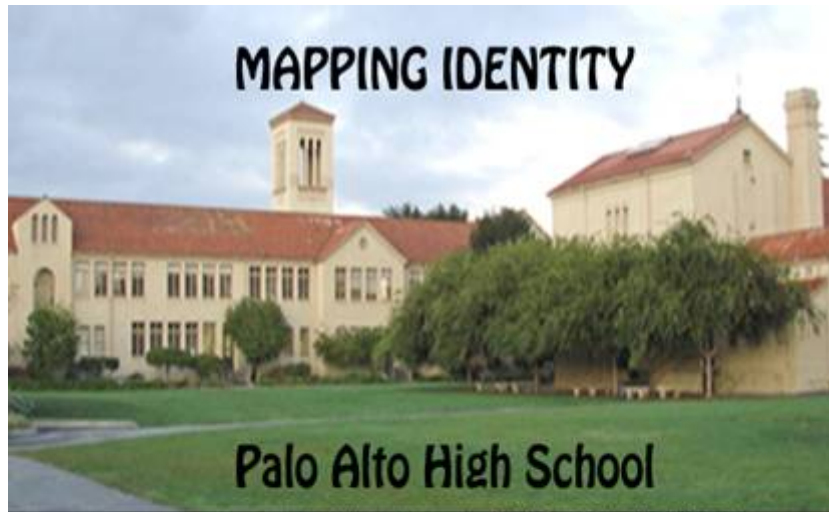


Mapping Identity



Art teacher Margo Wixsom designed this media arts project to create an academic dialogue with schools in other parts of the world. The goal was to share a sense of identity of place in collaborative projects linked to current curriculum. The major Photography project was Landscape Photography.



History teacher Gavin Barry joined the project and designed the Self-Portrait photo-essay project component from part of his International Baccalaureate program to explore and express a personal identity.



Fun fact: Margo is Gavin's mom!

Sharing Educational Resources



Dell Laptop
Power Cable

“What Matters” texts

National Geographic
magazines for
ZIP-USA articles

USB sticks
Art supplies

The Palo Alto class packaged a laptop, books, and art supplies with an invitation to share curriculum with Wilson Commencement Academy students. As part of an affluent community, their intention was to share technology and academic resources with a partner school in need of resources and to learn from them about their classroom and community experience.

The academic standards focus of the project was to integrate visual and written literacy components to enhance student learning about geographical, cultural, and personal identity. Technology standards focused on the creation, maintenance and use of a collaborative blog for students to post visual albums to share a sense of place paired with short essays to describe and express their experience, identities, and lifestyles.

Mapping Identity

*An international collaboration exploring ideas of PLACE
Palo Alto High School - Palo Alto California
Wilson Commencement Academy - Rochester New York*

October
27

The map is not the territory.

Ralph Rumney and Alan Woods on the elements of play and discovery

Permalink



Class Blogs

Mapping Identity: Wilson TOK

2009

December	June
November	May
October	April
September	March
August	February
July	January

Follow the Wilson TOK (Theory of Knowledge) class at their blog @

<http://wilsontok.tumblr.com/>



Students in the Advanced Photography class designed and maintained a blog - inviting the Wilson TOK (Theory of Knowledge) class to join.

You can follow the thread of their exchange at:
<http://mappingidentity.tumblr.com/>

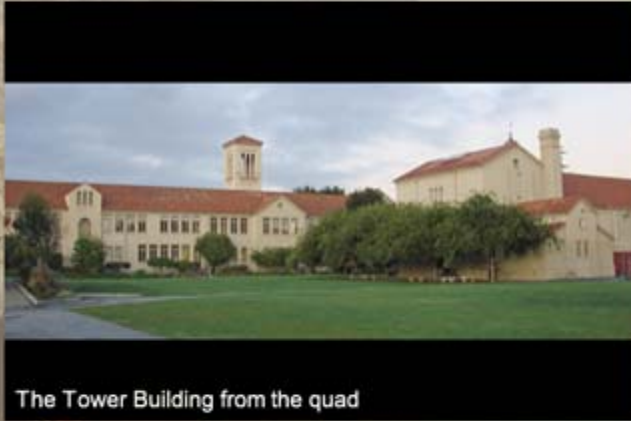


Palo Alto High School goes by the nickname Paly. So the Paly Advanced Photo class welcomes you to this exciting collaboration and exploration of "Mapping Identity" in all the places that we want to share. Each student will tell you what place they plan to explore to take photos and video to share with YOU!

