

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Elonera Montessori School

Elonera Montessori School in Mt. Ousley is currently a candidate school for the IB Diploma Programme and plans to begin instruction for Year 11 students in January, 2011. For enrolment information, please contact IB Programme Coordinator Sheila Brooks or High School Curriculum Director Alex Ioannou at **(02) 4225 1000**. During the Christmas holidays when the school is closed, please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible. Alternatively, contact the IB Programme Coordinator by email at shebro4@gmail.com.

The International Baccalaureate Organization

Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IB) aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the IB works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. The IB promotes intercultural understanding and respect, not as an alternative to a sense of cultural and national identity, but as an essential part of life in the 21st century.

Size and Focus Areas

The IB is a non profit organization that works with over 3,000 schools in 139 countries offering three IB Programmes to approximately 876,000 students. It focuses on four main areas: development of curriculum, assessment of students, training and professional development of teachers and authorization and evaluation of schools.

Programmes

The IB offers three programmes for students aged 3 to 19. The programmes can be offered individually or as a continuum by IB World Schools.

- The Primary Years Programme (PYP) for students aged 3 to 12 started in 1997 and is now offered by 722 IB World Schools
- The Middle Years Programme (MYP) for students aged 11 to 16 started in 1994 and is now offered by 847 IB World Schools
- The Diploma Programme for students aged 16 to 19 started in 1968 and is now offered by 2,181 IB World Schools

The IB Diploma Programme

The IB Diploma Programme is an academically challenging and balanced programme of education that prepares students in Years 11 and 12 for success at university and for life beyond. It has an international, multicultural perspective that encourages critical and evaluative thinking. The programme is normally taught over a two year

period and is highly regarded by universities in Australia and around the world as an excellent preparatory course for higher educational studies. University credit is often given for completed IB courses.

IB Diploma Programme students study six courses over a two year period, three at standard level and three at higher level. Students must choose one subject from five areas of study thus ensuring a well-rounded education including languages, social studies, experimental sciences and mathematics. One further area, the arts, is included as an additional but not mandatory subject area. In addition, all students are required to complete a course in critical thinking (The Theory of Knowledge), produce a four thousand word research paper (The Extended Essay) and become engaged in community service, action and creative activities outside of school time (CAS).

The IB Diploma Programme promotes international education and intercultural understanding. It is based upon a holistic view of knowledge that emphasizes connections between the various fields of learning. In addition, focus is placed on the education of the whole person, emphasizing intellectual, personal, emotional and social growth achieved through a student-centred philosophy of education.

Assessment is carried out both on a continual basis throughout the two year period and in the completion of the final IB exams. The smaller, internal assessments are marked by IB teachers and moderated by external examiners. Final written examinations taken at the end of the second year are marked by external examiners. The diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across the whole programme and to satisfactory participation in the creativity, action and service requirement. The highest total that a Diploma Programme student can be awarded is 45 points.

Further details about the IB Diploma Programme for both parents and students may be found at www.ibo.org.