

**Program of Inquiry for The International School of Älmhult  
August 2010**

<b>PYP Class</b>	<b>Who we are</b>	<b>Where we are in time and place</b>	<b>How we express ourselves</b>	<b>How the world works</b>	<b>How we organise ourselves</b>	<b>How we share the planet</b>
PYP 5	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Indigenous Peoples <b>Central idea:</b> There are indigenous people all over the world whose lifestyles are determined by their environment. <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are indigenous people</li> <li>• The indigenous people of our homelands</li> <li>• How the lifestyles of indigenous people are influenced by the environment</li> <li>• How factors of our modern world have affected indigenous people</li> </ul>	<p>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 civilisations, from local and global perspectives.</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Ancient Civilisations <b>Central idea:</b> The systems and ideas of ancient civilisations influence our lives in many different ways <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What a civilisation is</li> <li>• The achievements, contributions and innovations of a particular ancient civilisation</li> <li>• How this civilisation is connected to and has influenced our lives today</li> </ul>	<p>An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express our ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Advertising -- An Element of Persuasion <b>Central idea:</b> Advertising influences our choices. <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of persuasive language, images and sound in advertising</li> <li>• The effects of advertising on our everyday choices</li> <li>• The connection between advertisement and the target group</li> </ul>	<p>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 principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Simple Machines <b>Central idea:</b> Simple machines have many uses in our daily lives and are often part of more complex machines. <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What a simple machine is and how they work</li> <li>• How simple machines are used as parts of more complex machines</li> <li>• Making a machine</li> <li>• How machines have changed our lives</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Fair Play For All <b>Central idea:</b> In our world today, people have rights and responsibilities. <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who decides what our rights are</li> <li>• Rights in our host country</li> <li>• Concepts of democracy</li> <li>• Responsibility of citizens</li> <li>• The United Nations</li> </ul>	<p>An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.</p> <p><b>Title:</b> Materials in Our World <b>Central idea:</b> The many materials of our world, each with its own properties, are shared by all. <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properties of materials</li> <li>• Natural resources</li> <li>• How materials are recycled</li> <li>• How earth's resources are shared</li> </ul>

PYP 4	<p><b>Title:</b> Safety  <b>Central idea:</b> The decisions we make every day help us to be safe.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Chemical and materials</li> <li>• Fire</li> <li>• Natural disasters</li> <li>• Water and ice</li> <li>• First aid</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> The Age of Discovery  <b>Central idea:</b> The discoveries made by many famous explorers of the past have influenced our lives in many ways.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The world's famous explorers</li> <li>• Where, how and why they travelled</li> <li>• How the explorer's discoveries influence our lives today</li> <li>• Mapping and instruments for navigation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Through an Artist's Eye  <b>Central idea:</b> Artists throughout history have depicted the world around them and their feelings about it in their art works.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What art is</li> <li>• How we express ourselves through art everyday</li> <li>• The different ways artists express themselves</li> <li>• How artists influence the world in which we live</li> <li>• Famous artists</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Planet Earth  <b>Central idea:</b> Natural features are formed and changed over time.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landforms</li> <li>• Earthquakes</li> <li>• Volcanoes</li> <li>• Shifting of continents</li> <li>• Ice Age</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Travel and Tourism  <b>Central idea:</b> Travel and tourism impact our lives.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why people travel</li> <li>• Changes in transportation over time</li> <li>• How increased travel has affected the way we live</li> <li>• How travel affects intercultural understanding</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Life Cycles  <b>Central idea:</b> All life cycles interact, affect each other and have an ultimate influence on the ecology of our planet.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different types of life cycles</li> <li>• How life cycles and food webs are inter-related and inter-dependent</li> <li>• How photosynthesis relates to all living things</li> </ul>
PYP 3	<p><b>Title:</b> How My Body Works  <b>Central idea:</b> Our bodies are made of many parts that work together.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying body systems and parts</li> <li>• Functions of body systems</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Living Here  <b>Central idea:</b> The history and geography of the country we live in makes it what it is today.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography of this country</li> <li>• What is unique or special about this area</li> <li>• Important events of this country's history</li> <li>• Very long ago in this area</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Traditions Around the World  <b>Central idea:</b> Traditions and folklore help to give identity to a group of people.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What folklore is and how it is passed from generation to generation</li> <li>• How traditions reflect what people value and how they live</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Weather  <b>Central idea:</b> Weather has an effect on the daily lives of people around the world.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water cycle</li> <li>• Different types of precipitation and their formation</li> <li>• Wind</li> <li>• Extreme weather</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Time  <b>Central idea:</b> There are many different ways of measuring time, used in various cultures and times in history.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ways of measuring time</li> <li>• Why we measure time</li> <li>• Different types of calendars and where they are used</li> <li>• How Earth's movements relate to measures of time</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Endangered animals  <b>Central idea:</b> Animals are endangered due to natural and human activity  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which animals are endangered</li> <li>• Why do animals become endangered species</li> <li>• Actions we can take to prevent animals becoming endangered or extinct</li> </ul>