A Tale of Two Schools

An international collaboration exploring ideas of PLACE
Palo Alto High School - Palo Alto California
Wilson Commencement Academy - Rochester New York

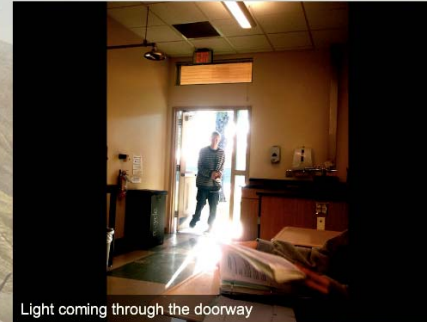
October
27



The Tower Building from the quad

Palo Alto High School goes by the nickname of Paly. The campus icon is the Tower Building which was built over a century ago on land donated by... Most events are scheduled on the quad - like Club Day where all the s...

November
17



Light coming through the doorway

PALY CAMPUS

These are some parts of the Paly campus, part of my everyday life as well as the other around 2,000 students that attend Palo Alto High School. Paly is situated at 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto CA. ~Terra

Blogging inspired students to share daily about their school and neighborhoods.

Students shared images of their campus spaces and wrote short descriptions in regular blog postings.

Palo Alto High School is located in Palo Alto, CA - the Bay Area of Northern California in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Wilson Commencement Academy is located in Rochester NY, a major city in the Northeast in the heart of the Great Lakes.

November
6



ZIP Research collaborative classrooms



Wilson Commencement Academy students



Palo Alto Advanced Photography students



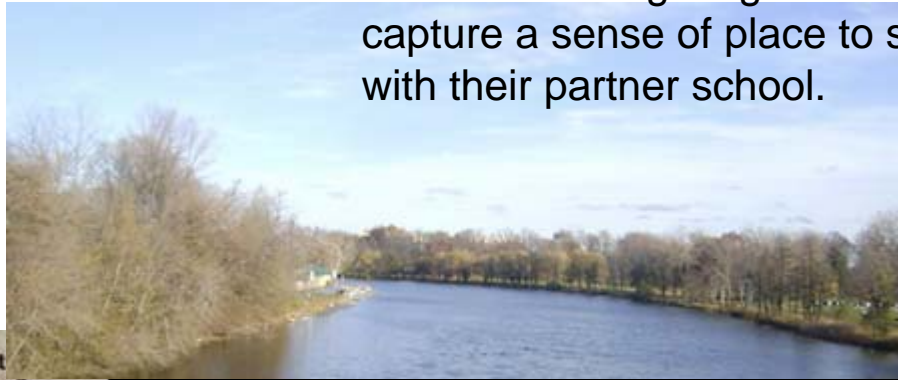
National Geographic's ZIP USA articles are also online.

As a professional model for photographing and writing about place, students at both schools researched National Geographic feature articles: ZIP USA which are short photo essays about places in America.



Sharing Identity of Place

After researching the ZIP USA articles students explored their cities and surrounding neighborhoods to capture a sense of place to share with their partner school.



Oct
28



Downtown Skyline from Ford Street Bridge

Images of Rochester



Reflection of the sky in glass

THE HEART OF SAN FRANCISCO

These are pictures taken around Union Square, the commercial center of San Francisco. It is surrounded by numerous boutiques and brand name stores like Macy's, Coach, H&M, and Forever 21. I tried to make these photographs represent the cheerful and elegant essence of the Union Square district. Though these pictures don't show anything remarkable, they capture a trait of San Francisco. ~Hannah M.

