



Early Childhood & Lower School



Middle School



Upper School



A Pirate Linguistics Lesson?



Becoming an accomplished reader and writer are just two of the benchmarks students meet as they become independent learners. Becoming well-educated individuals goes even further when students discover the whys behind what they learn.

Learning about language or the study of linguistics adds that depth of knowledge. To Lower and Middle School students, this challenge would likely be met with less than overwhelming enthusiasm, a creative teacher on board like Mr. Aaron Kleffman, sixth grade English teacher, can make all the difference.

Two years ago, he decided to take advantage of International Talk Like a Pirate Day to teach his sixth graders more about how language works. With the unfamiliar language of pirate talk, he could focus on the mechanics and nuances of language amidst the fun and popularity of pirates. He and his sixth graders developed an entire pirate unit that culminated in a whole school "Talk Like a Pirate Day" presentation. The Lower School classes toured the presentation. Starting with the "robotic" historic pirate figures, the younger students saw sixth graders in costume and listened to their pirate character presentations at the push of a button just like in a museum. Next it was on to pirate humor with stand-up comedy performed in a dinghy instead of on stage. Even bad pirate jokes are funny! Finally it was on to a rendition and explanation of sea shanties.

Each Lower School class heard and enjoyed the presentation. The pirates were a look at things to come for language development in the curriculum. In pre-kindergarten, students begin learning about language with phonics. As they progress through the curriculum, they engage in increasingly more complex learning activities in writing, reading, building vocabulary, and language development. By Middle School, students are learning more about the origins, derivations, and application of language.

A classroom with the dinghy is just one example of the collaboration among teachers and of the many active learning opportunities to be found in Indian Creek classrooms that capture the imagination, stimulate curiosity, and foster intellectual growth. Building on our philosophy and All Kinds of Minds, students learn so much more than the basics. They become independent learners who explore the breadth and depth of subjects -- and have fun doing it.

Learn more about [our educational program, philosophy, and All Kinds of Minds.](#)

