

## International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme: DanceKids Integration

### Six Transdisciplinary Themes

The DanceKids programs closely integrate with the IB PYP transdisciplinary themes:

- **How we express ourselves:** This is a central focus of the DanceKids programs. Students learn to express themselves and extend their imagination through the creative and kinaesthetic learning pathways of dance, theatre and play.
- **How the world works:** DanceKids enables students to explore how the world works through experience and action. Each program has a specific focus on a topic of the natural or cultural world, such as Rainforests, ocean and marine life, or Romanian culture.
- **Sharing the planet:** Sustainability or 'looking after the planet' is another key focus of our programs. The programs explore the symbiotic relationship between human systems and natural systems through topics such as the importance of honeybees for pollination.
- **Where we are in place and time:** Each program links the students directly to place and time. For example, the Camouflage program includes the Bogong moth's journey via Canberra, the Around the World program looks at the cultures of Japan, India, Romania and Mexico, and the Dinosaur programs explore our planet's history.
- **Who we are:** Through DanceKids students build self-confidence, learn to cooperate with peers, and develop a passion and appreciation for the natural world. They become more aware of their potential and develop a stronger sense of responsibility.
- **How we organise ourselves:** Students develop an understanding that human systems are fundamentally reliant on natural systems and are thus organised around them. For example, students learn the dynamics of the water cycle and how it affects humans.

### Six Subject Areas

The DanceKids programs are based on a philosophy of transdisciplinary learning. The programs directly integrate **Science; Arts; Personal, Social and Physical Education; and Social Studies.**

**Language** is integrated throughout all programs. Languages other than English are also introduced in the Around the World program, which focuses on the traditions, food and dance of world cultures. This program is a perfect complement to the study of Spanish, Japanese, Hindi or Romanian.

Fundamentals of **Mathematics** are taught particularly in the Colours and Numbers program, which is aimed for Early Childhood students.

## Five Essential Elements

- **Concepts:** DanceKids follows a concept-based and inquiry-based approach to learning. Rather than focus on simply memorising information, the programs integrate specific concepts, which allow students to understand connections between their DanceKids learning, other subjects and their daily life.
- **Knowledge:** The programs are focused on learning about topics in the natural and cultural world, ranging from butterfly lifecycles to beach safety. Students not only retain this knowledge, but also enjoy the process of learning.
- **Skills:** Students develop motor skills, coordination and balance, as well as learn new creative inquiry tools of dance and play. Students develop a natural confidence and discover the joy of dance and movement.
- **Attitudes:** Students are immersed in a positive learning environment that allows them to have fun while learning. They build self-confidence, respect for international cultures and the natural world, and learn active participation and cooperation.
- **Action:** A key outcome of the DanceKids programs is that students develop a passion for the natural world and consequently are empowered to take action to protect it.

## Learner Profile

- **Inquirers:** Children are inherently curious learners and DanceKids helps students to actively learn in a way that is natural and enjoyable - through dance and movement.
- **Thinkers:** Movement enables students to think freely and uninhibited.
- **Communicators:** Students learn to effectively communicate through the art of dance and movement.
- **Risk-takers:** Students gradually build confidence through taking the risk to express themselves in an active way.
- **Knowledgeable:** Kinaesthetic learning leads to higher enjoyment and retainment levels than standard text base learning.
- **Principled:** Through developing a more intimate understanding of the environment, students are more driven to care for the natural world.
- **Caring:** Students learn to respect the abilities of other students and have an appreciation for diversity.
- **Open-minded:** Students not only develop an appreciation for the natural world and international cultures, but also for creative ways of learning.
- **Well-balanced:** The programs allow students to experience learning that balances physical and mental exertion, while contributing to personal wellbeing.
- **Reflective:** Each program develops like chapters in a book allowing students to reflect on previous learning and connect it with the present topic.