PYP 2	<p><b>Title:</b> Healthy Eating, Healthy Living  <b>Central idea:</b> Practising good eating habits is a major factor in a healthy lifestyle.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What a healthy lifestyle means</li> <li>• A balanced diet</li> <li>• Healthy foods</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> The Earth in Space  <b>Central idea:</b> The earth is part of a vast solar system.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The earth's place in the solar system</li> <li>• Other planets in the solar system</li> <li>• Exploring space</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Heroes in Our World  <b>Central idea:</b> Our choice of heroes expresses what we value.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes a hero</li> <li>• Fame vs. heroism</li> <li>• Heroes in literature</li> <li>• Heroes from the past and present</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Exploring Materials  <b>Central idea:</b> Materials have different properties that let us use them in different ways.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How we describe materials</li> <li>• Solid, liquid and gas</li> <li>• What we can do with different materials</li> <li>• How to do an experiment with materials</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Codes we live by  <b>Central idea:</b> Groups of people often set up rules to help everyone have a safe and good life.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each person's rights and responsibilities</li> <li>• School rules and why we have them</li> <li>• How groups or countries make rules</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Ecosystems  <b>Central idea:</b> Climate, geography and resources affect the way living things exist in their environment.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What an ecosystem is</li> <li>• How plants get food</li> <li>• Ways of grouping living things</li> <li>• Linne's influence on our understanding of ecosystems</li> </ul>
PYP 1	<p><b>Title:</b> Friends Give and Take  <b>Central idea:</b> Friends play and interact.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspects of friendship</li> <li>• Ways we interact</li> <li>• Solving issues when we have different points of view</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Different Places  <b>Central idea:</b> We have come from different places.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where my family comes from</li> <li>• My family's journey here</li> <li>• Special things about my homeland</li> <li>• Comparing the geography of our homelands</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Expressing Ourselves  <b>Central idea:</b> We can express and communicate ideas through stories, poetry, songs and dance.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different poems and stories around the world</li> <li>• How to express ourselves and communicate in different ways</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Plants We Eat  <b>Central idea:</b> People and animals use plants for food.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parts of a plant that we eat</li> <li>• The conditions necessary for plants to grow</li> <li>• The variety of ways in which these foods can be prepared</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> How Is It Made?  <b>Central idea:</b> All products start with an idea.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How ideas are born</li> <li>• How an item is designed</li> <li>• The steps involved in making an item</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Mini Beasts  <b>Central idea:</b> We share our world with many tiny creatures.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The types of mini beasts</li> <li>• Where mini beasts live and what they need to survive</li> <li>• How mini beasts connect to other living things</li> </ul>

