



# MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

## Personal Project Exhibition

### Class of 2018

April 28, 2016

*The Personal Project Exhibition is the culmination of a year long process of independent research, planning, production, and presentation. The projects run the gamut of creativity and are intended to be of personal interest and to be personally challenging for each student. This exhibition is the capstone event of the students' journeys through the Middle Years Programme.*

*The Grade 10 students summarized why this Personal Project was meaningful to them and what challenges they faced. Their responses are included in this brochure.*

*Thank you to the many advisors who were guides to our students.*

*Congratulations to the Class of 2018 for all your hard work!*



**RIVERSTONE**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



**Jessica A**

*And She Dances:  
Ballerina Stop Motion*

This project was meaningful to me because I created a visual story that allowed me to communicate without using words. Anyone could just press play and see how much time and dedication I put into my project. After watching many films and many stop motion I noticed that most people tend to gravitate towards something that is different and unique. Staying positive and keeping an open mind proved to be more effective than being frustrated. I learned that making a film isn't always about what you see on screen but what goes on behind the scenes: executing an idea. I learned that I should challenge my limits and hard work will pay off. Something I will take with me from this project is knowing that making mistakes is normal and I now have a whole new respect of what it means to make a stop motion; not only a stop motion but all films in general. It takes a lot of commitment and I think it takes a person who wants to really want to succeed, someone like me conquer the issue.

*Advisor: Hilda Ramirez*



**Ellie C**

*This Is Boise*

This project project was meaningful to me because I was able to explore my passion for both culture and photography. It was my goal to express the essence of Boise by capturing locations throughout the city in intriguing ways. By looking at photos of the buildings and streets that make up the city in which we all live, we can each begin to comprehend the city and the people here in a way that we haven't before. One of the most challenging aspects of the project was pushing myself to view my surroundings differently than I was used to. Normally when I walk downtown I accept my surroundings as "I am here, I know here", but for this project I had to look at where I was and ask myself "how can I make this more?". During this project I experienced first hand that there is a difference between pretty pictures that we take on our phones and photos powerful enough to print onto paper. This experience pushed upon the boundaries of what I thought I could accomplish, and because of it I now feel confident knowing that with copious amounts of time management skills and just a smudge of cold-hard dedication, anything can be done.

*Advisor: John Pedersen*



**Claire C**

*Living In Boise*

My personal project is a photograph book. At first, I hesitated in choosing a project, worrying that would be too easy or too hard, and would also be special and meaningful to me, and let me have an enduring interest. Later my advisor gave me some ideas. One of the ideas was to make a photograph book. It reminded me of many photos of landscapes and life in Boise on my phone that I took. So I decided to record those valuable memories through making a photograph book. There were many challenges in the course of designing the book, like choosing which layout and background to make the pages look simple and comfortable. I learned a lot from this project. For example, I need to plan and to record what I have done during the period of doing my project. I need to notice whether the photo works if it is in that page while I am editing the photo. I need to pay attention to the overall impact. I need to communicate with others more instead of keeping many things myself.

*Advisor: Charissa Rausch*

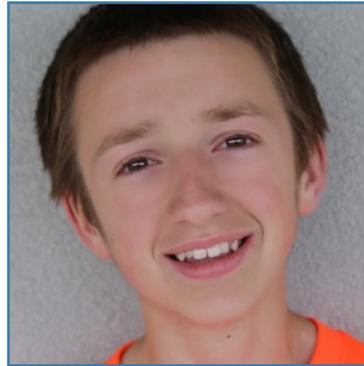


**Aela D**

*Video Game Storyboards;  
A Feminist Twist*

I took some of my passions and made something from them that could have an impact on the world. I have always loved to write and create and inhabit fantasy worlds; it's a very important part of who I am. This, coupled with my love for story-driven video games, and my interest in women's place in today's society, resulted in this project. In all types of media, there is often a definitive mistreatment of feminine characters. Many of these characters are used merely as prizes or motivations for the leading male character, and this trend is especially noticeable in video games. Female characters sometimes don't even get a proper dialogue option. My project was to design interesting, realistic, and independent female characters, and to incorporate those characters into a video game storyboard. I encountered many difficulties; from technical challenges like drawing out characters that I had seen so clearly in my mind's eye, to properly developing multiple outcomes and logical sequences necessary for a video game storyline to be clear and understandable. My project was an exciting journey, although I certainly did not end up where I imagined I would.