November
15



Once the world's largest indoor pool

OCEAN BEACH

Part of the Pacific Ocean, Ocean Beach is located in the Sunset District of San Francisco. It is a part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and well known for its 3.5 miles of powerful winds and harsh currents, attracting surfers from all over. Famous landmarks located on Ocean Beach include Seal Rock, the Cliff House and now burnt remains of the Sutro Baths. Ocean Beach is not only a great place for biking, jogging, walking the dog, volleyball, but bonfires and kite-flying too.

~Melanie

Placing Wilson TOK



The sign in front of the school building announces your arrival at the collection of Wilson Magnet Schools. Wilson Magnet placed #24 in Newsweek's 2006 "100 Best Schools in America" (Palo Alto High School ranked #79)

Students capture the atmosphere of the Wilson cafeteria and lunch hour on campus.

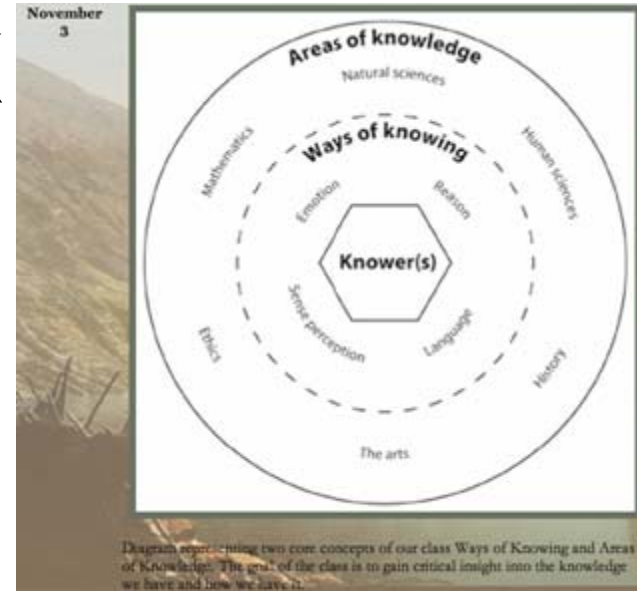


Diagram of the Theory of Knowledge



Around the Wilson Campus

December
3



This is a picture of me on the second floor of the library. I love hanging out there because we can have alot of fun while we're getting our work done and the teche are so nice in there.

-Ericka

Barra regales about the joys of a step class and spending time with fellow students.

December
3



My life consist of very simple things. I love to step on a regular basis because it is all about Pearls World. I also love to to go to parties with my friends because partying blows off our steam when we do alot of work. Also hanging out with friends is the way we spend our time. We go to movies together and we take numerous amounts of pictures, cute ones, and goofy ones. My life is very good and i enjoy living each day.

Barra Madden

December
3



This is a picture of some of the girls, and Quadar in our IB class, during a fire drill.

- Ericka

Rochester and the IB Program

Wilson Commencement Academy International Baccalaureate class and a view of nearby Genesee Park. The Genesee River flows into Lake Ontario as well as connects to the Erie Canal.

December
1



A walk through of Rochesters own Genesee Valley Park

DeVonté S. Brown

December
2



I spend a lot of my time working on IB stuff and poetry club. I like being apart of both groups. I, myself love poetry clubs because it allows people to express themselves. It's a good experience. In the second picture (the group without robes on), it shows most of our school's poetry club at our first performance. The third picture is of my IB graduating class right before the IB induction. Just about all of the students are there. To my knowledge, we all had fun during our short time before the ceremony.

November
17



Light coming through the doorway

PALY CAMPUS

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Placing Paly

November
20



Arches towards Quad

November
30

A LOOK INTO STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Stanford University is a main attraction for Palo Alto and is well known internationally. Stanford has popular events not just for students, but for families such as sports games. This weekend is our big game, against our rival Cal, and signs are posted everywhere saying, Beat Cal. In one of my photos, the students have dyed the fountain red/white color the week before the Big Game. Some popular attractions for students are fountain hopping/winning in fountains, climbing the well-known tower, and attending games. ~Lerry



Tour Bus across the Golden Gate Bridge

November
30



Train passing by over pass

ANYWHERE IN BETWEEN

We have two train stations in Palo Alto, one on University avenue and one on California avenue. The trains are that link to the rest of the Bay Area without having to spend money on gas. Being a constant train user, and not having a license to drive's not anyway, I can easily get to the cities (San Francisco or San Jose) or anywhere in between. ~Margaret

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Palo Alto High School refers to itself and its community as "Paly." Across the street from Stanford University, Paly is surrounded by a rich academic environment of art galleries, museums, science labs, and historical sites. The CalTrain has 3 stops in Palo Alto and connects the city with San Francisco to the north and south to Gilroy, the Garlic Capitol of the world, in Monterey County.

