

THE INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# INTERNATIONAL DAY AND TIPS 42nd ANNIVERSARY



**On October 13th The International Preparatory School celebrated International Day and its 42nd anniversary.** The first part of the day consisted of presentation by each year group on the theme of “Multiculturalism and Respect.” Some presentations were humorous and others serious but all contributed to the learning experience.

## INTRODUCTION

To begin the show Year 6 students informed us that with approximately 190 countries and 7 billion people, we are living in a world of multiculturalism. At TIPS there are approximately 150 students and 25 nationalities so we too have cultural diversity. One of our objectives is to ensure that we respect the

different cultures that are a part of our school community and by extension learn to respect cultures from parts of the world and countries that are not represented in our personal educational space.

The Year 6 students discussed what we mean by respect, First, it means being thoughtful and considerate of the feelings of others. At a more profound level it means taking people seriously, to really listen to them and to try to understand them. Do not call people names or make references to their personal appearances. Do not treat them differently because of race, ethnic group, gender, sexual orientation or any other factor. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

There are basic ways to be polite to others. Greet someone when they enter the room. Speak to others politely when having a conversation. Remember to say please and thank you. Following these simple rules will make life easier for everyone and could possibly prevent some types of conflict from arising.

At the same time we should be aware of cultural differences. For example greetings are different around the world. In some countries a light handshake is normal while in others a firm handshake and eye contact is expected. In China and other countries a handshake is acceptable but may be accompanied by a slight bow. In Brazil people frequently embrace, and shake hands on meeting and leaving. Women may exchange kisses cheek to cheek or light air kisses. The number of kisses may vary from country to country.

Learning about different cultures will help us show respect in acceptable ways and will help us to be more open-minded.



Reception sang the song, "Respect, Check it Out, Check it Out." Playgroup and Foundation danced at the rhythm of a Brazilian Batucada and African drums lead by Mr. Carlos and one of his students.

Year 2 sang the Respect Rap.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T  
I give it to you and you give it to me.

It's all about the Golden Rule. You respect me and I respect you.

A clear message!

**Year 3** presented a very special poem for the occasion.

What do you see when you look at me?  
 What type of person could I be?  
 Maybe you see the colour of my skin,  
 Or perhaps you think I'm fat or thin.

Maybe you notice the strands of my hair,  
 And take some time to stop and stare.  
 Maybe I seem strange to you,  
 And you don't know what to say or do.

What do you see when you look at me?  
 What type of person could I be?  
 Maybe you see the freckles on my face,  
 Or wonder why I wear a brace.

Maybe you don't know the games I play,  
 Or the types and ways I like to pray.

Maybe I seem strange to you,  
 And you don't know what to say or do.

But look a little closer and you will see,  
 That you are very much like me.  
 I really love to climb trees,  
 And eat ice-cream 'til I get brain freeze.

What's that? Is this really true?  
 I didn't realise that you liked those things too.  
 Climbing trees is all I do,  
 And you like ice-cream? I didn't have a clue!

Today at lunch let's play a game  
 But which game is it? I might not know the name.  
 Don't worry, I'll teach you how.  
 You'd do that for me? Thank you, wow!

So let's break bread and share our food,  
 And remember that we shouldn't exclude.  
 Because if you were me and I were you,  
 You would like to be included too.



**Year 5** chose the poem “Trees” by Ram Dass. This poem is about diversity and respect. The poem takes you on a walk into the woods to appreciate all the different trees. It is about freeing ourselves from judgment and learning to appreciate each other no matter how different we may be. Our forest is full of different trees, but we all know that no matter how different we are, we’re in this together!



When you go into the woods and you look at trees,  
you see all these different trees...  
and some of them are bent, and some of them are straight,  
and some of them are evergreens and some of them are –  
whatever.

And you look at the tree, and you just – allow it.  
You appreciate it. You see why it is the way it is,  
you sort of understand that it didn’t get enough light, and so it  
turned that way,  
and you don’t get all emotional about it,  
you just allow it. You appreciate the tree.

The minute you get near humans, you lose all that,  
and you’re constantly saying, “You’re too this,” or “I’m too this,”  
that judging mind comes in.

And so I practice turning people into trees,  
which means appreciating them just the way they are.



**Year 1** sang the song “Hello to all the children of the world” with modified lyrics to represent our diverse class. Also, we wanted to spread a positive message that even if children are from different places and speak different languages they are all still children and they all enjoy the same things.



Hello, Bonjour, Buenos dias!  
G'day, Guten-Tag, Konichiwa...  
Ciao, Shalom, Do-Brey dien,  
Hello to all the children of the world!  
We live in different places from all around the world. We speak in many different ways!  
Though some things may be different, we're children just the same.



## Year 6



Students from Year 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10 also contributed to our presentation. Year 9 students sang us the countries of the world in a spirited song which required great concentration. Year 4 students acted out a sketch called “Respect” by Aretha Franklin. Students in Year 8 talked about the cultures present in their group, with each student presenting another student’s culture. Students from Year 8 spoke about Religion and Respect. Students from Year 10 presented a short play on dealing with disrespect and how to turn different situations around. All together a great learning experience.

## Afternoon activities



In the afternoon students could participate in a variety of activities. Thanks to all the members of the TIPS community who helped make our afternoon such a success. There was mask making, a demonstration of African food, nail painting, temporary tattoos, games and henna from India as well as an exhibition by the Royal Thai Embassy. Teachers, students and parents worked together to give us these fantastic activities, which included henna, music, and the chance for exciting photos. There was also mask making, and just lots and lots of fun and interaction. An afternoon well spent in different activities.

The Royal Thai Embassy set up an exhibition which included several musical instruments. Our music teacher, Carlos Moreno, was delighted to have the opportunity to try these out. We also had a fantastic photo opportunity.



Amazing activities provided the chance to have fun and learn about diverse cultures.



*And a lovely time was had by all.*



These activities were followed by a birthday cheer for TIPS which celebrated its 42nd anniversary.

Thank you again to all who helped make this day so special. Special thanks to the parents who came to have cake with us.

## **42 Years Serving the International and National Communities!**



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