*Advisor: Jim Harper*



**James E**

*Building the Sinew Backed Bow*

I explored my passion for archery and the art of craftsmanship, while learning about the physics and process behind one of the most timeless weapons of history. I developed a wide range of physical and mental skills, while learning about the world we live in. My research taught me about properties of wood, the purpose of shape, and how basic physics and knowledge of potential energy determines the efficiency of a bow. Long drying times and the tedious tillering process taught me the importance of patience and self management. I learned how to use equipment such as a draw knife, band saw, rasp and heat gun, as well as how to make my own specialized tools. My effort to stay as natural and sustainable as possible strengthened my relationship with the outdoors and developed a respect for the tools nature has provided us with. I learned how development of new technology is continuously degrading, and as a result, devaluing hunting from what it once was - how it's getting to the point where fairness to the animal is no longer guaranteed. Ultimately, the process highlighted the artistic expression and engineering phenomenon that is the creation of a bow.

*Advisor: Jim Harper*

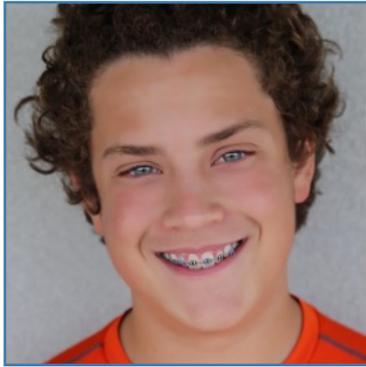


**Peter E**

*Alternative Fuels in Cars*

For my Personal Project, I wanted to find something I could do to help the environment. This led me to research alternative fuels that could be used instead of gasoline in cars. I was surprised by the amount of different fuels there are, which may be the cause of no one, ubiquitous alternative. Although electric cars are becoming very powerful today, the electricity they run on is still produced by fossil fuels. To help shift away from dependence on fossil fuels, an alternative fuel with less harmful emissions than gasoline is needed. I found that hydrogen fuel cells, produced through electrolysis, was the most environmentally friendly. When used, the only emissions are water vapor.

*Advisor: Hilda Ramirez*



**Joshua H-K**

*What Political Policies Have Decreased Income Inequality?*

I wanted to explore the category of politics because it is a subject area that I am very interested in. By looking into policies that have helped to decrease income inequality I was able to learn more about something that interested me as well as allowing me to come to understand myself better and what motivates me. The biggest challenge throughout the process was staying honed in on what specifically I wanted to accomplish and not get too broad so that I wouldn't be able to showcase specifics of what I learned in my website. Another challenge was managing time in such a long process I had to be very careful in my planning to stay on track but not overwhelmed. This project has taught me much about myself as well as the politics and the challenges that are associated with that topic. I learned how to manage my time which will be essential for the Diploma Program. The process also helped me learn about myself and what my limits are and how far I can push myself.

*Advisor: Jen Coffey*



**Olivia L**

*The Design and Construction of a Climbing Wall*

This project was meaningful to me because it allowed me to explore my passion for rock climbing outside of a gym and away from a crag, while providing a way to combine this passion with my interests in architecture and design. The most challenging part of this project was staying motivated on such a long-term basis, but it presented me the opportunity to put my time-management skills to the test, which is more important now than ever considering that I enter into the Diploma Program next year. The main thing that I learned through completing this project relates to myself as a learner. I've learned more about construction, architecture, and climbing, yes, but more importantly, I've learned that if I set a seemingly daunting goal for myself and genuinely strive to reach it, then there's nothing that can stop me. Cliché? Maybe, but thanks to this project, I at least know that it's true.