Finding Their Place

Mapping Identity: Portraits of Place

For their landscape Photography unit students made a list of all the interesting places in the Bay Area. They signed up for one place to explore and capture in photographs to submit as a photo-essay on the Mapping Identity blog.



The class went outside to explore ways to frame people in the environment. They chose to have a class portrait as a reflection in a large puddle that forms in front of our building on rainy days - a favorite photo staging area..



Palo Alto - Around Town



Restaurant front

THE HEART OF SAN FRANCISCO

These are pictures taken around Union Square, the commercial center of San Francisco. It is surrounded by numerous boutiques and brand name stores like Macy's, Coach, H&M, and Forever 21. I tried to make these photographs represent the cheerful and elegant essence of the Union Square district. Though these pictures don't show anything remarkable, they capture a trait of San Francisco. ~Hannah M.

As part of the Landscape Photography unit, Play students selected a place in the community to photograph and share on the blog. They framed a sense of place using Landscape Photography techniques to capture the big picture along with the smaller details of the places around Palo Alto.



Mural

CALIFORNIA AVENUE

Cal Av. is not the typical Palo Alto scene. The stores are older, the streets more worn. It is however, my favorite place in the city. I guess I thought you should see it.



Scratching around for food.

OHLONE FARM

Because Palo Alto is exotic to an urban city, many people are surprised to find that there is a real farm in it. Ohlone Elementary School, one of the two alternative elementary schools in the school district has it's own farm where kids are taught about agriculture and science. The Ohlone Farm currently has two goats, two sheep, 15 chickens and a big garden where many edible plants are grown. ~Lizette



Close up

I took a trip to Southern California for a family apparatus and on the way back we stopped at the beach. Southern California is where most of the California searceps are born, LA and over 1340 miles of coastline make it easy to think that California is one huge day at the beach. Though it's November, the summer is apparently hasn't ended in SoCal, but this doesn't remain true for most of the state. Despite the coast existing in northern California, it's not exactly warm waters. ~Ca. 13

The character of crowded streets along University and California Avenues include shops and local murals juxtaposed with the smaller details of Deer Hollow educational farm and the docks along Shoreline Park at the bottom of the San Francisco Bay..

California - The Bay Area

November
15



Once the world's largest indoor pool

OCEAN BEACH

Part of the Pacific Ocean, Ocean Beach is located in the Sunset District of San Francisco. It is a part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and well known for its 3.5 miles of powerful winds and harsh currents, attracting surfers from all over. Famous landmarks located on Ocean Beach include Seal Rock, the Cliff House and now burnt remains of the Sutro Baths. Ocean Beach is not only a great place for biking, jogging, walking the dog, volleyball, but bonfires and kite-flying too.

~Melanie

Palo Alto enjoys access to both the California Coast and the San Francisco Bay. The geography of place is captured in its landscapes and wildlife. Baylands Park is part of the Don Edwards national Wildlife refuge and is minutes from the Palo Alto campus.

November
17



after chasing the egret around the lake

Shoreline Baylands

The Baylands have a diverse amount of animal life, like birds. As someone already took pictures of the landscape, I decided to focus more on the birds. Bird stalking is quite rewarding.

~Michelle

Students in the Photography class selected local places for their landscape photography project which doubled as their blog postings.

