



BESANT HILL SCHOOL  
*est. 1946*

# GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: International Week

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It's hard to imagine that just a few months ago, the Humanities Department was planning and executing International Week 2020. International Week is always a lively community celebration that aims to illuminate the richness of our diverse perspectives and world views. We work carefully to curate an enriching experience that is engaging and sensory. We not only plan fun all-school activities, but we also create student leadership opportunities, and bring in professionals to share inspiring talents.

The week kicked off with an event that was both curricular and auxiliary. Each student and faculty member reflected on what aspects of their culture have influenced their perspective and then shared those influences while walking the Cultural Catwalk. The result was a creative storm of political, social, religious and artistic cultural influences that have impacted our community of budding Global Citizens. This kick-off activity allowed for every student and faculty member to walk the stage and share informative personal and cultural nuances that were both amusing and instructive.

Our cultural renaissance was further enriched on Tuesday afternoon when Martial Arts extraordinaire, Terry Kvasnik, joined our school community to share the healing art of ancient China, Thai Chi. The entire



ALEX N.-A. '20 PRESENTS HIS HOME COUNTRY  
DURING THE CULTURAL CATWALK

school ventured out to the soccer field to partake in an all-school exercise. It was a remarkable experience to be engaged in mindful silent movement practice with over 100 community members.

On Wednesday of International Week we were entertained by a stunning performing arts department showcase of music, dance, poetry, pop-culture, and prayer from across the globe. The assembly revealed traditional talents of our students from Japan, China, Cameroon, Hungary, Vietnam, Mexico, Czech Republic and the United States. The festivities continued in the afternoon when local dance instructor and owner of Hamsa Dance Studio





STUDENTS LEARN THAI CHI WITH A STUNNING AFTERNOON BACKDROP

in Ojai, Isha Ferraz, taught two traditional Bollywood dances to the entire student body.

One of International Week's treasures is the Thursday language class. Our beloved Spanish Instructor, Nestor, spends weeks preparing student volunteers to teach lessons on a topic of their choice. This year students rallied around food and taught the names of fruits and vegetables in Arabic, Hungarian, French, Japanese, German, Czech, Mandarin, Icelandic, Spanish, Swahili, and Vietnamese. In an effort to expand our perspectives of language and communication and also tie in to this year's theme of Global Citizenship and Environmental Activism, the

language of plants and whales were also offered.

International Week culminated with an all-school assembly in which the entire freshman class presented their research projects on grassroots environmental activists. Their presentation enlightened us to important world-wide efforts that have been made to protect the environment all over the world.

All in all, the week was a great success and a wonderful demonstration of *Aún Aprendo!* ♦

Read more at [www.besanthill.org](http://www.besanthill.org).

*Besant Hill School offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, including more than 20 art electives, AP-level courses, competitive athletics, engaging fitness program, outdoor education, experiential education programs, small class sizes, and a 4:1 student-teacher ratio.*

**Aún Aprendo**

"I am still learning."

**BESANT HILL SCHOOL  
OF HAPPY VALLEY**

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