

*Winthrop School*

**LEARNING  
MADE  
RELEVANT**

*A Closer Look at Today's Learning  
Experiences*

**FOCUS ON:**

*Global Connections*



global

[ globe (world) + all (of us) ]

#globalcitizens

"Building a connection to the global community" is an important objective of the Ipswich Public Schools' District Strategic Plan, recognizing the need to prepare students to "face the challenges presented by an increasingly complex world." Winthrop School embracing this goal with enthusiasm and strives to prepare our young global citizens to live and thrive in a connected world.

At Winthrop, meeting this objective encompasses three areas:

- 1) understanding and celebrating the vibrant mix of our school community
- 2) making sure our students are represented in the learning resources we provide
- 3) seeking meaningful opportunities to connect Winthrop to the world.

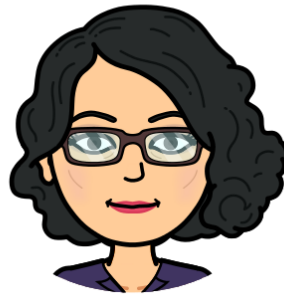
**“** "I felt really joyful to communicate with the kids in Florida. I never really talked with people from another state before, so it made me think about people from other places."  
~ Amani, Gr 3 **”**

**“** "I learned all about another culture, how they live, and how it's different from what we do. It's important to be aware that people do things in different ways."  
~ Claire, Gr 4 **”**

# Steps To Success

MRS. SEKIGUCHI, LIBRARY  
MEDIA SPECIALIST, SHARES...

Our Winthrop families represent many different countries of origin, and our students bring with them strengths gained by knowledge of other languages and cultures. We hope to tap into these strengths in order to build a sense of belonging for all of our students, and to develop a sense of shared responsibility associated with global citizenship.

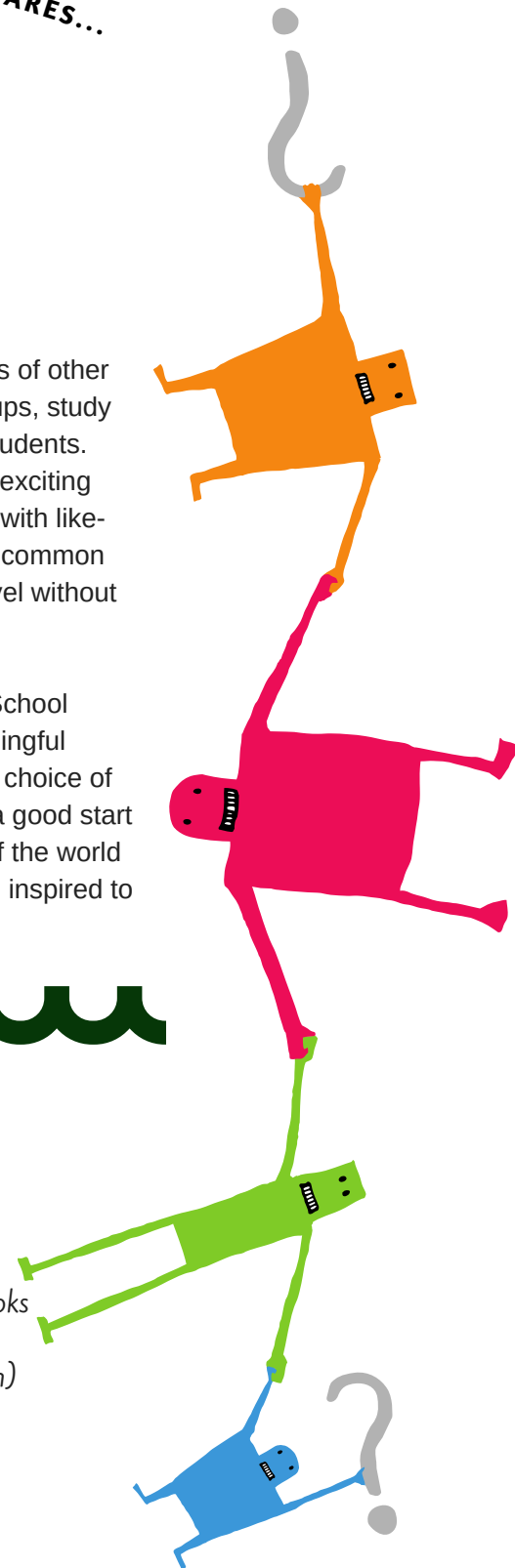


We are seeking and creating learning experiences that expand our awareness of other cultures. As teachers develop their own cultural proficiency through book groups, study groups, and training, they are also providing similar opportunities for their students. Innovative technology tools such as Flipgrid, a social learning platform, and exciting projects such as ArtLink, a global art exchange program, allow us to connect with like-minded educators and classrooms in other parts of the world. We are finding common ground while appreciating differences, and experiencing the excitement of travel without leaving the grounds of Winthrop School.