Portrait of a Class



PORTRAIT OF A CLASS

Looking around the classroom this week I noticed how colorful groups of students looked with backpacks and t-shirts in bright hues. I walked around and composed several cropped images (students laughing as I climbed on tables and stooped down on the floor to get interesting angles). I asked one student to photograph me from below to capture the colors of the hazmat sign posted outside my classroom



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PORTRAIT OF A CLASS

As a transition between portraits of place and self-portraits Art teacher Margo Wixsom modeled using photo strategies and perspectives to frame a sense of place and people.



Framing Personal Identity

History teacher Gavin Barry proposed a literacy project to photograph and write about self-identity from a unit in his IB curriculum.

Art teacher Margo Wixsom posted a series of self-portrait techniques and strategies with examples and explanations for students to review and apply to their visual compositions.

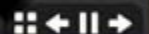


Self-portrait strategies illustrated and explained

November
7



CD reflection experiments - straight on



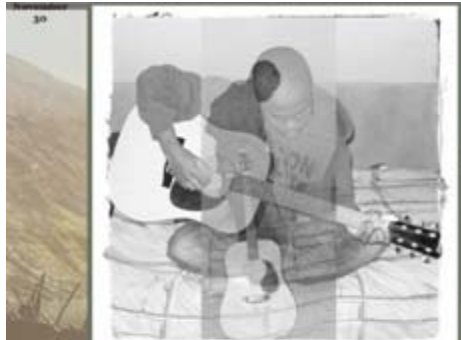
STUDENT EXAMPLES - try these at home!

Portraits of Wilson IB Students



This photograph helps to provide knowledge about my identity. The Y-shaped necklace around my neck helps show that I am a Muslim. The necklace consists of 99 prayer beads and is a symbol of peace and purity. Also in the photo, I have a pair of headphones around my neck. I love music. My favorite artists are A. T. Lewis, Kanye West, and John Mayer.

Quint



This is a photograph of me playing the guitar. This shows a lot about my identity because music inspires me a lot and really helps me to relax/stress. Also I'm a really big fan of acoustic and alternative music and that's one of the reasons I started playing.

Abraham



My Clarinet and Solo

All of these pictures show knowledge about who I am. The Outdoors Club picture shows how I enjoy the outdoors and that I'm adventurous. The picture I took downtown (and developed in a darkroom) and the picture of my clarinet shows how I am artistic and creative. There is no better way to show someone who you are than with pictures.

Jalen



These photos represent some things that describe myself. The first picture shows myself after my basketball game today. Basketball is a sport that I have been



Hello Hello people... these pictures show my unique style and my very divalicious personality... than all for now Signed: Lahaia Burgess

Class: Fashion Design



These two pictures say alot about who i am. The first picture of me dribbling a basketball shows my athletic side, i love to play basket ball, during the summer i play almost everyday with my brother, cousin, and friends. The second picture shows my creative, goofy side, but also what i would call my greaky side. I like to try to do good in school and do all my work.



The person in the background is a person. In the picture in a Jamaica flag. They are all in the background and some of them are who he was in his early years. Some of them are the people who helped him and later their names. The



Like my cousin who is the person in the background and these pictures show that I have taken pictures and I'm taking up now.

Students applied a wide variety of visual strategies to frame unique self-portraits. They used props like musical instruments, flags, pencils, and sports to create compositions that framed their personalities and preferences.