*Advisor: Jim Harper*



**Gavin S**

*Designing a Raft for Syrian Refugees*

For my personal project, I decided to Try and design a Raft or Boat in order to help Syrian refugees escape Syria during this time of war. This project was meaningful to me because It allowed me to explore a new form of design, and it allowed me to learn more about the Syrian Conflict, and what the life of the refugees was like. The most challenging part of my Project was trying to decipher the string of alliances and policies that surround the Syrian Conflict. A close second to most challenging aspect of my project was trying to find what I should make a boat out of, and how. But as I continued to do more research, I managed to fight my way through the barriers of my personal project. I learned through my project that many problems and issues facing the world today are very complex, even if they are a simple idea.

*Advisor: Jon Moreno-Ramirez*



**Javin S**

*Creating a Cricket Energy Bar*

This project was meaningful to me because it allowed me to pursue my interest in cooking while striving to help people at the same time. Making an energy bar recipe is all the more rewarding when you are doing it with the goal of making the world a better place. The most challenging part of this project was incorporating crickets into my energy bar without making the bar taste awful (which was quite challenging indeed). However with enough tries I managed to make the bars taste barely tolerable, a success in my book! Something I learned through completing this project was that you can't simply jump right into things. You need to plan ahead and lay out detailed steps for you to achieve your goal. If you do not do these things you will most likely fail as you won't have any direction or guidance when actually doing the project. This project is a great way of reinforcing this skill set, setting you up for the future (especially the Diploma Programme).

*Advisor: Ben Brock*



**Katharina T**

*A Travel Guide through Germany*

This project was meaningful to me because it allowed me to show my favorite places you should see when you visit Germany. The goal of my project was to write a travel guide to show students in the Riverstone community what I love about my home country. During this project I noticed that I can use creative ways in accomplishing my goal. In the beginning I wanted to explore the structure of a traditional travel guide. As a result I figured out a way to make my own useful structure for the travel guide. A challenging part of my project was that I needed to decide which cities I am going to write about. When I started writing about the cities, I realized that I want to talk about the cities I am feeling connected to. I also have noticed that communication is important to accomplishing a goal. The most important part for me is that the project taught me that there are many ways to accomplish a goal.

*Advisor: Charissa Rausch*



**Payton T**

*The End of the World: A Story*

This project was meaningful to me because it allowed me to explore my interest in writing and how the human race affects the world. My goal with this project was to create a book that showed people what the world as a whole was doing to destroy our Earth, but to also make it a somewhat enjoyable read, and to outline what a singular person could do to help. The most challenging aspect of the project was the time available. When I began this project, I did not realize how long it would take to get my ideas onto a page, and so it was challenging for me to decide what I was going to focus on, and what was most important for getting my point across. In completing this project, I learned a lot about the world around me, and myself. I learned that I have a hard time getting my many ideas across, and along with this I learned how to better voice my ideas and opinions. I additionally learned how to critique myself, and others, in a sufficient way, which is an important life skill.

*Advisor: John Pedersen*



## **Christina U**

### *Building a Functioning Radio*

This project was meaningful to me because I learned a lot, not only about how radios function, but also about my ability to critically approach my work. One of the most important goals throughout the process was reflecting upon my radios and thinking about how to make them better. For me, determining which parts of my radio weren't working or could be made better was the most challenging aspect of the process. As there were many parts in my radio that could be limiting its performance, the greatest obstacle I encountered was using trial and error to decide which parts weren't functioning. I learned a lot of things about myself. For example, that I enjoy working with electronics because I can see the progress I make and judge whether or not my final product is satisfactory. This project forced me to apply my problem-solving skills and focus on the relevance of small details, thereby enhancing my ability to do so. Overall, I am very satisfied with my final project and I have become a better learner and problem solver because of it.

*Advisor: Tami Dougherty*