These are truly exciting times for students and teachers as the Winthrop School community expands its global reach and develops opportunities for meaningful connection. Through our participation in innovative programs and through our choice of materials such as multicultural books and research databases, we have made a good start towards meeting the district's goal. Together, we are building our knowledge of the world and improving our cross-cultural communication skills. Most importantly, we are inspired to continue our growth as responsible global citizens.

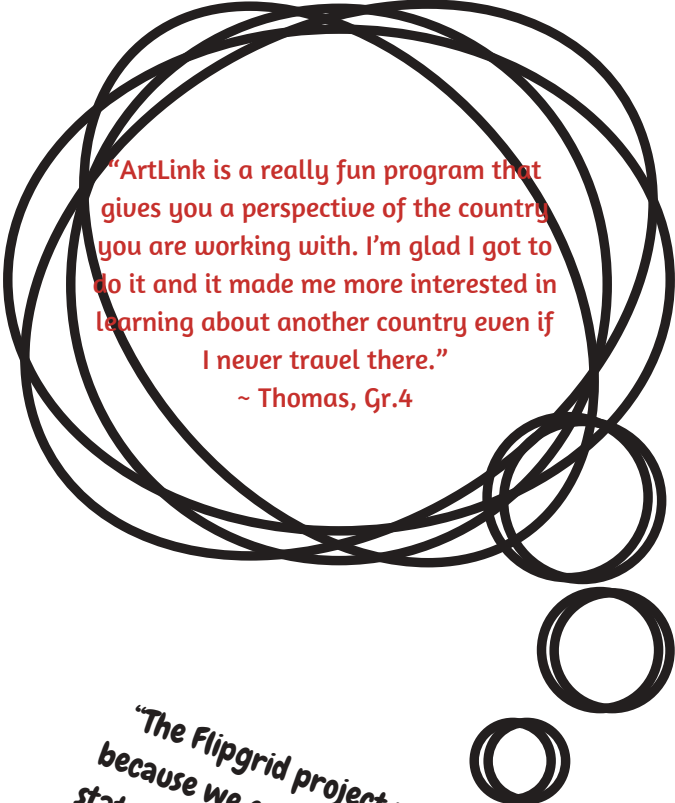
## IN THE CLASSROOM

Throughout the school year, Winthrop classrooms participate in several global educational activities. In the fall, we join the Global Read Aloud to read selected books and communicate with schools in other locations. We have participated in postcard exchanges and Mystery Skypes (using map skills to guess the other school's location) with schools in the U.S. and Canada. On World Read Aloud Day, we have enjoyed talking with some of our favorite authors via Skype and Google Hangouts. By participating in these and other programs with an international reach (Global Play Day, etc.) and by connecting with others through social media and social learning platforms, we realize that our learning is not limited by the walls of our school. This year, we have many new and exciting initiatives on tap, and we will let you know when they are underway!



Once again, our third grade is participating in the ArtLink program with schools in Uganda, Russia, India, and Japan. We are creating and exchanging original art that reflects family, school, and community traditions; and, we will meet our partner classes, via live video conferences in the spring. Last year, our students wowed us with their articulate and moving ArtLink presentations throughout the community, as well as their beautiful pieces of art.

We are taking advantage of exciting online resources such as Flipgrid, an educational website that allows students to record and respond to videos posted by partner classes. We have become "GridPals" with a school in the Everglades region of Florida to talk about books and learn about each other's schools and hometowns. Using Flipgrid, the second grade has shared fairy tales with a school in another Massachusetts town. This year we will be using this tool to discuss art with our Japanese ArtLink partners. Flipgrid allows students to practice good digital citizenship and to make connections with other schools both near and far, regardless of time zones.



**"ArtLink is a really fun program that gives you a perspective of the country you are working with. I'm glad I got to do it and it made me more interested in learning about another country even if I never travel there."**

**~ Thomas, Gr.4**

**"The Flipgrid project was really cool because we got to learn about another state in the country. It was fun to share information with our GridPals."**

**~ Zain, Gr 3**

Books and other resources also play an important role in broadening our global understanding. Both the school and classroom libraries are building book collections that reflect our diverse community and that open windows to the world. By sharing and discussing books, we grow as global citizens. Through the popular Winthrop Reads program, we have selected titles such as *One Plastic Bag* to learn about recycling efforts in Gambia that resemble our own recycling programs in Ipswich. Literature helps us find common ground while also opening our eyes to new people, places, and experiences. In addition to books, the library purchases multimedia databases such as CultureGrams that offer quality information about countries and states. Reading in both print and online formats gives students access to a world of information.

The 2018~2019 school year promises to be an exciting one with many new global connection opportunities in the works. Stay tuned to hear more about our learning adventures, and join us on our journey!

**Flipgrid GridPals**

<http://blog.flipgrid.com/news/gridpals>

**ArtLink**

<https://creativeconnections.org/>