet with like-minded people who will help you "Ship It". [Click here for more information.]

Finally, thank you for all you did in helping your child through this process and for allowing us to try something new and different. You have inspired us to move forward in our quest to develop rich units of student-driven work. We appreciate you!

Sincerely,

Sonya and Brad