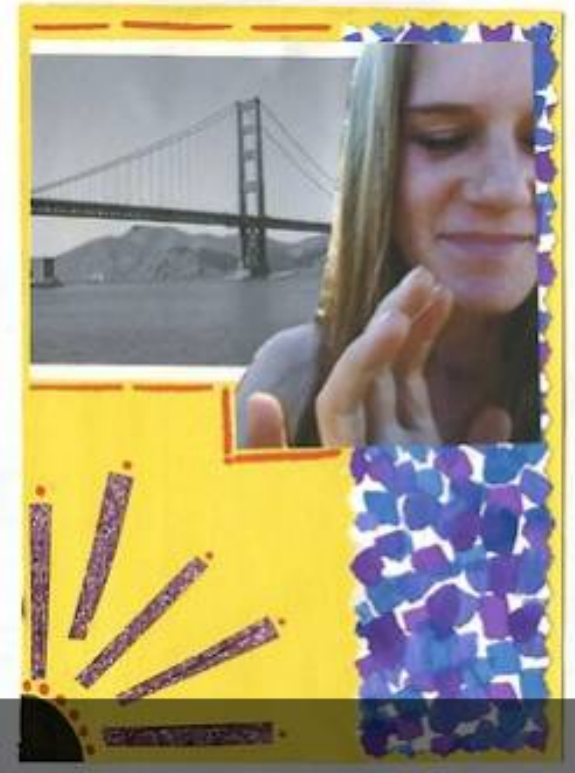
Portraits of Paly Students



Students applied a wide variety of visual strategies to frame unique self-portraits. Many composed “detail portraits” which do not include the face. Others used props and interesting backgrounds to place themselves in a context that framed their personalities.

Art Trading Cards

December
2



ART TRADING CARDS

For the next part of the Mapping Identity project we are making a set of Art Trading Cards that illustrates a sense of PLACE and a sense of SELF. We will be sending the Art Trading Card pairs to to our partner school - Wilson Commencement Academy.

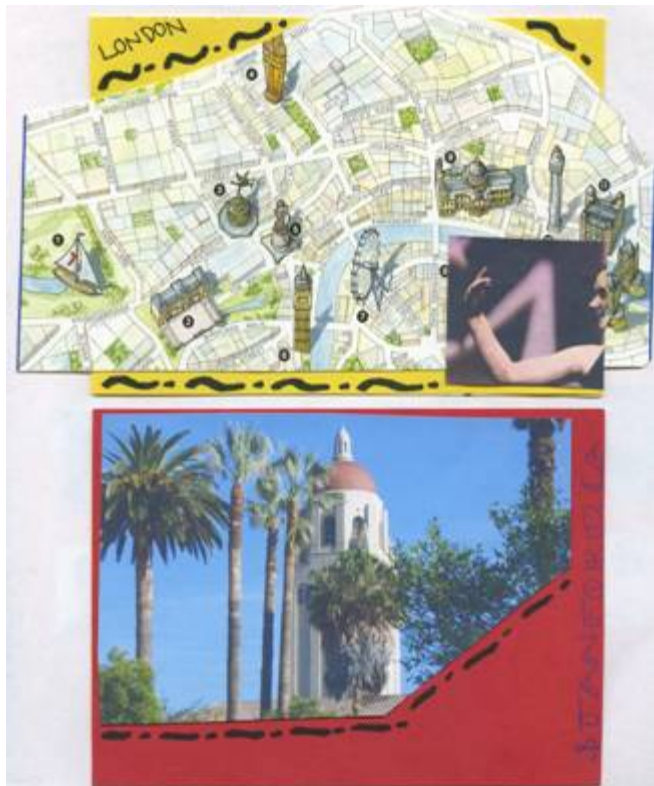
For the culminating project in Mapping Identity students in both classes created sets of Art Trading Cards to send to their partner school. One card was a collage of identity of place - and the matching card was a collage of self-identity.

Making Art Trading Cards: ATC



Students selected photographs, text and images from magazines to design and create Art Trading Cards that conveyed a sense of self and place. They shared their ideas in class before they sent the sets of cards off to Wilson Commencement Academy.

Student ATC Gallery



Students made cards sets of Art Trading Cards. One represented their geographical and cultural identity and the other framed their personal identity.

Special Thanks

This project was made possible by the generous support, encouragement, technology assistance and funding from the following sources:

For the inspiration and invaluable technology instruction of the **Krause Center of Innovation staff and KCI Merit teachers**

www.krauseinnovationcenter.org/kci/

<http://sites.google.com/site/meritprogram/>

Palo Alto PTSA and Viking Grants

For their generous funding of textbooks and technology equipment.

Wilson Commencement Academy and their fearless teacher Gavin Barry who were ever willing to engage and contribute to this educational experiment.

The 2009-10 Palo Alto Advanced Photography students who made the many aspects of learning through technology pure joy!

The PAHS Technology Support Team of Pat O'Hara, Will Yu, and Van Simmons who made all things technological - possible!