Pre-School	<p><b>Title:</b> Who Am I?  <b>Central idea:</b> Every day I can learn about who I am and what I can do.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What I can do</li> <li>• My senses</li> <li>• What I want to be when I grow up</li> </ul> <p>This unit is taught every year. This set of inquiry points will be the focus of those who are in their second year.</p>	<p><b>Title:</b> My Family  <b>Central idea:</b> Every family is special and has a history.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How we describe families</li> <li>• Roles and responsibilities within a family</li> </ul> <p>This unit is taught every year. This set of inquiry points will be the focus of those who are in their first year.</p>	<p><b>Title:</b> Tell Me a Story  <b>Central idea:</b> Stories teach us, give us pleasure and help our imaginations grow.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our favourite stories</li> <li>• Stories from around the world</li> <li>• What we learn from stories</li> <li>• Creating and presenting our own stories</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Under the Sea  <b>Central idea:</b> Many things live in the water.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Things that live in the water</li> <li>• Different water creatures in different places</li> </ul>		<p><b>Title:</b> Farms Around the World  <b>Central idea:</b> Farms produce food for all of us.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm animals</li> <li>• How farms work</li> <li>• Using farm products</li> <li>• Different farms in different places</li> </ul>
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Pre-School	<p><b>Title:</b> Who Am I?  <b>Central idea:</b> Every day I can learn about who I am and what I can do.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My physical characteristics</li> <li>• What I can do</li> <li>• My feelings, likes and dislikes</li> <li>• How I am growing and changing</li> <li>• How we care for ourselves</li> </ul> <p>This unit is taught every year. This set of inquiry points will be the focus of those who are in their first year.</p>	<p><b>Title:</b> My Family  <b>Central idea:</b> Every family is special and has a history.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood memories of my parents and grandparents</li> <li>• What it was like when they were children</li> <li>• My own childhood memories</li> </ul> <p>This unit is taught every year. This set of inquiry points will be the focus of those who are in their second year.</p>		<p><b>Title:</b> Water  <b>Central idea:</b> Water has various forms and uses.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The different forms of water</li> <li>• How water can be changed, and how it changes other things</li> <li>• How we can use water</li> <li>• Why water is important</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Our Community  <b>Central idea:</b> We are a part of our school and community.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homes here and in other places</li> <li>• Our school</li> <li>• Places people work</li> <li>• People in our community who help us</li> <li>• How we get around</li> <li>• Taking care of our community</li> </ul>	<p><b>Title:</b> Caring For Animals  <b>Central idea:</b> We can help to care for animals in our world.  <b>An inquiry into:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different animals in our world</li> <li>• What animals need to be live and be healthy</li> <li>• Living outside in different seasons</li> <li>• Places we meet animals</li> <li>• Ways we can help animals</li> </ul>
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2010 – 2011 School Year  
Units in the Program of Inquiry

Class	Who we are	Where we are in time and place	How we express ourselves	How the world works	How we organize ourselves	How we share the planet
PYP 4 – 5 ***	Safety (4)	Age of Discovery (4)	Through An Artist's Eye (4)	Simple Machines (5)	Fair Play For All (5)	Materials in Our World (5)
PYP 2 - 3 **	Healthy Eating Healthy Living (2)	Living Here (3)	Heroes In Our World (2)	Weather (3)	Codes We Live By (2)	Endangered Animals (3)
PYP 1	Friends Give and Take	Different Places	Expressing Ourselves	Plants We Eat	How is it made?	Mini Beasts
Preschool *	Who am I?	My Family			Our Community	Caring For Animals

Note: Listed above are the units that will be taught during the 2010-2011 school year, but the order in which the units will be taught can vary.

\* The Preschool studies four units in a school year. The selection of units for the current school year is shown in the chart above.

\*\* PYP 2 and 3 work in a combined class for their study of the units of inquiry. Therefore half of their units come from PYP 2 and half from PYP 3. It works on a two year rotation.

\*\*\*PYP 4 – 5 is a combined class and therefore half of their units come from PYP 4 and half from PYP 5. It works on a two year rotation.